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Sir J. Ryan
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Date **- 1 MAART 2018**
Subject Consultation on Council Recommendation on strengthened
cooperation against vaccine preventable diseases

Dear Sir Ryan,

The Dutch Ministry of Health encourages the initiative of the European Commission on the open consultation on "Strengthened cooperation against vaccine preventable diseases" and its ambition towards Council Recommendations on vaccine preventable diseases.

Due to globalization and their cross-border nature vaccine preventable diseases can be a major health threat. The recent outbreaks of measles and other vaccine preventable diseases in the European region show the importance of strengthening national vaccination programmes. Therefore there is a clear added value in common and coordinated European action, in close cooperation with WHO Euro and ECDC, to limit the spread of vaccine preventable, cross border diseases. The Netherlands therefore supports the actions of the Commission in addressing these issues. In particular, we support the attention on tackling vaccines hesitancy and misconceptions regarding vaccination since we recognize this trend in our country. We also support the Commission's plans in improving crisis management and preparedness in member states which is crucial in a coordinated response at the local, national, and international level.

We look forward with interest to the recommendation and are willing to offer our support wherever deemed appropriate.

With kind regards,

Ciska Scheidel
the director of the Public Health department