

Cross Border Taskforce Corona
Belgium – Netherlands – North Rhine-Westphalia – Lower Saxony – Rhineland-Palatinate

39th Meeting, 6th August 2020, 2.30 – 3.05 pm (conference call)

Minutes

Participants as listed in the attachment

(1) Opening

5.1.2e (NRW) opens the meeting.

(2) Situation reports

Belgium, the Netherlands, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate and North Rhine-Westphalia deliver reports as summarised in the attached document.

NL (5.1.2e) mentions that 25 % of the infected people are between 20 and 29 years old. In total, this age group makes a number of 2.2 Mio people (i.e. 12 %) in the Netherlands.

(3) Matters of common interest

- At the request of NRW (5.1.2e) (5.1.2e) (BE) informs about the current situation and measures taken in the province of Antwerp: A halt in the spread of infections was noted, which shows that the measures taken have been successful. 3 drive-in test centres have been set up for people who have no symptoms (usually only people with symptoms are tested). At present, these centres can test between 500 and 600 people per day; the capacity is to be increased to 4,000 tests per day. Between 11.30 pm and 6.00 am people are not allowed outside. Face masks are compulsory when leaving the house. The Belgian health-institute Sciensano has made contact tracking in Antwerp its number one priority to prevent an increase in infections. Social distance measures are in force. He explains that a lockdown for Antwerp is not under discussion at the moment.
- BE (5.1.2e) asks, in view of the fact that the Province of Antwerp has become a risk area in Germany, whether people from Antwerp are allowed to visit family members in NRW for one day. NRW (5.1.2e) reply that this is currently allowed for close relatives if the visit does not last longer than 72 hours.
- BE (5.1.2e) asks how NRW controls if anyone was coming in from Antwerp. NRW (5.1.2e) explains that at the moment no border controls are being planned by the federal level, neither border related controls by the NRW police. At the moment travellers from Antwerp have to go into quarantine or to provide a negative test result that is not older than 48 hours.
- NRW (5.1.2e) inform about the planned regulations for travellers from risk areas, which will enter into force on Saturday.

- The German Embassy in Belgium [5.1.2e] adds that the Embassy receives many phone calls of citizens who have questions about the planned regulations. The Embassy is currently updating its website with information on these issues, also in French and Dutch.
- NL [5.1.2e] informs about a press conference of the Prime Minister planned for this evening. Probably no additional measures will be announced but rather concern about current developments. He informs about the preparations to make free tests available at Schiphol airport for people returning from risk areas.
- When asked by NRW [5.1.2e] about the situation in Zeeland, North and South Holland, he referred to the high infection rates in the age group 20-29. They are due to the activities at the beginning of the academic year. He did not have any further findings at present.
- LS and RP have no further topics for discussion.

Next meeting: 13th August 2020, 2.30 pm