

Covid-19: Driver of a leading role for the EU in global health?

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For more than 30 years, the EU has contributed to the improvement of global health worldwide. EU's involvement in global health took place through a large variety of instruments including bilateral Development Assistance for Health (DAH) in developing countries, the financial support to diverse global health instruments (Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis or the Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization, GAVI), but also through interregional health initiatives with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the African Union (AU) and the support to local NGOs dealing with health issues. In other words, the EU is far from being a newcomer in global health. In such a context, the Covid-19 pandemic represents a new test – after H1N1 and Ebola outbreaks – for the EU's role in global health. This presentation argues that while the EU's global and multilayered emergency response to Covid-19 has contributed to the EU's leading role in global health, the EU will have to address several structural challenges and to take into account new trends within the global health governance, if it desires to translate its emergency response to Covid-19 into a long-term strategic involvement in global health. This will enable the EU to meet the expectations that its global response to Covid-19 has formed and to confirm its central position in global health.

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