



## EUROPE

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### **Matters arising out of resolutions and decisions of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board**

The Fifty-ninth World Health Assembly adopted 27 resolutions, which are listed in the attached Annex 1.

The 118th session of the Executive Board adopted five resolutions, which are listed in Annex 2.

This document reviews those resolutions, of both technical and administrative nature, that are of particular interest to the work of the European Region.

Documents and resolutions mentioned in this document are available from the Secretariat and can also be downloaded from the Internet (<http://www.who.int/gb>).



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## Resolutions adopted by the Fifty-ninth World Health Assembly of particular interest to the European Region of WHO

### Policy and technical matters

Resolution and reference document	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA59.1	Eradication of poliomyelitis	<p><i>The focus of Member States in the European Region will be on sustaining their poliomyelitis-free status and ensuring continued high population immunity.</i></p> <p><i>Poliomyelitis-free Member States are urged to respond rapidly to the detection of circulating polioviruses.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Immunization campaigns to be conducted targeting high-risk populations.</i></li> <li>• <i>High-quality surveillance to be maintained, together with quality-assured laboratory networks.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ensure continued political commitment in face of competing national priorities.</i></li> <li>• <i>Strengthen poliomyelitis surveillance and immunization actions in high-risk countries and assess the quality of poliomyelitis eradication programmes in these.</i></li> <li>• <i>Continue to work actively with partners to secure sustainable funding.</i></li> <li>• <i>Develop new strategic plans for sustaining poliomyelitis-free status.</i></li> <li>• <i>Strategic vision meeting planned.</i></li> </ul>
WHA59.2	Application of the International Health Regulations (2005)	<p><i>The resolution calls upon Member States to comply immediately (on a voluntary basis) with the International Health Regulations (IHR). It asks Member States to designate an IHR focal point and urges them to follow WHO technical advice on avian influenza and, in particular, to provide notification of human cases.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Support Member States in revising their capacity to respond to public health emergencies of international concern.</i></li> <li>• <i>Continue to facilitate technical cooperation and logistic support, especially for avian influenza.</i></li> <li>• <i>WHO Regional Office for Europe (EURO) will strengthen its roster of experts.</i></li> <li>• <i>Continued close collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) to ensure the most efficient system of notification using existing early warning systems.</i></li> </ul>

Resolution and reference document	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA59.4	Eleventh General Programme of Work, 2006–2015	<i>The Eleventh General Programme of Work (GPW) was approved and invites Member States to identify their role in fulfilling the global health agenda outlined herein.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The 11th GPW is to form the basis for the strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation of WHO's work from 2006 to 2015.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Standing Committee of the Regional Committee (SCRC) has specifically asked the EURO Secretariat to make explicit the links between the GPW, the Medium-term strategic plan and EURO's priorities.</i></li> </ul>
WHA59.11	Nutrition and HIV/AIDS	<i>The resolution urges Member States to make nutrition an integral part of the response to HIV/AIDS. This would include revising guidelines, accelerating training, strengthening counselling, involving community-based health workers, and revitalizing the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative in the light of HIV/AIDS.</i>	<p><i>EURO is already providing support along these lines:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>the nutrition component of the EURO HIV/AIDS response is well accepted;</i></li> <li>• <i>the level of malnutrition in relation to HIV/AIDS is low in Member States in the European Region;</i></li> <li>• <i>collaboration within the Regional Office and with outside partners has already taken this aspect onboard.</i></li> </ul>

Resolution and reference document	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA59.12	Implementation by WHO of the recommendations of the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors	<p><i>The resolution has its roots in a Canadian request to define WHO's role in scaling up universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care and, in particular, the transition from the 3 x 5 Initiative.</i></p> <p><i>The resolution endorses the recommendations of the Global Task Team. Among these, the focus is on avoiding fragmented responses to HIV/AIDS by ensuring:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>one national framework for response</i></li> <li>• <i>one national AIDS coordinating authority</i></li> <li>• <i>one agreed monitoring and evaluation system.</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>The EURO secretariat has, over the past years, fully aligned its work to a large number of World Health Assembly (WHA) resolutions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>With regard to the 3 x 5 Initiative, the European Region was the only region that reached its target. However, as there are three Member States where universal access is not available, focus will be put on helping to rectify this situation.</i></li> <li>• <i>EURO is experiencing a funding reduction in this area. While many European Region Member States are generous donors, few dedicate funds to this issue in the Region, despite the severity of the epidemic in neighbouring countries.</i></li> <li>• <i>EURO will attempt to coordinate and expand donor support specifically to the countries most in need within the Region.</i></li> </ul>
WHA59.15	<p>Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations, including United Nations reform process</p> <p>Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management</p>	<p><i>The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management was endorsed by the United Nations Environment Programme in February 2006. The resolution welcomes the multisectoral approach outlined in the Strategic Approach and urges Member States to follow this in national implementation.</i></p>	<p><i>EURO will support Member States in implementing the Strategic Approach, focusing on human health-related elements.</i></p>

