



**World Health  
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

---

**Twenty-fourth Standing Committee of the  
Regional Committee for Europe**

First session

**Copenhagen, Denmark, 15 September 2016**

EUR/SC24(1)/REP

31 October 2016

160757

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

## **Report of the first session**

## Contents

	page
Opening of the session.....	3
Election of officers .....	3
Dates and places of future sessions .....	3
Reflections on RC66.....	3
Establishment of SCRC subgroups .....	4
Preliminary outline of RC67 .....	4
Other matters, closure of the session.....	5
Annex 1. Agenda .....	6
Annex 2. List of documents.....	7
Annex 3. List of participants .....	8
Addendum. Report of the teleconference .....	10
Opening of the session and adoption of the provisional agenda.....	10
Preliminary outline of the 67th session of the Regional Committee, including concept notes for technical documents .....	10
Other matters, closure of the session.....	11
Annex A.1. List of documents of the teleconference.....	12
Annex A.2. Provisional agenda of the teleconference .....	13
Annex A.3. List of participants of the teleconference .....	14

## **Opening of the session**

1. The Twenty-fourth Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe (SCRC) held its first session on Thursday, 15 September 2016, during the final day of the 66th session of the Regional Committee for Europe (RC66) at UN City in Copenhagen, Denmark.
2. The incoming Chairperson, Ms Dagmar Reitenbach (Germany), welcomed the new members from Greece, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey, who would each serve a three-year term of office from September 2016 to September 2019, replacing members from Belarus, Estonia, France and Latvia, whose terms expired at RC66. She also welcomed the Executive Board member from the Netherlands, who would ensure the link between the Twenty-fourth SCRC and the Executive Board during the year. The Regional Director invited new members to attend a briefing on the work of the Regional Office, to be held (if needed) in Copenhagen before the second session of the Twenty-fourth SCRC.
3. The Twenty-fourth SCRC agreed that a representative of Hungary, as the host country of RC67, could attend its sessions as an observer.
4. The provisional agenda (EUR/SC24(1)/2) and provisional programme (EUR/SC24(1)/3) of the session were adopted.

## **Election of officers**

5. Dr Amiran Gamkrelidze (Georgia) was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Twenty-fourth SCRC.

## **Dates and places of future sessions**

6. The Twenty-fourth Standing Committee agreed to hold its second session in Berlin, Germany, on 1 and 2 December 2016; its third session at the Regional Office in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 15 and 16 March 2017 (dates to be confirmed); its fourth session at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, on 20 and 21 May 2017; and its fifth session in Budapest, Hungary, on 10 September 2017.

## **Reflections on RC66**

7. Members of the Twenty-fourth SCRC exchanged initial reflections on RC66. They considered that the session had been very well planned and organized, and that good progress had been made and resolutions had been adopted on several relevant topics. The agenda of the four-day session had been extremely heavy, and the SCRC observed that responses and reactions by the Secretariat at the conclusion of agenda items should be kept as short and concise as possible.

8. One SCRC member appreciated the informal meeting that had been held on Sunday, 11 September 2016, the day before the opening of RC66. The technical briefing on country work held on Wednesday, 14 September 2016, had been useful, but more information on the work of WHO in country offices could have been provided. An SCRC member with country office experience suggested that a presentation on that topic could be made at a subsequent session of the Standing Committee.

9. In the light of the Regional Committee's discussion on the draft proposed WHO programme budget 2018–2019, one SCRC member suggested that the Secretariat, when drawing up action plans and similar documents, should set out the economic case for the measures being proposed. The outgoing Chairperson noted that the financial implications of draft resolutions were already presented in working documents submitted to the Regional Committee; he added that the Standing Committee might consider examining the cost implications more thoroughly when proposing areas of work for prioritization or downgrading to the Regional Committee.

10. One SCRC member called for more "live" discussions, suggested to avoid the reading of prepared statements, and encouraged greater involvement of academics. A prominent scientist or expert could be invited to deliver an address on a topical technical issue.

