



EUROPE

**Regional Committee for Europe
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Resolution

**Follow-up to the WHO European Ministerial Conference on Counteracting
Obesity and Second European Action Plan for Food and Nutrition Policy**

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA53.15 that established the guiding principles for the improvement of food safety; WHA55.25 that described the need to improve infant and young child feeding; and WHA57.17 that highlighted the need to reduce the burden of disease linked to diet and physical activity;

Recalling its resolution EUR/RC50/R8, by which it recognized the First European Action Plan for Food and Nutrition Policy as a set of basic principles for Member States to follow, and its resolutions EUR/RC55/R6 on child and adolescent health and EUR/RC56/R2 on noncommunicable diseases that underlined the need to take integrated action and to provide clear guidance on the management of risk factors throughout the life course;

Recognizing that the WHO European Region is challenged by a double burden of nutrition-related diseases, characterized by a growing epidemic of obesity, particularly alarming in children and adolescents, and by the extensive presence of chronic malnutrition due to micronutrient deficiencies in vulnerable populations and of acute malnutrition in areas of food insecurity;

Recognizing that foodborne diseases represent a considerable concern for and threat to the health of European populations and that it is important to address the quality and safety of food in combination;

Recognizing that the burden of disease related to nutrition and food safety can be substantially reduced by carrying out preventive actions from early life onwards, directed at a safe, healthy and sustainable food supply, at information and education to consumers, at the related health determinants and at nutrition and food safety in the health sector;

Having considered the European Charter on Counteracting Obesity and documents EUR/RC57/6, which illustrates developments since the WHO Ministerial Conference on Counteracting Obesity, and EUR/RC57/10, which sets out a Second European Action Plan for Food and Nutrition Policy (2007–2012);

Noting that the European Charter on Counteracting Obesity calls for an action plan in view of strategic and policy development in Member States;

1. COMMENDS the Regional Office for Europe for organizing the WHO European Ministerial Conference on Counteracting Obesity in Istanbul on 15–17 November 2006, in successful partnership with the European Commission;
2. THANKS the Government of Turkey for hosting the Conference and providing excellent arrangements for it;
3. ENDORSES the European Charter on Counteracting Obesity adopted at the Ministerial Conference as political guidance and strategic direction for Region-wide action in this area;
4. ACKNOWLEDGES the positive trends that have been initiated by the First Action Plan for Food and Nutrition Policy for the WHO European Region (2000–2005);
5. ADOPTS the Second European Action Plan for Food and Nutrition Policy (2007–2012);
6. URGES Member States to:
 - (a) design, implement and put into effect a comprehensive, integrated and intersectoral strategy for the promotion of breastfeeding;
 - (b) develop, implement and reinforce comprehensive, integrated and intersectoral food and nutrition policies in connection to the wider European strategy to effectively prevent and control noncommunicable diseases;
 - (c) implement the commitments outlined in the European Charter on Counteracting Obesity and the related resolutions adopted by WHO's governing bodies at global and regional levels, in accordance with each country's government structures and policies, national and subnational needs, circumstances and resources;

- (d) define national goals and priority actions in line with those set out in the Second European Action Plan for Food and Nutrition Policy, taking account of gender, ethnic, social and cultural differences, addressing inequalities in health; and targeting all stages of the life cycle, with particular attention to early life;
- (e) monitor the progress made in the priority actions;

7. REQUESTS the Regional Director to take the necessary steps to ensure that food and nutrition policy development as well as physical activity, is well integrated in the work of the Regional Office, notably on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, and implemented according to the measures outlined in the Second European Action Plan for Food and Nutrition Policy by:

- (a) raising awareness and promoting political commitment in the Member States;
- (b) advocating and promoting actions at international level in collaboration with the European Commission, the Council of Europe, United Nations bodies and nongovernmental organizations and in open dialogue with all relevant stakeholders;
- (c) providing technical support to food and nutrition policy analysis and development in the Member States, building capacity and developing relevant policy tools;
- (d) stimulating the generation, translation and dissemination of knowledge and experience among countries;
- (e) stimulating the development of novel policy approaches;
- (f) making use of existing databases and, if needed, developing a European information system to monitor the public health nutrition situation and assess associated health trends, in connection with the comprehensive mechanism for monitoring noncommunicable disease morbidity;

8. REQUESTS the Regional Director to report to the Regional Committee on the progress made in implementing the Second European Action Plan for Food and Nutrition Policy, aligned with the triennial reports envisaged by the European Charter on Counteracting Obesity.