



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Director-General

Brussels,
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Mr Antonio Cabral
Long Distance Advisory Council
C/Doctor Fleming 7, 20D
ES 28036 Madrid

By e-mail to: secretaria@ldac.eu

Subject: Coordination on Ebola virus disease protocols

Dear Mr Cabral,

Thank you for your letter of 26 November to myself and Ms Evans, Director General of DG MARE regarding coordination of Ebola virus Protocols for fishing vessels.

The Commission is working with EU Member States within the framework of the Health security committee to address the Ebola epidemic and strengthen the EU preparedness and response. The issue of guidance for crews of ships which may have been in contact with Ebola cases in the affected countries is clearly an important one which the Commission is aware of.

There is a substantial amount of guidance already available on Ebola which is relevant for ships. The SHIPSAN project which is co-funded by the EU Health Programme has provided links to some of these on its web site (www.shipsan.eu). The International Maritime Organization has also published a range of documents on Ebola - see for example <http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/HotTopics/ebola/Pages/default.aspx>

We note the concern of the LDAC specifically in relation to protocols relevant for long distance fishing vessels. At this stage the Commission is not considering any specific action on this issue. However we will explore the issue further with Member States and relevant experts consider what further steps could be appropriate .

Yours sincerely,

For the Director General absent,
Martin SEYCHELL
Deputy Director General


Ladislav Miko
Acting Director General