Resolution and reference document	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA59.16	Codex Alimentarius Commission: amendments to Statutes	<p><i>At its 28th session (Rome 2005), the Codex Alimentarius Commission agreed to amend its Statutes and recommended that these be legally endorsed by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and WHO.</i></p> <p><i>The amendments are listed in the resolution. They will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>delegate stronger authority to the Codex Alimentarius Commission vis-à-vis finalization of the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme;</i></li> <li>• <i>make future amendments to published standards less cumbersome.</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>The changes are welcomed by the EURO Secretariat and are expected to ease work in countries in getting standards implemented.</i></p>
WHA59.17	Outcome of the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control	<p><i>The resolution reaffirms the objective of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and notes the outcome of the first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP).</i></p> <p><i>This includes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>establishment of a permanent secretariat;</i></li> <li>• <i>development of protocols on illicit trade and cross-border advertising/promotion and sponsorship;</i></li> <li>• <i>developmental work to be taken forward by expert groups.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The EURO Secretariat will take action to nominate experts to the various groups, mainly through the national counterparts' networks.</i></li> <li>• <i>A coordinated response with the European Union (EU) is expected and the European Region COP group coordinator (Mr Tharald Hetland) is also involved in the nomination process.</i></li> <li>• <i>Updated European Report on Tobacco Control Policy to be presented to the Regional Committee at its fifty-sixth session.</i></li> </ul>



Resolution and reference document	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA59.19	Prevention and control of sexually transmitted infections: draft global strategy	<p><i>The resolution was passed, endorsing the global strategy. The endorsement had been delayed, following amendments by several Member States to the initial draft and owing to a lack of consultation.</i></p> <p><i>The purpose of the strategy is for Member States to develop a framework for planning and implementing a coordinated response for prevention and control of sexually transmitted infections (STI).</i></p> <p><i>The target group in Member States will be national HIV/AIDS/STI and reproductive health managers, health stakeholders and health policy-makers.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The EURO Secretariat welcomes the resolution and, in particular, the linkage between STI and HIV prevention interventions. The integration of the strategy for STI with HIV issues, as well as with women's health and broader reproductive issues is the preferred approach.</i></li> <li>• <i>EURO will support Member States in implementing the global strategy and does not foresee any Member State strongly opposing any of the strategies for prevention of sexual transmission.</i></li> </ul>
WHA59.22	Emergency preparedness and response	<p><i>The resolution expresses sympathy for those countries and regions that had recently experienced disasters.</i></p> <p><i>It calls on Member States to further strengthen national emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery programmes, with a special focus on building the health systems response.</i></p> <p><i>Secondly, it urges Member States to support affected countries.</i></p>	<p><i>The focus of the resolution, on strengthening the health systems response in emergency preparedness, is totally in line with the recommendation of EURO.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>EURO promotes an integrated approach to increase the health systems' capacity to cope with the health aspects of crises and disasters.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Health Emergency Action Response Network (HEARNET) will be further developed in the Region with the creation of an effective roster and deployment mechanisms for experts to be mobilized in future emergencies.</i></li> </ul>

Resolution and reference document	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA59.23	Rapid scaling up of health workforce production	<p><i>This resolution takes its point of departure from The world health report 2006, recognizing that the health-worker shortage is interfering with achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.</i></p> <p><i>It urges Member States to affirm their commitment to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• train more health workers;</i></li> <li><i>• establish mechanisms to mitigate the adverse impact of migration;</i></li> <li><i>• promote training in accredited institutes;</i></li> <li><i>• promote the concept of training partnerships between industrialized and developing countries.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• EURO supports the Global Health Workforce Alliance and sees it as one mechanism for achieving a rapid increase in the number of qualified health workers.</i></li> <li><i>• EURO supports the EU strategy for action on the crisis in human resources in developing countries. Only through consolidated action and coordinated efforts can the internal disparity in the Region be diminished.</i></li> <li><i>• EURO addresses health workforce issues within its health systems strategy in recognition of the fact that loss of trained staff is a severe burden on fragile health systems.</i></li> <li><i>• EURO will support Member States in health workforce planning and data collection.</i></li> </ul>

