



EUROPE

Sixteenth Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe First session

Sheraton Metechi Palace Hotel, Tbilisi, Georgia, 18 September 2008

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Report of the first session

Introduction

1. The Sixteenth Standing Committee of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (SCRC) held its first session at the Sheraton Metechi Palace Hotel in Tbilisi, Georgia on 18 September 2008, immediately after the closure of the fifty-eighth session of the Regional Committee (RC58). The incoming Chairperson welcomed the new member from Andorra, as well as the new European member of the Executive Board who would be attending the Sixteenth SCRC's sessions as an observer.

Outcome of the fifty-eighth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe

2. The Chairperson commended the government of Georgia on its excellent preparation and hosting of RC58 and acknowledged the good work of the Secretariat in the preparation and conduct of RC58.

3. With regard to follow-up to the Regional Committee's discussion of the Organization's draft proposed programme budget 2010–2011, the SCRC was informed that the relevant section of the report of RC58 would be forwarded to WHO headquarters and taken into account when a revised draft was prepared for submission to the Executive Board at its 124th session (19 – 27 January 2009). European members of the Executive Board would have the opportunity to comment on the revised draft on that occasion. In the meantime, the Regional Office Secretariat would keep the matter under review, and the subject would be placed on the agenda of the following session of the SCRC.

4. The SCRC noted that it had been given a mandate by the Regional Committee to revisit and follow up the issue of the current methods for nominating Executive Board members, and in particular the question of subregional groupings. It accordingly asked the Secretariat to add the subject for discussion at the following session.

5. When the Regional Committee considered numerous proposed amendments to draft resolutions, the SCRC believed that it would be helpful to distribute a revised text with the amendments shown in square brackets, even if that text were available only in English. In general, the Regional Committee should take the necessary time to give full consideration to amended draft resolutions.

Plan of work of the Sixteenth SCRC, 2008–2009

6. The Standing Committee reviewed its plan of work for 2008–2009, which would be updated on a continuous basis throughout the year. It agreed to hold its second session in Oslo on 10 and 11 November 2008. The third session was tentatively scheduled to be held at the WHO Regional Office in Copenhagen on 12 January 2009, and the fourth session at the same location on 30 and 31 March 2009. The SCRC recognized, however, that that did not allow much time for submission and incorporation of its comments on draft working papers for RC59 before its fifth session was held in Geneva on 17 May 2009 (the day before the opening of the Sixty-second World Health Assembly). Furthermore, some members were in favour of reducing the number of meetings, although the Executive President of RC58 noted that it had been useful to have frequent sessions the previous year. The SCRC accordingly asked the Secretariat to propose, at its following session, a date in February 2009 when it might consider to meet, instead of holding two sessions in January and March of that year.

Election of the Vice-Chairperson of the Sixteenth SCRC

7. The Standing Committee unanimously selected Dr Vladimir Lazarevik as Vice-Chair of the Sixteenth SCRC.

Other matters

8. The SCRC acknowledged with thanks the invitation from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to hold one of its sessions in 2009 or 2010 in that country.