



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
COPENHAGEN

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE
Fifty-first session, Madrid, 10 – 13 September 2001

RESOLUTION

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COORDINATION OF WORK WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH

The Regional Committee,

Recognizing the efforts and valuable contributions to the improvement of all aspects of health for European citizens achieved through the cooperation of Member States within the framework of the Council of Europe as well as the WHO Regional Office;

Acknowledging that the World Health Organization and its regions have a global mandate in the field of health;

Recalling that, in the area of health, the specific mandate of the Council of Europe is to protect and improve the respect of human rights;

Observing that the European Region of WHO and the Council of Europe to a large extent share the same membership;

Acknowledging that – as with any kind of international cooperation – making the most effective and efficient use of resources and avoiding duplication of effort and action is of paramount importance;

Noting with interest the exchange of letters of 19 June 2001 between the Director of Social Affairs and Health of the Council of Europe and the Regional Director regarding development of future

cooperation, and in particular the emphasis that each organization has a specific vocation and a particular contribution to make and that duplication of work should be avoided;

Mindful of the need for engagement and active participation of Member States in WHO's European Region, as well as of member states of the Council of Europe, in further developing this cooperation;

1. ENCOURAGES each Member State to coordinate its efforts to these ends through its representatives in committees and subcommittees of the two organizations;
2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
 - (a) to aim – in the further development of cooperation with the Council of Europe within the mandate of each organization – at a clear and transparent distinction of tasks taking into account the mutual programmes of work;
 - (b) to report on progress made for discussion at the fifty-second session of the Regional Committee, identifying *inter alia*:
 - (i) specific areas of cooperation and future cooperation, either bilaterally or in conjunction with the relevant international organizations for development;
 - (ii) issues on which Member States could assist in strengthening cooperation; and
 - (iii) the need for any further strengthening of the agreement between WHO and the Council of Europe;
 - (c) to ensure qualified participation by the WHO Regional Office in sessions of the European Health Committee of the Council of Europe.