



**Sixty-third Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe**

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**ISPRM's Statement**

*(referring to agenda Item 5a: Health 2020 implementation and challenges or Health 2020 monitoring framework)*

The European Policy Framework "Health 2020" calls for "strengthening people- centred health systems, public health capacity (...)". This should include the provision of rehabilitation for persons with health conditions experiencing disability. According to the World Report on Disability this includes around 15 % of the global population. Additionally, according to the European Labour Force Survey 2002, 16% of the working age population in the European Union claim long-standing health problems or disability. The World Health Organisation discussed this issue extensively by adopting the recommendation of the World Report on Disability and urges member states in the resolution 66.9 "to promote habilitation and rehabilitation across the life-course and for a wide range of health conditions through: early intervention; integrated and decentralized rehabilitation services, including mental health services; improved provision of wheelchairs, hearing aids, low vision devices and other assistive technologies; and training to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of rehabilitation professionals to enable people with disabilities to achieve their potential and have the same opportunities to participate fully in society"

With regard to the high impact of disability in the society and the importance of rehabilitation as "a set of measures that assist individuals who experience, or are likely to experience disability, to achieve and maintain optimal functioning in interaction with their environments" the international Society for Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in agreement with the European associations related to Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in this field strongly claims to include rehabilitation into the Health 2020 monitoring framework with the goal that every person in need of rehabilitation receives rehabilitation on the highest possible service level.