### **Establishment of SCRC subgroups**

11. In view of their continued relevance and the concrete work they carried out, the Twenty-fourth SCRC decided to maintain the three subgroups on governance, migration and health, and implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) that had been established or continued by the Twenty-third SCRC. The SCRC members from Iceland and Slovenia and the Executive Board member from the Netherlands wished to join the subgroup on governance, and the member from Iceland agreed to chair it. The member from Greece wished to join the subgroup on migration and health.

12. The Regional Director proposed that the existing terms of reference of the three subgroups should be circulated to members of the Twenty-fourth SCRC for review in the light of recent developments.

13. The Chairperson noted that the subgroups would convene their first meetings on 14 March 2017, the day before the Twenty-fourth SCRC's third session, and could hold teleconferences before then, if required.

### **Preliminary outline of RC67**

14. The Regional Director presented the provisional agenda for RC67 (document EUR/SC24(1)/5). The Chairperson said that, since members had not had much time to review the draft provisional agenda of RC67 or the concept notes prepared by the Secretariat, a teleconference would be organized at 12:30 on Monday, 26 September 2016, to discuss the preliminary outline of RC67 and the accompanying concept notes.

15. The Regional Director said that the Secretariat would look at the draft provisional agenda of RC67 and the concept notes that had been prepared for the session (see the list of documents in Annex 2) in the light of comments made at RC66, and would send revised drafts (if needed) to SCRC members prior to the teleconference.

### **Other matters, closure of the session**

16. After thanking SCRC members for their attention and valuable feedback, the Regional Director for her leadership and the Regional Office for its support, the Chairperson closed the session.

## **Annex 1. Agenda**

1. Opening by the Chairperson and Regional Director
2. Adoption of the provisional agenda and programme
3. Welcome and introduction of new members of the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe (SCRC)
4. Reflections on the 66th session of the Regional Committee for Europe
5. Election of officers of the Twenty-fourth SCRC
6. Dates and places of future meetings
7. Set up subgroups of the Twenty-fourth SCRC (if any)
8. Preliminary outline of the 67th session of the Regional Committee, including concept notes for technical documents
9. Other matters, closure of the session

## Annex 2. List of documents

### Working documents

EUR/SC24(1)/1	Provisional list of documents
EUR/SC24(1)/2	Provisional agenda
EUR/SC24(1)/3	Provisional programme
EUR/SC24(1)/4	Provisional list of participants
EUR/SC24(1)/5 <sup>1</sup>	Draft provisional agenda of the 67th session of the Regional Committee for Europe
EUR/SC24(1)/6 <sup>1</sup>	Towards a roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the WHO European Region
EUR/SC24(1)/7 <sup>1</sup>	Action plan for a sustainable health workforce in the WHO European Region 2017–2030
EUR/SC24(1)/8 <sup>1</sup>	Access to high-priced medicines
EUR/SC24(1)/9 <sup>1</sup>	Partnership strategy for the WHO European Region
EUR/SC24(1)/10 <sup>1</sup>	Working together for better health and well-being: outcome of the High-level Conference
EUR/SC24(1)/11 <sup>1</sup>	Outcome of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health and the way forward

---

<sup>1</sup> This document will be discussed during the SCRC teleconference on Monday, 26 September 2016.

### Annex 3. List of participants

#### Members, alternates and advisers

France	Professor Benoît Vallet
Georgia	Dr Amiran Gamkrelidze (Vice-Chairperson)
Germany	Ms Dagmar Reitenbach (Chairperson) Mr Björn Kummel
Greece	Mr Ioannis Baskozos Ms Efthymia Karava
Hungary	Dr Hanna Pava <sup>2</sup>
Iceland	Dr Sveinn Magnússon
Italy	Dr Raniero Guerra Dr Francesco Cicogna
Netherlands	Mr Herbert Barnard <sup>3</sup> Dr Pieter de Coninck
Portugal	Ms Eva Sofia Moço Falcão
Romania	Professor Alexandru Rafila
Slovakia	Dr Mario Mikloši
Slovenia	Dr Vesna-Kerstin Petrič
Tajikistan	Dr Salomudin Yusufi
Turkey	Dr Hakki Gürsöz
Turkmenistan	Dr Bahargul Agayeva

---

<sup>2</sup> Observer status as representative of the Member State hosting RC67.

