

Ebola risk in EU 'extremely low': Commission

August 8 2014

The EU's executive said on Friday said the risk of Ebola across the European Union remained "extremely low" despite the World Health Organization's decision to declare it an international health emergency.

"I want to reassure citizens that the risk from Ebola to EU territories is extremely low," said Health Commissioner Tonio Borg.

"This is both because relatively few people travelling to the EU are likely to be infected with the virus, and because of the way in which it spreads, that is only through direct contact with the symptomatic patient's body fluids.

"It is also important to consider that the EU has very high standards of health and preventive care," he said in a statement.

The WHO decision after a two-day emergency session means global travel restrictions may be put in place to halt its spread as the overall death toll nears 1,000.

US health authorities said this week that Ebola's spread beyond west Africa was "inevitable" as medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) warned that the [deadly virus](#) was now "out of control" with more than 60 outbreak hotspots.

In the EU, a Spanish national who contracted the virus in Liberia was repatriated to receive [health care](#).

Spain flew home the 75-year-old Roman Catholic priest, Miguel Pajares, the first European victim of the epidemic, on Thursday. Officials said his condition was stable.

Two infected Americans who worked for Christian aid agencies in Liberia have shown signs of improvement since being flown to a specialist hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. They are being given an experimental drug.

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