Resolution and reference document	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA59.24	Public health, innovation, essential health research and intellectual property rights: towards a global strategy and plan of action	<p><i>This resolution is based on the Report of the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health (CIPIH).</i></p> <p><i>The resolution welcomes the report and its recommendation to prepare a global plan of action to secure enhanced and sustainable funding to address diseases affecting developing countries. It encourages Member States to ensure that their trade agreements are in line with the Doha Ministerial Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health.</i></p> <p><i>The resolution also decided that regional economic integration organizations, to which Member States have transferred competence on these issues, may participate in the work of the inter-governmental working group.</i></p>	<p><i>This resolution is the result of papers presented to the 117th session of the Executive Board (EB) and a subsequent meeting in April in which each region was represented by two members (Iceland and Portugal for the European Region).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Secretariat is asked to establish an intergovernmental working group, open to all Member States, to draw up a concrete plan of action based on the recommendations of CIPIH.</i></li> <li>• <i>This area of work is of key importance to EURO, both for transitional countries, in terms of access to affordable medicines, and for the more affluent Member States in the Region.</i></li> <li>• <i>EURO will continue to work with the newly independent states and the countries of south-eastern Europe on policies concerning access to medicines. Work with EU countries will focus on reimbursement policies.</i></li> <li>• <i>EURO will work with ministries of health and social insurance agencies to design innovative schemes for reimbursement.</i></li> <li>• <i>EURO will continue work on a database of patents in order to remove barriers to availability of and access to products.</i></li> </ul>

Resolution and reference document	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA59.25	Prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment	<p><i>This is a follow-up to a previous resolution urging Member States to set up Vision 2020 plans for reducing avoidable blindness.</i></p> <p><i>The resolution reiterates the goals of Vision 2020, paying attention to integration between civil society, the private sector, the public sector and nongovernmental organizations in achieving them.</i></p> <p><i>It urges Member States to make available essential medicines and services for eye care.</i></p>	<p><i>EURO does not have a specific programme to support this work, although some actions are taken through the integrated noncommunicable diseases programme and through collaboration with WHO headquarters.</i></p> <p><i>Many Member States have committed funding for Vision 2020 and the global plans. In particular, Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and selected regions of the Russian Federation are due to receive support through the headquarters programme.</i></p>
WHA59.26	International trade and health	<p><i>The intent of this resolution is to urge Member States to promote dialogue among all stakeholders at national level and to base policies on sound evidence so that countries can maximize the health outcome of trade liberalization and minimize its negative impact.</i></p> <p><i>Constructive relationships across the private and public sectors are promoted, as are the adoption/modification of laws and policies.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>EURO will support Member States in building capacity for countries to better understand the implications of trade agreements, and help adjust national policies and legislation to take advantage of opportunities and address challenges in this domain.</i></li> <li>• <i>EURO will continue to collaborate closely with WHO headquarters and facilitate information exchange and monitoring.</i></li> </ul>
WHA59.27	Strengthening nursing and midwifery	<p><i>This resolution takes The world health report 2006 as its background in recognizing the crucial contribution of nurses and midwives in the health workforce. It urges Member States to develop programmes for the development of human resources and retention of sufficient numbers of nurses and midwives; and to actively involve nurses and midwives in the development of their health systems. It also calls for the collection of nursing and midwifery core data as part of national health information systems.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>EURO will support Member States in developing nursing and midwifery plans which include recruitment guidelines/curricula development as well as policies for basic and continuing education.</i></li> <li>• <i>EURO's strategic work in this area continues to follow the Munich Declaration and, in particular, the recommendations from the recent evaluation of the "Munich Declaration follow-up".</i></li> </ul>

## Administrative, financial and budgetary matters

Resolution and reference document	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA59.7 WHA59.10	Arrears in payment of contributions: Armenia/Turkmenistan	<i>The schedule for repayment of arrears of Armenia and Turkmenistan were accepted, hence both Member States regained their voting rights.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The EURO and WHO headquarters Secretariats have worked with individual Member States to agree on repayment schedules over the past years. This has resulted in several Member States from the former Soviet Union regaining their voting rights.</i></li> <li>• <i>As of WHA59, only one European Region Member State still has outstanding arrears to a level that its voting rights are suspended. EURO will work with that Member State in the hope of presenting a repayment schedule at the Sixtieth WHA in May 2007.</i></li> </ul>
WHA59.18	Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly	<p><i>Since the Rules of Procedure for the EB are inconsistent with those of the WHA as regards dispatch of documents, a resolution was adopted to rectify this.</i></p> <p><i>The Rule 14 now applies to both, stating that documents should be available not less than six weeks before the session.</i></p>	<i>Not directly related to EURO, but EURO monitors annual compliance of deadlines for dispatch of its documents for the Regional Committee.</i>

