



EUROPE

Regional Committee for Europe Fifty-second session

Copenhagen, 16–19 September 2002

EUR/RC52/R12
19 September 2002
23514
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

RESOLUTION

EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR TOBACCO CONTROL

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA52.18 and WHA53.16, which established an intergovernmental negotiating body open to all Member States to draft and negotiate the proposed Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and possible related protocols and called on the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to commence its negotiations, and resolution WHA54.18 which called for transparency in tobacco control;

Recalling its resolution EUR/RC47/R8, by which it recognized the Third Action Plan for a Tobacco-free Europe as a set of basic principles for European Member States to follow;

Acknowledging that the tobacco epidemic is one of the greatest public health challenges facing WHO's European Region, which therefore needs a joint response;

Having considered the Warsaw Declaration for a Tobacco-free Europe and document EUR/RC52/11 which proposes a European strategy for tobacco control based on an assessment of implementation of the Third Action Plan for a Tobacco-free Europe and the recommendations of the WHO European Ministerial Conference for a Tobacco-free Europe (Warsaw, 18–19 February 2002);

Noting that the Warsaw Declaration for a Tobacco-free Europe underlines the Member States' high-level political commitment to coordinating and strengthening their action against the tobacco epidemic;

Taking into consideration the constitutional framework of Member States;

1. COMMENDS the Regional Office for Europe on the work it has done in recent years to promote the Action Plan and on organizing the WHO European Ministerial Conference;
2. THANKS the government of Poland for hosting the WHO European Ministerial Conference, the governments of Malta, Slovenia and the Netherlands for hosting the pre-conference and follow-up meetings of national counterparts, and the government of Switzerland for providing financial resources and hosting and coordinating the work of the drafting committee for the Warsaw Declaration;
3. ENDORSES the Warsaw Declaration for a Tobacco-free Europe as political guidelines for coordinated tobacco control policies in WHO's European Region;
4. ADOPTS the European Strategy for Tobacco Control as a strategic framework of action for European Member States to follow through their national policies and international cooperation;
5. THANKS the Committee for a Tobacco-free Europe for the work it has done during the period of its mandate and ASKS the Regional Director to transfer the functions of the Committee to the existing network of national counterparts representing Member States, with appropriate involvement of key international partners in the field;
6. URGES Member States to:
 - (a) strengthen their tobacco control policies and capacity in line with the European Strategy for Tobacco Control;
 - (b) contribute to the establishment of a WHO European monitoring system for tobacco control, as a key international component of the European Strategy for Tobacco Control;
 - (c) intensify intergovernmental consultations for a coordinated European approach in the process of negotiations for the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and actively contribute to the adoption of a strong, public health-driven Framework Convention by the World Health Assembly in May 2003;

(d) speed up the process of adoption and ratification of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control;

7. REQUESTS the Regional Director to:

(a) give high priority to providing guidance and support to Member States in their activities in strengthening their policies and building capacity in the field of tobacco control;

(b) mobilize resources and facilitate implementation of the international components of the European Strategy for Tobacco Control, particularly for a WHO European monitoring system for tobacco control;

(c) adopt, in consultation with the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee, terms of reference for the network of national counterparts to act as an international advisory body on the European Strategy for Tobacco Control;

(d) examine the possibilities for and facilitate the creation of a European coalition for tobacco control that will involve Member States and international and nongovernmental organizations interested in sharing their expertise and resources for accelerating coordinated tobacco control action in the European Region;

(e) submit a report on implementation of the European Strategy for Tobacco Control to the Regional Committee at its fifty-sixth session.