



EUROPE

Regional Committee for Europe Fifty-third session

Vienna, 8–11 September 2003

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Resolution

Mental health in WHO's European Region

The Regional Committee,

Welcoming the fact that, since the adoption of resolution EUR/RC51/R5 on the Athens Declaration on Mental Health and Man-Made Disasters, Stigma and Community Care at its fifty-first session, mental health has been increasingly addressed by Member States and is more and more being accepted as a priority in promoting better health and reducing the burden of disease;

Concerned at the increasing evidence, most recently in *The world health report 2002*, that the disease burden from mental disorders in Europe is nonetheless not diminishing;

Having reviewed document EUR/RC53/7;

1. REQUESTS the Regional Director, when organizing and implementing activities concerning the update of the Health for All policy, to give high priority to mental health issues in the European Region of WHO;
2. REQUESTS the Regional Director to arrange a Ministerial Conference on Mental Health in Europe in Helsinki, Finland in January 2005;

3. DECIDES:

- (a) that the theme of the Conference will be “Facing the challenges – building solutions”;
- (b) that the scope and purpose of the Conference will be:
 - to review the status of mental ill health in Europe and of policies for tackling this problem, taking account of regional and local diversities and the needs stemming from them;
 - to explore the settings and age groups in which mental health and inclusion should be promoted and mental ill health addressed, such as schools, workplaces and health services;
 - to identify the barriers to the promotion of mental health and the prevention and treatment of mental ill health in communities and individuals, especially those who have little or no access to health care, work or education;
 - to suggest evidence-based solutions that could be shaped into common and sustainable policies, setting a priority agenda for European Member States; and
 - to develop an action plan that provides policy recommendations to Member States and WHO;
- (c) that the participants in the Conference should be ministers of health, mental health counterparts, representatives of users’ and family organizations and professionals from all European Member States;
- (d) that the outcome of the Conference will be the Helsinki Mental Health Action Plan for Europe, setting out common and sustainable policy recommendations in the context of a priority agenda within a specific time frame and calling for initiatives to be supported by the WHO Regional Office for Europe over the years to come.