



Euro Polio Page May 2007

Vaccine-preventable Diseases and Immunization Programme
Division of Health Programmes

Eighteen countries and WHO join forces to fight poliomyelitis and measles

On Thursday, 17 May, a new milestone was reached in the signing of the MECACAR Declaration by the Regional Directors of the two MECACAR regions in a ceremony at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The ceremony took place during the sixtieth World Health Assembly, when Dr Hussein Abdel-Razzak Al Gezairy, Regional Director of the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, and Dr Marc Danzon, Regional Director of the WHO Regional Office for Europe signed the Declaration in the presence of representatives of the Ministries of Health of MECACAR countries. Two copies of the Declaration, signed by Ministers of Health or their representatives before the ceremony, were signed by the Regional Directors. One copy will reside in Cairo and one in Copenhagen.

The Declaration sets out a strong message of inter-regional cooperation to reach common goals. Convinced that no child should die or be handicapped as a result of vaccine-preventable diseases, the countries state their commitment of political will at the highest levels to fight poliomyelitis and measles by improving national immunization programmes, expanding collaboration to identify populations crossing their borders, and to mobilize the general public and raise awareness of the importance of immunization in preventing diseases.

The MECACAR Declaration

Collaboration on Vaccine-preventable Diseases -Towards Eradication of Polio and Elimination of Measles

We, the Ministers of Health of countries in the Middle East and Caucasus and Central Asian Republics (MECACAR), and the Regional Directors of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean and European regions, recognizing the benefits of joint cooperation in addressing the common goals of polio eradication and measles elimination, and believing that actions taken in concert will enable the achievement of these goals to which we are unanimously committed;
Commend the following principles in a spirit of regional unity towards these common goals as guiding our action:

Statement of Principles

- No child should die or be handicapped as a result of a vaccine-preventable disease in our Member States.
- Cooperation must continue to prevail between our Member States in our efforts for the eradication of polio and elimination of measles.
- Our national efforts must be in line with global and regional strategies to achieve these goals.
- Surveillance information on vaccine-preventable diseases, particularly polio and measles, should be reported in a timely manner and shared transparently.
- Common indicators to guide our actions should be defined.

Recognizing these principles, and in the interests of cross-border collaboration on the eradication of polio and elimination of measles,

We hereby make a commitment to ensure:

- mobilization and maintenance of political commitment at the highest levels in each country in support of our common goals to eradicate polio and eliminate measles;
 - translation of the political commitment into action at all levels;
 - mobilization of the public with regard to the importance of immunization in preventing diseases;
 - establishment of a mechanism for timely exchange of essential information about the occurrence of polio and measles and other outbreaks of public health importance in our countries;
 - identification of mobile populations crossing borders between our countries and their immunization status; and
- continued efforts to achieve international partnerships and support

Dr Hussein A. Gezairy
WHO Regional Director
Eastern Mediterranean

Dr Marc Danon
WHO Regional Director
Europe



Drs. Gezairy and Danon signing the MECACAR Declaration in Geneva.

MECACAR signifies eastern Mediterranean, CAucasus, Central Asian Republics and the Russian Federation. The eighteen countries participating in Operation MECACAR are Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and West Bank and Gaza Strip.

**Table 1. AFP/Polio Weekly Reporting
European Region 2007 (all countries)**

	Polio compatible cases	% Completeness of reporting	Week of last report	Method of reporting	Country using "priority"
Albania	0	78%	17	email	yes
Andorra*	0	94%	17	direct web entry	-
Armenia	0	68%	12	email	yes
Austria	0	100%	17	direct web entry	yes
Azerbaijan	0	100%	17	email	yes
Belarus	0	100%	17	direct web entry	yes
Belgium	0	94%	17	direct web entry	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	78%	16	email	partial
Bulgaria	0	89%	17	direct web entry	yes
Croatia*	0	73%	14	direct web entry	yes
Cyprus	0	100%	17	direct web entry	yes
Czech Republic	0	73%	16	email	
Denmark	0	0%		DNR	-
Estonia	0	100%	17	direct web entry	yes
Finland	0	0%		DNR	-
France	0	0%		DNR	-
Georgia	0	89%	17	email	yes
Germany	0	94%	17	email	yes
Greece	0	100%	17	direct web entry	partial
Hungary	0	94%	17	direct web entry	yes
Iceland	0	0%		DNR	-
Ireland	0	100%	17	direct web entry	yes
Israel	0	89%	17	email	yes
Italy	0	94%	17	direct web entry	yes
Kazakstan	0	78%	16	email	yes
Kyrgyzstan	0	36%	15	email	yes
Latvia	0	100%	17	direct web entry	yes
Lithuania	0	100%	17	direct web entry	yes
Luxembourg	0	0%		DNR	-
Malta*	0	52%	14	email	yes
Monaco	0	0%		DNR	-
Montenegro	0	42%	17		
Netherlands	0	0%		DNR	-
Norway	0	100%	17	direct web entry	yes
Poland	0	100%	17	direct web entry	yes
Portugal	0	42%	8	email	partial
Republic of Moldova	0	89%	17	direct web entry	yes
Romania	0	100%	17	email	partial
Russian Federation	0	89%	17	direct web entry	yes
San Marino	0	0%		DNR	-
Serbia	0	94%	17	email	partial
Slovak Republic	0	94%	17	direct web entry	yes
Slovenia*	0	94%	17	direct web entry	-
Spain	0	94%	17	direct web entry	yes
Sweden	0	0%		DNR	-
Switzerland	0	94%	17	direct web entry	yes
Tajikistan	0	84%	17	email	yes
T.F.Y.R.Macedonia	0	89%	17	email	no
Turkey	0	94%	17	email	yes
Turkmenistan	0	84%	17	email	yes
Ukraine	0	63%	16	email	yes
United Kingdom	0	0%		DNR	-
Uzbekistan	0	94%	17	email	yes
Average/Totals		87%			
Shaded country name indicates country classified as endemic / recently endemic by the Regional Certification Commission in 1996					
* No AFP cases reported to WHO Regional Office for Europe					
DNR-do not report AFP surveillance data					

