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ASSIGNMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This document presents a fictitious scenario. It has been produced solely for the purpose of this exercise. All references to existing countries, international organisations, private companies, departments and their representatives, etc. have been invented purely as examples. Any views expressed should not be taken to represent the opinions of those bodies or persons. When dealing with the assignment, participants should therefore rely solely on the information presented in the exercise and not on any prior expertise in the field.

For this exercise, you will be asked to take on the role of a nurse working at the Medical Centre (MC) of the European Parliament who is also a member of the working group that advises the MC's management on mission-related health issues. All the documentation that you need to prepare yourself for your interview is included in this information brochure. It comprises a number of documents, reports and other information that you need to analyse in order to be able to deal properly with the situations presented to you during the interview.

It is important that you accept the scenario as it is presented. You may print the documents, rearrange them in any order you wish and add comments or make notes as necessary. Neither your knowledge in the field nor your knowledge on the topic of this exercise will be assessed during the interview; therefore, conducting any additional research is unnecessary. This Situational Competency-Based Interview is designed to assess the following general competencies: Learning & Development, Resilience, and Working with Others.

You will have until the day of the interview to go through the information individually in order to prepare for the interview. The interview will last 25 minutes.

**Please note that for the purpose of this exercise:
the interview will take place on Monday 17 October 20XX
Last year was 20XX-1, next year will be 20XX+1**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Medical Centre of the European Parliament

The Medical Centre (MC) provides medical services to all employees of the European Parliament (EP) and all its departments. Its tasks include providing primary healthcare, performing technical and biological examinations and conducting health awareness and immunisation campaigns (e.g. yearly flu vaccination).

The MC also provides support to all EP officials going on mission outside the European Union, which involves informing these officials about potential health risks, screening them for immunity to various diseases and administering all necessary vaccinations and medication to them.

Mission Managers

The EP's Mission Management Service is responsible for the practical organisation of missions (logistics, bookings, etc.) as well as for providing support services (assembling and communicating administrative requirements, providing advice, etc.) to officials going on mission. This team consists of 15 Mission Managers, each of whom is responsible for the missions of specific departments. As they are in contact with the officials who go on/return from missions, the Mission Managers are an important partner with whom the MC must cooperate closely on all mission-related health issues.

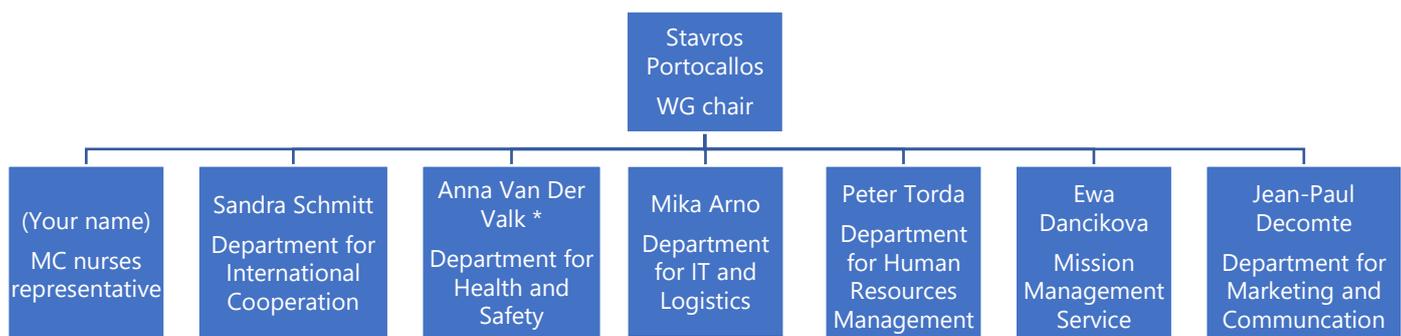
Mission-related health issues

The last few years have seen an increase in the number of EP officials returning from a mission abroad infected with a tropical disease (i.e. diseases prevalent in or unique to tropical and subtropical regions). A number of countries in Africa and Asia are in regions in which the risk of becoming infected by a tropical disease is known to be high. Even though vaccines are widely available for most of the known tropical diseases (e.g. yellow fever, dengue), an inadequate level of awareness, coupled with the fact that missions abroad are often decided on an ad hoc basis, can result in officials being less than properly prepared for or less than fully aware of the potential risks when leaving on mission to a high-risk zone.

