

## Statement to the 64<sup>th</sup> Session WHO Regional Committee for Europe

The European Respiratory Society welcomes the WHO Regional Committee progress towards tackling non communicable diseases (NCDs), health inequalities and strengthening health systems in the context of Health 2020.

On environment, it is essential that the link to NCDs is emphasised. Air pollution has a significant impact on NCDs - such as chronic respiratory disease. At this Regional Committee, several Member States such as France and Norway have emphasised the link between NCDs and air pollution and the need for continued action to tackle this. We support this emphasis.

This year, the Regional Director Zsuzsanna Jakab received the European Lung Foundation Award at our European Respiratory Society International Congress. This award was for the WHO's excellent work on promoting clean air via the health based air quality guidelines. We encourage as many Member States as possible to implement the air quality guidelines of the WHO and support the future work of WHO in this area.

On tobacco, we welcome the Member States commitment to increased implementation of the Framework Convention in Tobacco Control in the region – a necessity if we are to reach the UN target to reduce tobacco use by 30% by 2025.

On tuberculosis, we herald the political will declared by many Members States at the 64<sup>th</sup> session for concerted action on tuberculosis and we have worked intensively this year together with the WHO to develop a framework for the elimination of countries with low-incidence of TB.