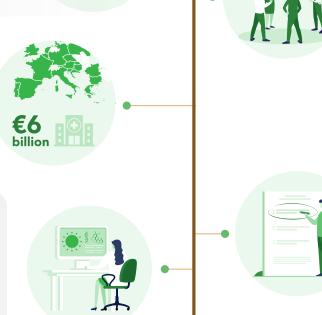In the face of the COVID-19 crisis, the European Commission's **top priority** is **safeguarding the health and well-being of its citizens**, using all the tools at its disposal.

The EC has taken a **multi-faceted approach**:

The EC set up an advisory panel on coronavirus composed of **seven expert epidemiologists and virologists** from EU Member States to formulate science-based EU **response** guidelines and **coordinate risk** management measures.

The **EU Solidarity for Health Initiative** was launched on 2 April, which is aimed at directly supporting the health care systems of EU Member States. It will provide for **€6 billion** to meet the needs of **European health systems**.

€6 billion

Ensuring **high-quality coronavirus testing** by adopting these guidelines:

- Set standards for **testing kit quality**
- Establish a **network of reference laboratories**
- Fight against **counterfeit devices**
- Coordinate **fair distribution** of kits and devices

An effective **crisis coordination strategy** that includes:

| Video conferences at the level of the **European Council** | Regular **discussions** with **Health Ministers** | **Meetings of the Health Security Committee** |

And allows for:

- Rapid **exchange** of information
- Extensive **monitoring**
- **Coordination** of response measures

In addition, notifications of serious **cross-border health threats** are made through the Early Warning and Response System.

The Commission adopted **guidelines** to support Member States in need, with the following aims and provisions:

- Arranging for patient **mobility across borders**
- Facilitating **cross-border medical assistance**
- **Relieving the burden** on national health systems
- Steps for the **reimbursement** of healthcare costs
- Encouraging the use of **bilateral/regional agreements**