

Commitments

made at the hearing of

VYTENIS ANDRIUKAITIS

Commissioner for Health and Food Safety



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 30 September 2014 before the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety the commissioner-designate Vytenis Andriukaitis made a number of commitments.

Commitments relevant to the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety are highlighted in this document¹.

Emergency and food crisis protection

"I will also do everything in my power to protect citizens from any health or food crisis that may arise. I will ensure that the European Union's emergency preparedness capabilities remain in good shape".

Public Health

In line with health systems reform

"I plan to continue work to assess the performance of health systems underpinning advice on healthcare systems reform".

In line with population ageing and growing burden of chronic diseases

"I will support efforts to make health systems more efficient and innovative; so that they can provide equitable healthcare to all citizens, while remaining financially sustainable".

Primary care and e-Health

"I will work on universal health coverage, strengthening primary care, improving quality and safety, promoting e-Health".

In favour of prevention and healthy live

"I intend to put much focus on enhancing prevention".

"I will dedicate my work as a Commissioner to helping people to live healthy lives. I can promise that I will work hard, I will work together with you, and together we can do it".

Bridging inequalities in health

"I will seek to ensure that every initiative on health contributes to bridging the wide inequalities in health that persist in Europe".

Legislative follow up

Directive on patients' rights in cross-border health care

I will work tirelessly with the Member States to ensure that the Directive on patients' rights in cross border healthcare translates into citizens'

better access to quality care; into in-depth co-operation on e-Health towards better care; and into joint work on Health Technology Assessment to improve patients' access to innovative technologies, business predictability and cost-effectiveness

Tobacco Products Directive

"I will also follow closely the transposition of the Tobacco Products Directive, and take forward work on the necessary implementing laws".

"I will ensure the timely adoption of secondary legislation foreseen under the Tobacco Products Directive"

Support to Member States on health systems efforts

"I will support pooling Member States' efforts to invest more in health and save lives".

"I will work closely with Member States to help them improve the efficiency and sustainability of their health systems, so that they can provide all citizens with equitable access to care to all citizens. To this end, I will develop expertise on health systems performance assessment".

"I will also work with Member States to protect citizens against any cross border health threat, with an immediate focus on the Ebola outbreak in West Africa".

Food Safety

"My priority is to ensure that European citizens continue to enjoy the safest food in the world."

"I believe safe food is also a pre-requisite of a modern, developed economy and our best asset in an increasingly competitive global arena. I will endeavour to ensure high levels of animal and plant health; efficient management of any crisis that may arise; safe additives, pesticides, and biocides; strict controls on the safety of imported products of both plant and animal origin; rigorous and transparent scientific risk

assessments of new products and technologies; and strict enforcement of controls".

GMOs

"I will review, within the first six months of the mandate, the decision-making process for genetically modified organisms (GMOs). I will also pursue the on-going discussions on the GMO cultivation proposal."

Consumers' trust

"I will work with all the relevant stakeholders in pursuit of this agenda. I will address challenges such as the opportunities for fraud which arise from the complexity of the food production chain, and which can jeopardize consumers' trust on the food chain".

Legislative framework for food safety

"My intention is to ensure that this is properly enforced and implemented. However, should the need for new legislation arise, I will not hesitate to act."

"I will examine seriously a number of proposals being debated in the Parliament and in the Council. ... in particular the package of measures on animal health, plant health and official controls"

"It is my clear intention to ensure that all legislative proposals currently under discussion with the European Parliament and the Council are brought to a successful conclusion, (...) on animal health, plant health, official controls, novel food, cloning, zootechnics and medicated feed."

"Within the first six months of my mandate, I will review the legislation applicable to the authorisation of genetically modified organisms. Concerning pesticides, both the legislation on Plant protection products and on maximum levels of residues will be evaluated." ... adoption

of numerous implementation measures, which will receive my full attention. ... making progress on fulfilling our obligations to define the criteria for endocrine disruptors."

Legislation on animal welfare

"I will ensure that legislation on animal welfare is duly enforced."

Cooperation with the European Parliament

Framework agreement

"I will apply the provisions of the Framework Agreement and, in my areas of responsibility, make sure that the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests made on the basis of Article 225 TFEU".

"I intend to base this relationship on transparency, openness and mutual exchange of information; and I will ensure that the Directorate-General under my responsibility abides by the same principles, in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Agreement".

Equal treatment of co-legislators

"I fully intend to treat the European Parliament and the Council equally, as required in the context of the ordinary legislative procedure but also as Commissioner who is accountable to the directly elected Members of the European Parliament".

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 30 September 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.



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