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

This document reviews the resolutions and decisions adopted at the Fifty-seventh World Health Assembly (Geneva, 17–22 May 2004) and the 113th and 114th sessions of the Executive Board (January and May 2004, respectively).

As requested by the Regional Committee at its fifty-third session (Vienna, 8–11 September 2003), the attached paper presents, in tabular format, only those issues that are of particular interest to the European Region and indicates for each of them the regional implications and action(s) taken or planned to be taken by the Regional Office.

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 Health Assembly and the Board of particular interest to the European Region of WHO

Technical Matters

Resolution/decision	Title/Subject	Reference document	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA57.10	Road safety and health	A57/10	Need for the Regional Office (EURO) to strengthen its support to Member States in implementing the recommendations of the <i>World report on road traffic injury prevention</i> in the European context (support capacity-building, surveillance, policy development, address the east-west gap, frame road traffic injury prevention in the context of transport-related health effects).	The report <i>Preventing road traffic injury: a public health perspective for Europe</i> provides a background against which to view the Health Assembly resolution and the recommendations in the World Report in a regional context. A network of focal points for unintentional injury prevention (appointed by approximately 40 Member States) provides a new means of improving communication and exchange of information with Member States. The global survey on national response to injury prevention (under way) will provide a baseline for assessing countries' needs and priorities. The survey has been prepared together with WHO headquarters and is a global initiative. It covers all those European Member States who have so far appointed focal points for unintentional injury prevention.

Resolution/decision	Title/Subject	Reference document	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA57.12	Reproductive health: draft strategy to accelerate progress towards the attainment of international development goals and targets	A57/13, United Nations General Assembly resolution 55/2	High importance for Member States when revising their national policies.	Support will be provided to Member States so that they make reproductive and sexual health an integral part of national planning and budgeting and pay special attention to poor and marginalized groups. The Regional Adviser will inform national counterparts accordingly.
WHA57.13	Genomics and world health	A57/16	Implications primarily for research, but: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – health services are increasingly involved, especially with regard to genetic testing facilities; – ethical issues regarding the use of individual and population-level genetic data have not been resolved; – the European Region has specific positions on the precautionary principle and patenting of the human genome. 	Collaboration will be established with the Council of Europe and the European Commission.
WHA57.14	Scaling up treatment and care within a coordinated and comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS	A57/4	High importance, as the European Region is the WHO region with the fastest growing epidemic of HIV/AIDS in the world.	Country teams have been established in two countries (Russian Federation and Ukraine) and efforts are being scaled up in 10 other countries.

Resolution/decision	Title/Subject	Reference document	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA57.16	Health promotion and healthy lifestyles	A57/11	A key priority for EURO is to ensure that a sustainable infrastructure, with adequate funding and human resources that have appropriate skills to promote population health, is established across Europe.	There is a need to strengthen the support provided to Member States in their efforts to invest in population health and development, including skills development and transfer of know-how.
WHA57.17	Global strategy on diet, physical activity and health	<i>World Health Report 2002</i> , resolutions WHA55.23, WHA56.23	Unhealthy diet and physical inactivity are leading risk factors for several chronic diseases and cancer in the European Region.	A task force on obesity has been set up to focus EURO's activities in this area and to target tangible and measurable results. At its current session the Regional Committee will discuss the European strategy on noncommunicable diseases, and a final text is planned to be presented and adopted by the Regional Committee in 2006. A ministerial conference on nutrition will also be organized, as requested by the Regional Committee.

Resolution/decision	Title/Subject	Reference document	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA57.19	International migration of health personnel: a challenge for health systems in developing countries		Migration of health personnel is one of the key concerns of the countries that have recently acceded to membership of the European Union (and, to a lesser extent, of health systems in countries along the new EU borders and beyond). The theme is covered in the EURO publication <i>10 health questions about the 10</i> , published in May 2004, and in a study on human resources for health that is nearing completion.	The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies will help draw out the implications for Europe in its studies on EU enlargement and human resources. It expects to receive requests from Member States for evidence on the subject and will address issues arising with other technical units in workshops, presentations, policy briefs and case studies.
EB114.R1	Sustainable financing for tuberculosis control	EB114/14	The topic is of considerable importance, as tuberculosis is an increasing problem in parts of eastern Europe and in central Asia. In addition, Member States in these areas have a high prevalence of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.	Follow-up of resolution EUR/RC52/R8 on tuberculosis will be presented to the Regional Committee at its current session. The European Advisory Group on Tuberculosis has been established (first meeting to be held in September 2004). A European Stop TB Partnership is to be established in the autumn of 2004.
EB114.R2	Cancer prevention and control	EB114/3	Cancer represents the second largest disease burden in the Region, according to the <i>World Health Report 2002</i> .	A regional consultation is planned to be held in the autumn of 2005. Cancer prevention and control will be an integral part of the proposed European strategy on noncommunicable diseases.

Resolution/decision	Title/Subject	Reference document	Regional implications	Action/Comments
EB114.R3	Disability, including prevention, management and rehabilitation	EB114/4	High importance, as the European Region is the WHO region with the highest burden of noncommunicable diseases.	Will be addressed in the discussions at the current session of the Regional Committee on the need for a European strategy on noncommunicable diseases.

Financial and budgetary matters

Resolution/decision	Title/Subject	Reference document	Regional implications	Action/Comments
WHA57.5 WHA57.6	Members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent that would justify invoking Article 7 of the Constitution	A57/22	After Ukraine regained its voting rights at WHA57, the European Region still has six Member States without voting rights.	EURO will continue to assist the six Member States in preparing proposals adapted to their situation and acceptable to the Health Assembly.

Other matters not covered by resolutions or decisions

Subject	Reference document	Regional implications	Action/Comments
International Health Regulations (IHR)	EB113/3 Rev.1, resolution WHA56.28	To disseminate information to all Member States and facilitate their active involvement in the ongoing process for revising the IHR.	A regional consultation was held in Copenhagen from 9 to 11 June 2004 and a technical briefing will be held during the current session of the Regional Committee.

Subject	Reference document	Regional implications	Action/Comments
Implementation of resolution WHA51.31	A57/24	Until an alternative to resolution WHA51.31 is found, it will continue to be applied in regional budget allocations. This means that EURO's current under-funding situation should continue to improve as EURO's share of overall WHO resources increases.	European Member States will continue to be provided with information on the global and regional budget.