



Coalition for Vaccination

11 September 2019, Brussels

Follow-Up Meeting

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ACN participated at the second meeting of the Coalition for Vaccination, an EU initiative that brings together European associations of healthcare workers as well as relevant students' associations in the field, committed to **delivering accurate information to the public, fighting myths and exchanging best practices**.

Healthcare professionals play a crucial role in delivering facts based on scientific evidence and increase public awareness about the benefits of immunisation. The members of the new Coalition gathered in Brussels to discuss their potential commitments on 11th September, a day before the Global Vaccination Summit organised by the European Commission and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Coalition is co-chaired by the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) and the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU). It is also backed up by the European Commission which provides coordination and administrative support.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Coalition for Vaccination reaffirmed the commitments declared during the first meeting held on 4th March 2019 and organised them in three actions:

- Joint Press Release
- Best Practices Database on Vaccination
- Media Campaign on Vaccination

We were pleased to receive the news that the Standing Committee already prepared a Joint press release that will start circulating in the next days. The joint press release will contain important information as the background on the establishment of the Coalition for Vaccination, the memberships and objectives and the above-mentioned commitments.

In regards to the second commitment, the European Commission will create a page on the European Union - Health Policy Platform, where member organisations can upload good practices and relevant policy documents in different categories. The database will collect both European and national/local good practices. This database is aimed to increase knowledge, foster cooperation between organisations promoting vaccination policies and providing a basis for further activities of the coalition.

The third commitment focused on a Social Media Campaign for spreading information regarding the importance of vaccination's practices. The European Commission also organised a presentation made by Philip Weiss, an expert on social media communication, for explaining how organisations and individuals working on healthcare can become more efficient in spreading, through social networks, proper information on the benefits of immunisation.

At the end of the presentation, the different organisations had the chance to share with the committee their existing experience in sharing best practices and disseminating correct information as well as the obstacles that health professionals face in promoting vaccination during their daily work.

The Coalition for Vaccination, once again, reminded that vaccination is the most successful and cost-effective public health intervention, currently preventing between 2 and 3 million deaths in the world every year.