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EUPHA'S INTERVENTION TO THE 62ND SESSION OF THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEON HEALTH 2020 – POLICY FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGY Doc. EUR/RC62/8

Madame Regional Director, Madame Director General, Ladies and Gentlmen,

EUPHA (European Public Health Association) welcomes submitted to this session of the Regional Committee a document presenting the proposed policy framework and strategy for implementation of HEALTH 2020 strategy. Following a review and consideration of this document, the Executive Council of EUPHA have fully supported the provisions presented in the document and the HEALTH 2020 strategy at large.

EUPHA is an association of 40 national associations of public health and over 12000 of their individual members. In two months from now and exactly in the same location that we are here today, EUPHA in partnership with ASPHER and the Maltese Association of Public Health will convene the annual European Public Health Conference. On this occasion EUPHA will hold the Members Forum during which we shall raise and discus with our members the issue of implementation of the WHO HEALTH 2020 strategy in members countries and the roles the national associations may and should play in this process. Jointly with WHO/EURO we shall also hold a workshop on the WHO European Action Plan for Strengthening Public Health Capacities and Services.

EUPHA believes in a great potential of national associations in this respect and we shall encourage members of these associations to commit themselves and to get engaged into close cooperation with their governments and other stakeholders, offering their scientific knowledge and experience.

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EUPHA appreciates the growing close cooperation with the WHO Regional Office in Europe. We welcome dr Jakab, your already now traditional participation in our conferences and your inspirational addresses. Let me repeat already extended to you our invitation to the forthcoming European Conference here at Hilton in Malta 8-10 November 2012. You will meet there around 1400 scientists and practitioners of public health ready to take further inspirations from you and to help HEALTH 2020 become a workable strategy. Thank you.

Prof. Stanislaw Tarkowski, MSc. DSc. EUPHA past--President