

Europe could consider US-style coronavirus travel ban: ministers

February 4 2020

European governments could consider a US-style ban on foreign visitors who have recently been to China, in a bid to impede the spread of the deadly coronavirus outbreak, the health ministers of France and Germany said Tuesday.

"Indeed, there is the question of possible travel restrictions or at least increased examination (of travellers) at the border," Germany's Jens Spahn said at a meeting in Paris with his French counterpart Agnes Buzyn.

He was responding to a question about whether Europe would consider a ban similar to that imposed by the United States, which China has accused of spreading "panic".

"It makes no sense that a single country takes measures," on a continent with border-free travel between most nations, said Spahn..

The new coronavirus has killed more than 400 people and infected a further 20,000 in China since emerging in December and has now spread to more than 20 other countries.

Buzyn agreed that [travel](#) restriction "is one of the questions for European ministers. We must have a coherent vision in the (passport-free) Schengen area."

"There is no sense in one country taking this type of decision while

citizens move around freely."

Buzyn said they would ask the Croatian presidency of the EU Council to call a meeting of health ministers within days to discuss further measures needed in the face of the coronavirus crisis.

"We would like... closer cooperation so that we have exactly the same measures in all countries in order to be consistent in Europe since there is this free movement of people, and we wish to maintain this free movement."

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Citation: Europe could consider US-style coronavirus travel ban: ministers (2020, February 4) retrieved 27 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-02-europe-us-style-coronavirus-ministers.html>

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