

Second Meeting
Geneva, 6-10 December 2004

Meeting of Experts
Geneva, 19-30 July 2004
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Combating Infectious Diseases - The German Way to Improve Preparedness

Submitted by Germany

1. The structure of the public health care system in Germany follows the political and administrative structure of the Federal Republic. The Federal Ministry for Health and Social Security bears responsibility for general legislation regulating public health as well as for the social security system. The Länder (Federal States) are responsible for operating public health care systems within their areas of responsibility based on general public health care legislation issued by the Federal Government.
2. Standards for the medical treatment of infectious diseases as well as for biological disaster management are developed by a independent interdisciplinary Permanent Working Group of Centres of Excellence and Medical Treatment Centres (Ständige Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Kompetenz- und Behandlungszentren).
3. This working group is responsible for
 - (a) standardisation of medical treatment of infectious diseases and of hygiene procedures,
 - (b) defining quality criteria for medical treatment centres,
 - (c) calculating future costs for medical treatment and sanitary operations,
 - (d) developing plans for instruction and training,
 - (e) recommendations for the treatment of highly contagious diseases,
 - (f) providing and communicating professional advice,
 - (g) mutual personnel and material assistance of the medical treatment centres,
 - (h) exchange of information on a regular basis between the German medical centres,
 - (i) exchange of information on a regular basis with other European medical centres,
 - (j) mutual exchange of personnel and joint exercises.
4. The members of the working group come from medical treatment facilities which operate special quarantine wards, i.e. Bernhard-Nocht-Institute for Tropical Medicine Hamburg, Charité-

University-Hospital Berlin, Hospital Sankt Georg Leipzig, University-Hospital Frankfurt, Missionsärztliche Klinik Würzburg, Klinikum Saarbrücken, General Hospital München-Schwabing, Robert-Bosch-Hospital Stuttgart, Bundeswehr Centre for Treatment of Tropical Diseases, and others. The working group closely co-operates with scientific societies, especially with the German Society of Infectious Diseases (DGI) and the German Society of Tropical Medicine and International Health (DTG) as well as with the Group of Sanitary Experts of the Robert Koch-Institute (RKI) Berlin.

5. The recommendations of the working group are published to inform the scientific community as well as public health authorities and disaster relief agencies.

6. Further details to explain the German way to improve preparedness against infectious diseases are available on the CD-ROM prepared by the Federal Foreign Office for participants at the BTWC Meeting of Experts in July 2004.
