



EUROPE

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REASSIGNMENT OF CYPRUS FROM THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN TO THE EUROPEAN REGION OF WHO

The Regional Director informs the Regional Committee of the request received from the Government of Cyprus for reassignment from the Eastern Mediterranean to the European Region of WHO.

This request is submitted to the Regional Committee for its consideration, and its views will be conveyed to the Fifty-sixth session of the World Health Assembly in May 2003. The procedure for reassignment of a Member State from one region to another is outlined in this document.

Background and procedure for reassignment of Member States to regions

1. By its letter of 15 March 2002 (Annex 1), the Ministry of Health of Cyprus confirmed to the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) and the Regional Office for Europe (EURO) its request for reassignment from the Eastern Mediterranean to the European Region of WHO. The reasons for this request are expressed in Cyprus's letter of 26 June 2001 (Annex 2).

2. With a view to ensuring full consultation between the regions concerned, the Forty-ninth World Health Assembly in 1996 adopted resolution WHA49.6:

The Forty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Considering the need to ensure full consultation between the regions concerned before a decision is taken whether or not to reassign a Member State from one region of the World Health Organization to another,

1. DECIDES that any request by a Member State for reassignment from one region to another should be examined by the regional committees concerned, and that their views should be conveyed to the Health Assembly for its consideration before it acts upon such a request;
2. REQUESTS the Director-General, when he receives a request by a Member State for such reassignment, to ensure implementation of the above provisions.

3. The Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean informed the Regional Director for Europe by memorandum of 30 May 2002, that, at a coordination meeting of the delegations from Eastern Mediterranean countries during the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly, it was unanimously agreed that Cyprus should be transferred from the Eastern Mediterranean to the European Region, and that this item would be submitted for consideration by the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean at its forty-ninth session, to be held from 30 September to 3 October 2002, prior to its views being conveyed to the World Health Assembly for consideration.

4. The Regional Committee for Europe is accordingly requested to consider Cyprus's request for reassignment to the European Region. Its views will subsequently be conveyed to the World Health Assembly for its consideration.

Annex 1

REPUBLIC



OF CYPRUS

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
1448 NICOSIA

Our Ref: M.H.4.13.01.1(4)

Lefkosia, 15 March 2002

Dear Dr. Danzon,


Further to our letter with reference no. M.H.4.12.12.09 and dated 26th June, 2001, I wish to reiterate our request to be reassigned from the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) to the Regional Office for Europe (EURO) of the World Health Organization; and to convey to you, once more, our Government's formal request for the above mentioned reassignment.

The above mentioned letter enumerates all the historical background and the reasons, which, in our view, justifies our application for this change.

Hence, we would like to raise this matter, during the forthcoming session of the World Health Assembly in May, in Geneva, at which time we hope to have a meeting with you to exchange information on further action.

Looking forward to meeting you there, I remain.

Yours sincerely,


Simeon Matsis
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Health

Dr. Marc Danzon
Regional Director
Regional Office for Europe
World Health Organization
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DK-2100 Copenhagen
Denmark

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Annex 2



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
1448 NICOSIA

Our Ref: M.H.4.12.12.09

Lefkosia, 26th June, 2001.

Dear Dr Danzon,

Further to our informal consultations and the meetings both in Copenhagen and during the WHO General Assembly in Geneva, I would like to reiterate, in writing, Cyprus' request to be reassigned from the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) to the Regional Office for Europe (EURO) of the World Health Organization.

Allow me to briefly recall the reasoning for our decision, as explained during our meetings. As you are aware, Cyprus is at an advanced stage in the accession negotiations for membership to the European Union. The proposed reassignment to EURO is therefore a natural consequence of this process. Such a move would also better reflect the fact that health-related issues and problems in Cyprus are much closer in nature and degree to those encountered in EURO member countries and have gradually diverged from those encountered in the countries of EMRO. Moreover, the Government firmly believes that the 40-year presence and experience gained during that time in the EMRO will prove a valuable asset in that Cyprus can be a connecting link for strengthening and broadening relations between the two regional offices.

We very much look forward to our future cooperation within the EURO. I am confident that our request, based on its merits, will be conveyed to the World Health Assembly with a positive recommendation and look forward to receiving a favourable response.

Thanking you in advance, I avail myself of this opportunity to express to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Synleon Matsis
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Ministry of Health

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