The EP administration has therefore decided to increase its efforts to prevent/deal with infections occurring during missions. As part of this, since April 20XX, MC doctors and nurses have carried out check-ups on all EP officials who came back ill from a mission to a high-risk zone to enable the MC to gain some new insight into tropical diseases. By running blood tests, the MC has been able to form a much clearer idea of the course of a tropical disease.

In light of the increased efforts outlined above, a working group (WG) was also created to revise the EP's existing approach to mission-related health issues. This WG has been operational since May 20XX and has already advised the MC's management on a number of possible measures to take.

Organigram of the WG



**Anna Van der Valk joined the WG on 1 September 20XX to replace Fernando Gomes, who was appointed to a new position at another department of the EP.*



MC INTERNAL FORUM

DISCUSSION FORUM

> TROPICAL DISEASES	
Margareta Tujski	15/06/20XX
	<p>Have you heard that the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) has asked whether the MC is willing to cooperate on a new study that it is conducting on fever-causing tropical diseases? It would also like us to find suitable subjects for the study among EP officials and to gather some data on their infections. I understand that improving contacts between the ITM and the MC is important, given that both institutions hope to work more closely together in the future. What do you think about this?</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; gap: 10px;"> QUOTE REPLY </div>	
Adele Echevarría	17/06/20XX
	<p>@Margareta: I really believe that we should help the ITM with its fever study. I coordinated a project with it two years ago, when we gathered information and blood samples for the ITM: I have to say that it was a very positive experience for me working with the ITM!</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; gap: 10px;"> QUOTE REPLY </div>	
Tavish Venczel	23/06/20XX
	<p>@Adele: I know that the MC and the ITM have already worked together on other projects in the past, but I fear that now is not the right time for us to make such a commitment. Collecting all the data for this fever study would only add to the nurses' high workloads. Most of us already have to do a lot of overtime, right? I used to work at a dental clinic and can clearly remember how things improved with the introduction of the new appointments system. I was proud to be involved in that project and would be happy to see a similar development within the MC.</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; gap: 10px;"> QUOTE REPLY </div>	
Chase Sadler	26/06/20XX
	<p>@Tavish: I agree that the focus should be on improving the MC's work. Did you know that management recently decided to review the online questionnaire that we send to returning officials (to verify how they might have contracted a tropical disease)? I hope that the new questionnaire will also ask the officials to indicate what preventive measures they took and whether or not they followed all the guidelines.</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; gap: 10px;"> QUOTE REPLY </div>	

WEB PAGE

https://www.instituteoftropicalmedicine.eu/feverstudy/EN



Bookmarks

Home Travel Advice Prevention Diseases Contact

Fever study

All too often, the specific causes of the fevers that so frequently affect travellers in the tropics remain unknown as too much time passes between the onset of the illness and the patient's first visit to a doctor. The ITM is therefore currently conducting a study to gain more insight into what triggers tropical fevers. Participants in this study will receive a brief introduction at the ITM and be asked to complete a questionnaire before they travel to a tropical region. They will also donate blood samples in order to facilitate further research later on. The entire data collection process will take approximately one hour.

Do you want to know more? Sign up [here!](#)

Publications

Interested in reading the results of one of our previous studies? All results are available to the public and can be found [here](#). The final version of our study on pre-emptive vaccinations is also now available as an information brochure. Order yours [here](#).

The ITM will be holding its yearly information session on tropical diseases on 31 October 20XX.

The first 2.5 hours will be devoted to providing a complete overview of the potential risks of tropical diseases; this will be followed by a half hour Q&A session.

Interested? Register [here](#).