**Resolutions adopted by the 118th session of the Executive Board of particular interest to the European Region of WHO**

Resolution and reference document	Title/Subject	Regional implications	Action/Comments
EB118/R2	Consideration of the acceleration of the procedure to elect the next Director-General of the World Health Organization	<p><i>The resolution puts in place an accelerated timetable for election of the Director-General.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Final date for nominations:</i> 5 Sep 2006</li> <li>• <i>Dispatch of proposals to Member States:</i> 5 Oct 2006</li> <li>• <i>EB Session:</i> 6–8 Nov 2006</li> <li>• <i>WHA Session:</i> 9 Nov 2006</li> </ul>	Not applicable
EB118/R4	Strengthening of health information systems	<p><i>This resolution urges Member States to mobilize the necessary scientific, technical, social, political and financial resources to strengthen national health information systems.</i></p> <p><i>Member States are also asked to strengthen the capacity of planners and managers to utilize health information for evidence-based decision-making.</i></p>	<p><i>The resolution is related to the normative mandate of WHO in health information.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>EURO will collaborate and support the guiding principles set out in the framework of the Health Metrics Network.</i></li> <li>• <i>Through the direct country support process, EURO will assist its Member States, when requested, to strengthen their health information systems and their capacity to utilize health information for evidence-based decision-making.</i></li> <li>• <i>EURO's Health Information Unit will be strengthened to ensure corporate quality of data and information across the whole Office, and as an integral part of the Health Intelligence Service currently under development.</i></li> <li>• <i>EURO's Health Evidence Network is currently working on strengthening the information provided for policy-makers; it is also part of EURO's Health Intelligence Service.</i></li> </ul>

*Annex 1*

**List of resolutions adopted by the Fifty-ninth World Health Assembly  
Geneva, 22–27 May 2006**

WHA59.1	Eradication of poliomyelitis
WHA59.2	Application of the International Health Regulations (2005)
WHA59.3	Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan
WHA59.4	Eleventh General Programme of Work, 2006–2015
WHA59.5	Member States in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution and special arrangements for settlement of arrears
WHA59.6	Arrears in payment of contributions: Afghanistan
WHA59.7	Arrears in payment of contributions: Armenia
WHA59.8	Arrears in payment of contributions: Central African Republic
WHA59.9	Arrears in payment of contributions: Dominican Republic
WHA59.10	Arrears in payment of contributions: Turkmenistan
WHA59.11	Nutrition and HIV/AIDS
WHA59.12	Implementation by WHO of the recommendations of the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors
WHA59.13	Financial report on the accounts of WHO for 2004–2005
WHA59.14	Salaries of staff in ungraded posts and of the Director-General
WHA59.15	Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations, including United Nations reform process Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
WHA59.16	Codex Alimentarium Commission: amendments to Statutes
WHA59.17	Outcome of the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
WHA59.18	Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly Rule 14: dispatch of documents
WHA59.19	Prevention and control of sexually transmitted infections: draft global strategy
WHA59.20	Sickle-cell anaemia

- WHA59.21 Infant and young child nutrition 2006
- WHA59.22 Emergency preparedness and response
- WHA59.23 Rapid scaling up of health workforce production
- WHA59.24 Public health, innovation, essential health research and intellectual property rights:  
towards a global strategy and plan of action
- WHA59.25 Prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment
- WHA59.26 International trade and health
- WHA59.27 Strengthening nursing and midwifery



*Annex 2*

**List of resolutions adopted by the 118th session of the Executive Board  
Geneva, 29 May – 1 June 2006**

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| EB118/R1 | Thalassaemia and other haemoglobinopathies   |
| EB118/R2 | Consideration of the acceleration of the procedure to elect the next Director-General of the World Health Organization |
| EB118/R3 | Control of leishmaniasis   |
| EB118/R4 | Strengthening of health information systems  |
| EB118/R5 | Confirmation of amendments to the Staff Rules  |