



## EUROPE

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### Report of the fifth session of the Eleventh Standing Committee of the Regional Committee

This document contains the report of the fifth and final session of the Eleventh Standing Committee of the Regional Committee (SCRC), held at the WHO Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen on Sunday, 5 September 2004. It should be read in conjunction with the consolidated report of the Eleventh SCRC (document EUR/RC54/4)



## Introduction

1. The Eleventh Standing Committee of the Regional Committee (SCRC) held its fifth and final session at the WHO Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen on 5 September 2004, on the day before the opening of the fifty-fourth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (RC54).
2. In his introductory remarks, the Chairman conveyed his deep condolences to the Executive Board member from the Russian Federation for the tragic loss of life that had occurred at a school in Beslan, North Ossetia. Anticipating the discussion at RC54, he drew attention to the impact that terrorism had on people's mental health and the organization of health services. The Regional Director also expressed deep sympathy on behalf of the Regional Office and hoped that the Regional Committee would remember, throughout the forthcoming session, that its ultimate aim was indeed to serve the cause of improving people's health.
3. The Regional Director then described the main lines of work carried out by the Regional Office since the previous session of the SCRC and outlined the salient features of the presentation that he would make to RC54 the following day.

## Review of the provisional programme of the fifty-fourth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, including arrangements for interventions by SCRC members

4. The opening of RC54 would include the customary agenda items on election of officers and adoption of the agenda and programme of work. As requested by the SCRC the previous year, the Regional Director would then make a short presentation of his report on the work of the Regional Office in 2002–2003. After interventions by Member States' representatives, two invited speakers representing key partners of the Regional Office (the European Commission and the Council of Europe) would take the floor, in replacement of a formal agenda item on partnership with other organizations. To conclude the morning meeting, the Regional Director and invited speakers would respond to any questions raised.
5. The Chairman of the SCRC would make a technical presentation of the Standing Committee's report at the start of the Monday afternoon meeting. The next item on the programme, Matters arising out of resolutions and decisions of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board, would be presented by the Senior Adviser, Programme Management and Implementation, with the Standing Committee's views put forward by the Executive Board member from the Russian Federation. The Director, Division of Technical Support, Reducing Disease Burden, in conjunction with the WHO Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, would present the last item of the day, on the European strategy on noncommunicable diseases; Dr Hubert Hrabcik would speak on behalf of the SCRC.
6. On Tuesday morning the Director, Division of Technical Support, Health Determinants would introduce the agenda item on follow-up to the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, with invited speakers from the European Public Health Alliance and the European Environment Agency, together with a youth representative who had attended the Conference. The SCRC's views would be presented by Dr Viktors Jaksons.
7. The Director-General of WHO would address RC54 on Tuesday morning. Noting that he would most likely refer to the Organization's proposed programme budget for 2006–2007 and the Eleventh General Programme of Work 2006–2015, the SCRC agreed that its Chairman should put forward the European Region's views on the overall policy direction of WHO, seeking clarification in particular about the transfer of resources to WHO regions, the principle of equity and any changes in priorities compared with the current biennium.

8. A private meeting would be held at the beginning of Tuesday afternoon, to nominate a candidate for the post of WHO Regional Director for Europe. The last item of the day would cover follow-up to issues discussed at previous sessions of the Regional Committee. In that context, the Director, Division of Information, Evidence and Communication, would present a preliminary draft of the *European health report 2005*, the Director, Division of Country Support would describe ongoing activities to implement the country strategy, and the Regional Director would speak on the update of the Health for All policy framework in the European Region. In addition, the related documentation would cover three further subjects: HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and mental health.

9. The Wednesday morning meeting would begin with the agenda item on the proposed programme budget 2006–2007. The Director, Administration and Finance would present the item, and the SCRC's views (focusing on technical and managerial aspects) would be put forward by Dr Jens Kristian Gøtrik. The latter part of the morning would be devoted to a final discussion of the strategy for the Regional Office's geographically dispersed offices (GDOs), presented by the Senior Adviser, Programme Management and Implementation; Dr Jarkko Eskola would speak on behalf of the SCRC.

10. A briefing session on revision of the International Health Regulations (IHR) would be held on Wednesday at lunchtime, at which participants would be informed of developments in the area since the regional consultation in June 2004, including feedback on similar consultations held in other WHO regions. The Director, Communicable Disease Surveillance and Reponse at WHO headquarters would present a second draft of the revised IHR and outline the next steps in the process. Wednesday afternoon would be devoted to the customary item on the date and place of future sessions of the Regional Committee, and to a private meeting to agree on nominations and elections to various bodies.

11. An additional briefing would be held on Thursday morning (although not formally part of the programme of RC54) to give information on the forthcoming WHO European Ministerial Conference on Mental Health (Helsinki, 12–15 January 2005).

## **Membership of WHO bodies and committees**

12. The SCRC reached agreement by consensus on the candidates that it would recommend for membership of the Executive Board, the SCRC, the Joint Coordinating Board of the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, and the European Environment and Health Committee.

## **Plan of work of the Twelfth SCRC, 2004–2005**

13. The SCRC agreed to review the first draft of its plan of work for 2004–2005 when it met immediately after the close of RC54.