

**Statement to the 65<sup>th</sup> Session WHO Regional Committee for Europe  
Agenda item 5(f)**

**“Final report on implementation of the Consolidated action plan to prevent and combat multidrug- and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis in the WHO European Region 2011–2015 and consideration of the proposed Tuberculosis action plan for the WHO European Region 2016–2020”**

The European Respiratory Society welcomes the WHO Regional Committee progress towards tackling tuberculosis. In particular, we fully support the Regional Plan for 2016-2020 which is an important and well-designed initiative.

We note furthermore, the progress made on combating multidrug and extensively drug resistant tuberculosis (2011-2015). However, much more needs to be done including engagement by the highest levels of government.

We herald the political will declared by many Member States at this 65<sup>th</sup> session for concerted action on tuberculosis and we have worked intensively together with the WHO and other scientific societies to turn this political will into action.

As a scientific society, ERS has put all its efforts into education and research in the field of TB, focusing primarily in the European Region, but always supporting other WHO regions as TB has no borders. ERS has developed ad-hoc projects on TB across the globe to foster the efforts of other international, national and regional respiratory societies and their members, in line with the new ERS membership strategy. All these plans are in accordance with the goals and principles of the WHO “End TB Strategy”.

In collaboration with WHO Europe, ERS has developed and is running the TB Consilium, which has saved several dozens of lives since its launch in 2014, with a goal to prevent multi-drug resistant (MDR)-TB by correctly managing difficult-to-treat MDR-TB cases. ERS is also a partner in the Regional Global Fund proposal to support Eastern Europe, and, in collaboration with WHO, is supporting a digital health project focused on improving tobacco control for people living with TB.

We look forward to working together with Member States and the WHO to make TB elimination in the European region a reality.