**TABLE 2. AFP Reporting - European Region,
2006-2007 Countries with AFP surveillance**

Country	2006 (Weeks 1 - 52)			2007 (Weeks 1 - 17)					
	non-Polio AFP rate*	% with 2 stool spec.**	Surveillance index***	No. of AFP cases	No. of cases pending §	No. of cases priority pending §§	non-Polio AFP rate*	% with 2 stool spec.**	Surveillance index***
Albania	0.36	100%	0.36	5	0	0	1.59	100%	1
Andorra	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Armenia	0.33	50%	0.33	6	0	0	2.26	60%	0.8
Austria	0.72	56%	0.48	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Azerbaijan	0.86	94%	0.81	12	2	0	1.53	100%	1
Belarus	2.8	90%	0.9	26	0	1	4.86	96%	0.96
Belgium	0.35	17%	0.06	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.63	100%	0.63	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Bulgaria	1.83	84%	0.84	4	4	0	1.03	100%	1
Croatia	0	0%	0	1	0	0	0	0%	0
Cyprus	1.83	67%	1	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Czech Republic	1.03	87%	1	3	0	0	0.55	100%	0.55
Estonia	0.51	100%	0.51	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Georgia	1.11	100%	1	2	0	0	0.66	100%	0.66
Germany	0.55	44%	0.3	28	2	4	0.61	48%	0.45
Greece	1.2	74%	0.74	3	1	0	0.5	100%	0.5
Hungary	0.96	40%	0.58	2	0	0	0.34	0%	0.34
Ireland	1.06	22%	0.56	1	0	0	0.3	0%	0
Israel	0.9	6%	0.58	3	0	0	0.41	0%	0.14
Italy	0.64	65%	0.44	19	3	1	0.61	47%	0.42
Kazakhstan	1.5	94%	0.96	19	0	0	1.51	89%	0.95
Kyrgyzstan	1.7	96%	1	10	3	0	1.59	90%	1
Latvia	0.92	100%	0.92	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Lithuania	2.36	46%	0.85	1	0	0	0.49	0%	0.49
Malta	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Montenegro	1.58	100%	1	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Norway	1.22	27%	0.73	2	0	0	0.58	0%	0.29
Poland	1.08	71%	0.82	16	4	3	0.7	38%	0.3
Portugal	0.3	60%	0.24	2	2	0	0.31	50%	0.16
Republic of Moldova	0.81	83%	0.68	7	0	0	2.55	100%	1
Romania	1.16	95%	0.95	11	1	0	0.89	82%	0.73
Russian Federation	2.24	90%	0.92	134	51	18	1.62	92%	0.93
Serbia	1.16	86%	1	4	0	0	0.6	100%	0.6
Slovakia	0.23	100%	0.23	3	0	1	0.91	100%	0.91
Slovenia	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Spain	0.67	43%	0.4	18	2	0	0.74	50%	0.57
Switzerland	1.19	7%	0.14	3	0	0	0.67	33%	0.22
Tajikistan	0.83	100%	0.83	9	1	0	0.93	89%	0.83
T.F.Y.R.Macedonia	0.77	100%	0.77	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Turkey	0.9	84%	0.77	80	8	4	0.97	81%	0.82
Turkmenistan	1.25	95%	0.95	8	1	0	1.39	75%	0.75
Ukraine	1.89	94%	0.95	48	2	1	1.95	98%	1
Uzbekistan	1.15	99%	0.99	30	0	0	0.9	97%	0.87
Average/Totals	1.19	82%	0.87	520	87	33	0.8	82%	0.7
Recently Endemic	1.43	91%	0.93	385	69	23	0.99	90%	0.91

*Annualized rate per 100 000 children under the age of 15. **Bold** = meeting WHO target of 1.0.

Two stool specimens collected at least 24 hours apart within 14 days of onset of paralysis and adequately shipped to the laboratory. **Bold = meeting WHO target of 80%.

***Index = non-polio AFP rate up to 1.0 x (% 1 adequate specimens). **Bold** = 0.8

§ Total number of AFP cases pending final classification 90 days after Date of onset.

§§ Number of AFP cases assigned a priority coding and pending.

All indicators are calculated year to date unless specified otherwise.