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## **EU: Commission proposing “European Health Union”. Schinas, “European agencies with stronger mandates to protect citizens”.**

On the day when the Commission sets out the steps that need to be taken to build the “European Health Union”, President Ursula von der Leyen says: “Our aim is to protect the health of all European citizens. The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the need for more coordination in the EU, more resilient health systems, and better preparation for future crises. We are changing the way we address cross-border health threats”. According to von der Leyen, “today, we start building a European Health Union, to protect citizens with high quality care in a crisis, and equip the Union and its Member States to prevent and manage health emergencies that affect the whole of Europe”. Today’s proposals “focus on revamping the existing legal framework for serious cross border threats to health, as well as reinforcing the crisis preparedness and response role of key EU agencies, namely the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA)”. Vice President Margaritis Schinas adds: “We are strengthening our common crisis management to prepare and respond to serious cross border threats to health. Our EU agencies need to be equipped with stronger mandates to better protect EU citizens. To fight the COVID-19 pandemic and future health emergencies, more coordination with more efficient tools at EU level is the only way forward”.

Valentina Bombelli