



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE AUTHORITY

The Director-General

Brussels
HERA.01/SD

Permanent Representations of EU
Member States and Missions of
EEA/EFTA countries to the EU

Subject: Nomination request: Informal Commission Expert Group on Medical Countermeasures (MCM) EUCI (EU Classified Information)

Dear Sir/Madam,

With the present we would like to ask you to identify experts from your Administration ⁽¹⁾ who will support the Commission with technical, security advice and expertise in the area of health emergency preparedness and medical countermeasures.

The proposed experts will be formally nominated as members of the **MCM EUCI Informal Commission Expert Group**. This group will contribute to the implementation of the MCM Strategy² and will play in particular a crucial role in enhancing capabilities by overseeing all aspects of MCM security, from research and development to procurement and supply chain logistics, ensuring the protection of sensitive information, in synergy with existing structures. Their inputs are not binding on the Commission which remains fully independent concerning whether it consults the experts and the way it considers the expertise and views gathered.

The group is established on a permanent basis, pursuant to Commission Decision C(2016) 3301, for unlimited duration. It will serve as the pool from which the Commission will draw experts to carry out security scrutiny assessments whenever warranted in the framework of their activities.

We kindly request that **EU Member States and European Economic Area (EEA)/ European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Countries** which have a **Security of**

⁽¹⁾ Please refer to the Terms of Reference for detailed expert profiles and sectoral requirements. For further inquiries, please contact HERA.

⁽²⁾ Commission has launched, in July 2025, the EU Medical Countermeasures Strategy, which sets out new measures on dual-use MCMs beyond research and innovation, including the procurement of products with civil–military potential and the preparation of a shortlist of essential medical countermeasures for armed aggression

Information Agreement in force with the EU nominate permanent representatives to the group. This, of course, would not prevent Member States and Associated Countries to possibly replace nominated experts throughout the period or add additional experts, as appropriate.

Role of the experts

The expert group will be charged with advising the Commission in view of aligning strategic security measures with the European Union's health preparedness/response objectives. It will conduct detailed security reviews for EU-funded actions, assisting in the screening of proposals for EU grants, tenders, and other funding or procurement agreements under EU4Health or other programmes, with a focus on developing security and risk mitigation measures concerning sensitive and classified information, thereby supporting the programme's evolution and reinforcing health security. Additionally, the group will provide technical and security feedback, fostering collaboration on EU-level initiatives across the full MCM research, development and market pipeline, including intelligence and stockpiling/capacity reservation actions beyond direct EU funding. The group will also engage in future tasks intersecting with military and defence sectors.

In particular, the nominated experts will support the Commission with the evaluation of possible security issues in public health emergency preparedness and medical countermeasures, with the aim to:

- Identify and address security concerns such as:
 - potential misuse of results (e.g., dual-use risks, unauthorised exploitation, or malicious applications);
 - vulnerabilities in the MCM value chain (e.g., research, development, procurement, stockpiling, or deployment);
 - gaps in intelligence-sharing or coordination that could undermine health security; and propose targeted mitigation measures to neutralise these risks.

- Ensure compliance with EU security rules, with a focus on:
 - protecting sensitive non-classified (SNC) and EU classified information (EUCI) from unauthorised disclosure, cyber threats or espionage;
 - translating security requirements into enforceable obligations, including binding contractual clauses in grants, tenders, procurement agreements, or other funding instruments under EU4Health or related programmes, particularly for actions involving classified data or high-risk MCM initiatives.

In reference to the EU4Health work programme, the experts will be formally responsible for scrutinising, from a security perspective only, proposals involving beneficiaries from their own Member State/Country. The nominated experts should actively participate and should remain involved in the whole process, from drafting individual security reports to participate in consensus meetings. Following this nomination, and in relation to the ongoing evaluation of the call “*CP-g-25-01 – Call for proposals to support the*

development of innovative medical countermeasures for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats ⁽³⁾” we will be directly contacting the designated experts from the applicants’ respective countries. These experts will be entrusted with conducting the security scrutiny of proposals potentially selected for funding. Additionally, they will be furnished with detailed information regarding their tasks and the timeline for the security assessment.

Number of experts to nominate

To facilitate the process, Members shall nominate two representatives on a permanent basis, who shall:

- provide **high level expertise** in the security domains related to public health, MCM research, development and/or deployment, industry, or civil-military affairs;
- hold a valid **Personnel Security Clearance (PSC) at the SECRET UE/EU SECRET** level or an equivalent national security clearance, authorising them to access EUCI up to this level.

Nominated experts are subject to the obligation of professional secrecy which, by virtue of the Treaties and the rules implementing them, applies to all members of the institutions and their staff, as well as to the Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of Union classified information, laid down in Commission Decisions (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 ⁽⁴⁾ and 2015/444 ⁽⁵⁾. The workload of the **MCM EUCI Informal Commission Expert Group** may extend as DG HERA’s activities evolved requiring Member States’ and Associated Countries’ technical and security feedback (e.g. on EU-level stockpiling of MCMs), secure information exchange in relation to MCM preparedness and response, military and defence coordination.

Process of nomination

The formal nomination letter should be **signed by both the nominating Authority and the relevant National Security Authority (NSA) or Designated Security Authority (DSA)**.

In cases where the NSA/DSA’s signature cannot be obtained, the letter must include a formal declaration confirming that: *(i)* the nominating authority has consulted the NSA/DSA, *and (ii)* the NSA/DSA has explicitly agreed to the nomination.

⁽³⁾ https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/news/2025-eu4health-calls-proposals-crisis-preparedness-2025-09-04_en

⁽⁴⁾ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 of 13 March 2015 on Security in the Commission (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 41).

⁽⁵⁾ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

The nominations should be done formally by email via a letter that is to be sent to DG HERA via HERA-EMERGENCY-OFFICE@ec.europa.eu and addressed to the European Commission, more specifically to DG HERA Director-General

Thank you very much for your collaboration, and we're looking forward to receiving the nomination letter for the new experts **by 29 May 2026 at the latest.**

Yours faithfully,

(Electronically signed)

Florika FINK-HOOIJER

Enclosure: Terms of reference (ToR) of the MCM EUCI Informal Commission
Expert Group

c.c.: Health Attachés

MUSCHEL Laurent, SCHILLING Johannes, WILLIAMSON Clément,
SIMON Anne, GIRARD Olivier, BURGOS GUTIERREZ, Ana VON
BUXHOEVEDEN Daphne