

GERMAN PRESIDENCY OF THE EU

THE HEALTH AGENDA



THE CONTEXT

The COVID-19 crisis led to a paradigm shift in the perception of health policy at European level. If only few years ago some were questioning the EU added value on health, the pandemic demonstrated the need of a European coordinated approach.

In the past few months, the German government highlighted the importance of developing ‘strategic health sovereignty with an EU Health Strategy’, and will focus its Presidency on boosting European capacities on R&D, establishing common strategic stocks of essential medicines and medical devices, and encouraging production in the EU. Digitalization and data, which were among the priorities of Berlin already before the COVID-19 crisis, will complement this ambitious agenda.

PRIORITIES AND NON-LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

- Draft Council Conclusions on lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic and lay the groundwork to improve the EU's crisis management instruments, ensure the supply of pharmaceuticals and the production of active pharmaceutical ingredients.
- Strengthen the role of the **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)** and the **European Medicines Agency (EMA)**.
- Provide the EU with a **stronger leadership in international fora dealing with global health**, such as the WHO, and support a coordinated approach to safeguarding access to and distribution of COVID-19 diagnostic tests, vaccines and therapeutics.
- Support the creation of the **European Health Data Space** and the development of a non-binding **European code of conduct for the sharing of data**, with the support of Council Conclusions.
- Support the drafting of the European Commission's communications on **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan** and discuss the upcoming **Pharmaceutical strategy for Europe**.

KEY LEGISLATIVE FILES

- Proposal to facilitate the development and use of medicinal products **containing or consisting of GMOs against COVID-19**.
- Proposal on the establishment of the **EU4Health Programme**.
- Proposal to strengthen EU cooperation on **health technology assessment**.

THE AGENDA-SETTER

Jens Spahn

- Born in 1980
- Federal Minister of Health since 2018
- Member of Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU)
- Known for his diligence and hands-on mentality, the German Minister of health will try to translate his bolstered reputation as crisis manager to drive the German Presidency's health agenda in Brussels.



CONTACT

For more information, please contact:

Nicola Scocchi

Director of Health & Wellbeing, Belgium
nicola.scocchi@edelman.com

Carolin Schambach

Executive Director Healthcare, Germany
carolin.schambach@edelman.com

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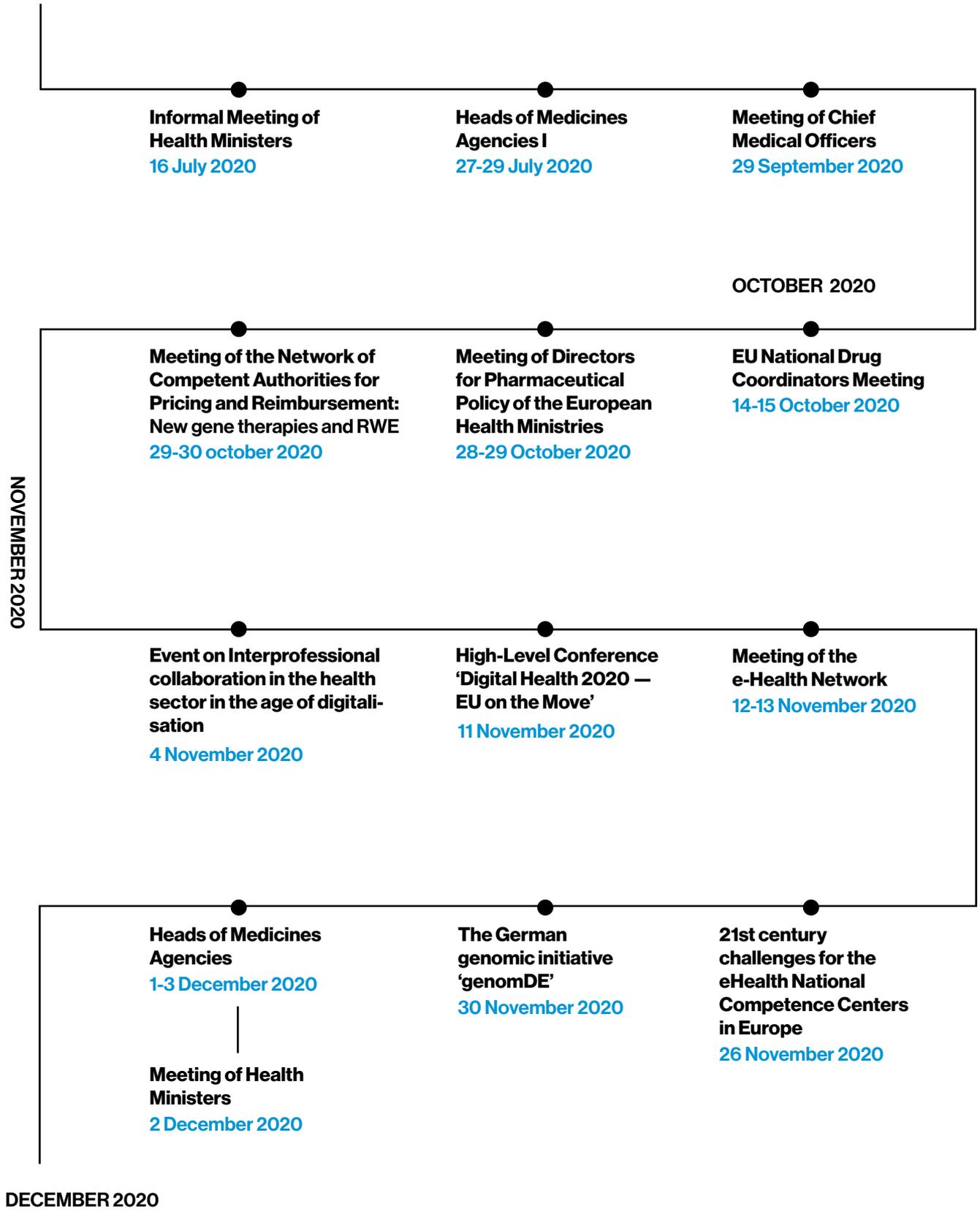
TIMELINE



JULY 2020

SEPTEMBER 2020

NOVEMBER 2020



DECEMBER 2020

If you are interested in how the priorities of the German Presidency may affect your organization, then [get in touch](#).