<sup>3</sup> Link between the Twenty-fourth Standing Committee and the Executive Board.



### **Annex 3. (continued)**

#### **WHO Secretariat**

Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab	Regional Director for Europe
Dr Sussan Bassiri	Director, Administration and Finance
Dr Nedret Emiroglu	Director, Health Emergencies and Communicable Diseases
Dr Gauden Galea	Director, Noncommunicable Diseases and Promoting Health through the Life-course
Dr Marija Kishman	Desk Officer, Strategic Relations, Executive Manager a.i., Country Relations and Corporate Communications
Dr Hans Kluge	Director, Health Systems and Public Health
Ms Noemi Kondorosi	Technical Officer, Regional Governance Unit
Ms Leen Meulenbergs	Executive Manager, Strategic Partnerships, WHO Representative to the European Union
Mr Haik Nikogosian	Special Representative of the Regional Director for Europe
Dr Piroska Östlin	Director, Policy and Governance for Health and Well-being
Mr Charles Robson	Rapporteur
Ms Vladlena Sotskov	Technical Assistant, Regional Governance Unit
Dr Claudia Stein	Director, Information, Evidence, Research and Innovation

## **Addendum. Report of the teleconference**

### **Opening of the session and adoption of the provisional agenda**

1. The Twenty-fourth Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe (SCRC) held a teleconference on Monday, 26 September 2016, which was a continuation of the first session of the Twenty-fourth SCRC that had taken place on Thursday, 15 September 2016, in Copenhagen, Denmark. This report is an addendum to the report of the first session, contained in document EUR/SC24(1)/REP. For this report, see Annex A.1 for the list of documents under consideration during the teleconference, Annex A.2 for the provisional agenda of the teleconference and Annex A.3 for the list of participants of the teleconference.
2. The teleconference was opened by the Regional Director for Europe and chaired by Ms Dagmar Reitenbach (Germany), the Standing Committee Chairperson. The provisional agenda in Annex A.1 was adopted.
3. The purpose of the teleconference was to discuss the provisional agenda of RC67, with particular attention given to agenda item 5 on policy and technical topics, and to agree on the further work to be carried out by the Secretariat before the second session of the Twenty-fourth SCRC scheduled to be held in Berlin, Germany, on 1 and 2 December 2016.

### **Preliminary outline of the 67th session of the Regional Committee, including concept notes for technical documents**

4. The Regional Director presented the provisional agenda for RC67 (document EUR/SC24(1)/5). It had been suggested at RC66 that the invited speaker should be a high profile scientist rather than a political figure. Since many speakers had commented on the large number of strategies and action plans under consideration at RC66, the Secretariat planned to prepare no more than five draft resolutions relating to frameworks or action plans for consideration at RC67.
5. Under agenda item 5 on policy and technical topics, she proposed that items 5(a) and 5(b) should be merged to form a single item that would cover strategic directions for implementation of Health 2020 as well as public health in the implementation of Health 2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals. Two meetings would be organized to prepare that item, covering theoretical issues and country examples, respectively. The relevant concept note (document EUR/SC24(1)/6) would be amended and expanded accordingly.
6. The issues to be discussed under agenda items 5(d) on the European framework for action on a sustainable health workforce and 5(i) on an update on WHO's work on outbreaks and emergencies in the European Region would be specified in the coming months in the light of decisions for action to be taken by WHO at the global level.

7. The discussion of agenda item 5(e) on a European framework for action on access to cost-effective medicines and technologies would be focused at the country level. It had become clear from discussions at RC66 that access to all medicines, not only high-priced ones, was an issue for several Member States of the European Region. Agenda item 5(g) on the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) would include the strengthening of laboratory capacity.

8. Members of the Twenty-fourth SCRC endorsed the proposed changes to the provisional agenda of RC67. One member suggested that tobacco control, and e-cigarettes in particular, should be a topic for a ministerial lunch at RC67.

9. On the subject of governance, one SCRC member suggested that the terms of reference of the subgroup on governance should include a discussion of the criteria for proposing a draft Regional Committee resolution, particularly in relation to global initiatives such as the United Nations Climate Change Conference (Paris, France, 30 November to 13 December 2015). A request was made to include Slovakia as a member of the subgroup.

10. One SCRC member suggested that there was no need for separate regional activities to increase access to medicines, since both WHO headquarters and the regional offices were already supporting Member States in their negotiations with the pharmaceutical industry. Other members suggested that national regulatory agencies should be invited to participate in a debate on that item, and that access to medicines needed in connection with large influxes of migrants should be discussed under the agenda item on access to medicines as well as under the item on emergencies.

11. The Programme Manager, Human Resources for Health, said that there were no plans to draft a framework or action plan on access to medicines. The Regional Office would work on building capacity in Member States to improve access to medicines and combat shortages.

### **Other matters, closure of the session**

12. The Regional Director thanked members for their contributions, which would help the Secretariat to prepare more detailed documentation for consideration at the second session of the Standing Committee, so that draft documents could be finalized and sent for approval by Member States in good time. She invited SCRC members to submit further comments regarding the terms of reference of the subgroups in writing.

13. The Chairperson likewise thanked all participants and adjourned the teleconference.

## **Annex A.1. List of documents of the teleconference**

### **Working documents**

	List of documents of the teleconference
	Provisional agenda of the teleconference
	List of participants of the teleconference
EUR/SC24(1)/5	Draft provisional agenda of the 67th session of the Regional Committee for Europe
EUR/SC24(1)/6	Towards a roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the WHO European Region
EUR/SC24(1)/7	Action plan for a sustainable health workforce in the WHO European Region 2017–2030
EUR/SC24(1)/8	Access to high-priced medicines
EUR/SC24(1)/9	Partnership strategy for the WHO European Region
EUR/SC24(1)/10	Working together for better health and well-being: outcome of the High-level Conference
EUR/SC24(1)/11	Outcome of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health and the way forward

## **Annex A.2. Provisional agenda of the teleconference**

1. Opening by the Chairperson and Regional Director
2. Adoption of the provisional agenda
3. Preliminary outline of the 67th session of the Regional Committee, including concept notes for technical documents
4. Other matters, closure of the session

### **Annex A.3. List of participants of the teleconference**

#### **Members, alternates and advisers**

Germany	Ms Dagmar Reitenbach (Chairperson)
Greece	Mr Ioannis Baskozos
Hungary	Dr Hanna Pava <sup>4</sup>
Iceland	Dr Sveinn Magnússon
Italy	Dr Raniero Guerra Dr Francesco Cicogna
Netherlands	Mr Herbert Barnard Dr Pieter de Coninck <sup>5</sup>
Romania	Professor Alexandru Rafila
Slovakia	Dr Mario Mikloši
Slovenia	Ms Liza Zorman (Alternate to Dr Vesna-Kerstin Petrič)
Turkey	Dr Hakki Gürsöz
Turkmenistan	Dr Leyli Shamuradova Dr Bahargul Agayeva

---

<sup>4</sup> Observer status as representative of the Member State hosting RC67.

<sup>5</sup> Link between the Twenty-fourth Standing Committee and the Executive Board.

### **Annex A.3. (continued)**

#### **WHO Secretariat**

Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab	Regional Director for Europe
Dr Nedret Emiroglu	Director, Health Emergencies and Communicable Diseases
Dr Gauden Galea	Director, Noncommunicable Diseases and Promoting Health through the Life-course
Ms Noemi Kondorosi	Technical Officer, Regional Governance Unit
Ms Teresa Lander	Rapporteur
Ms Leen Meulenbergs	Executive Manager, Strategic Partnerships, WHO Representative to the European Union
Dr Piroska Östlin	Director, Policy and Governance for Health and Well-being
Dr Galina Perfilieva	Programme Manager, Human Resources for Health, Health Systems and Public Health
Ms Vladlena Sotskov	Technical Assistant, Regional Governance Unit
Dr Claudia Stein	Director, Information, Evidence, Research and Innovation

= = =