



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE
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Our reference: C.L. 2026 Your reference:
Notre référence: Votre référence:
Unser Zeichen: Ihr Zeichen:
См. наш номер: На Ваш номер:

Date: 26 February 2026

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TO MEMBER STATES
IN THE WHO EUROPEAN REGION
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Dear Sir or Madam,

Call for nominations to serve on WHO governing bodies and committees – nomination year 2026

In accordance with Rules 14.2.2 (a) and 14.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, I am writing to initiate the annual process for nominating and electing new members for the WHO governing bodies and committees to be considered at the 76th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (RC76), which will take place from 27 to 29 October 2026 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

As set out in the Rules of Procedure, Member States in the WHO European Region are invited to notify the WHO Regional Director for Europe **no later than 27 April 2026** of nominations they wish to make for membership of any of the following WHO governing bodies and committees: the Executive Board (EB) (4 vacant seats), the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe (SCRC) (4 vacant seats), and the Joint Coordinating Board of the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (JCB TDR) (paragraph 2.2.2) (1 vacant seat).

In this context, I would like to draw your attention to the criteria established by the RC63 relating to the allocation of seats to ensure equitable geographical distribution, adequate representation of the interests of the Region, and the opportunity for all Member States in the Region to serve on governing bodies and committees, as well as other considerations relevant to maximizing the effectiveness of the governing bodies and committees.

Further details regarding the criteria for membership of WHO governing bodies and committees and the requirements for submission of nominations are included in **Annex 1** below. Please find the relevant templates attached. In addition, further to the recent informal consultation with Member States on intentions to serve on WHO governing bodies and committees in the coming years, an overview of the responses received is shown in **Annex 2**.

Please address any queries regarding the above information to the Governance, External Relations and Languages unit at eugovernance@who.int. I thank you for your continued support for participatory governance in the Region.

Yours very truly,

Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge
Regional Director

Encls:

Curriculum vitae form for nomination for membership of the Executive Board (EB)

Curriculum vitae form for nomination for membership of the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe (SCRC)

Curriculum vitae form for nomination for membership of the Joint Coordinating Board of the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (JCB TDR)

Annex 1. Vacancies on WHO governing bodies and committees: process and criteria for nominations and elections

Overview

1. The WHO Regional Committee for Europe at its 76th session (RC76) shall determine the membership of the following governing bodies and committees for the following number of seats.
 - (a) Executive Board (EB): four seats will become vacant at the closing of the Eightieth World Health Assembly in May 2027 when the terms of office of the members designated by Bulgaria, Israel, Norway and Poland will have expired.
 - (b) Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe (SCRC): four seats will become vacant at the closing of RC76 when the terms of office of Iceland, Serbia, Sweden and Tajikistan will have expired.
 - (c) Joint Coordinating Board of the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (JCB TDR): one seat will become vacant at the end of 2026, when the term of office of Kyrgyzstan will have expired.
2. In accordance with the established rules to ensure equitable geographical distribution (see below), these seats will be allocated as follows:

Table A1.1. Allocation of vacant seats – nomination year 2026[§]

	Group A	Group B	Group C
EB	One vacant seat	Two vacant seats (France)*	One vacant seat
SCRC	Three vacant seats	No vacant seats	One vacant seat
JCB TDR	One vacant seat		

[§] For the SCRC, the nomination year indicates the year when Member States are requested to nominate candidates for consideration by the Regional Committee at its annual session that same year. For the EB, the nomination year is one calendar year prior to the actual year of commencement of the term as an EB member. This means that candidates are nominated by the Regional Committee in the calendar year prior to commencement of their tenure as EB members.

* Semi-permanency pursuant to resolutions [EUR/RC53/R1](#), [EUR/RC60/R3](#) and [EUR/RC63/R7](#).

WHO governing bodies

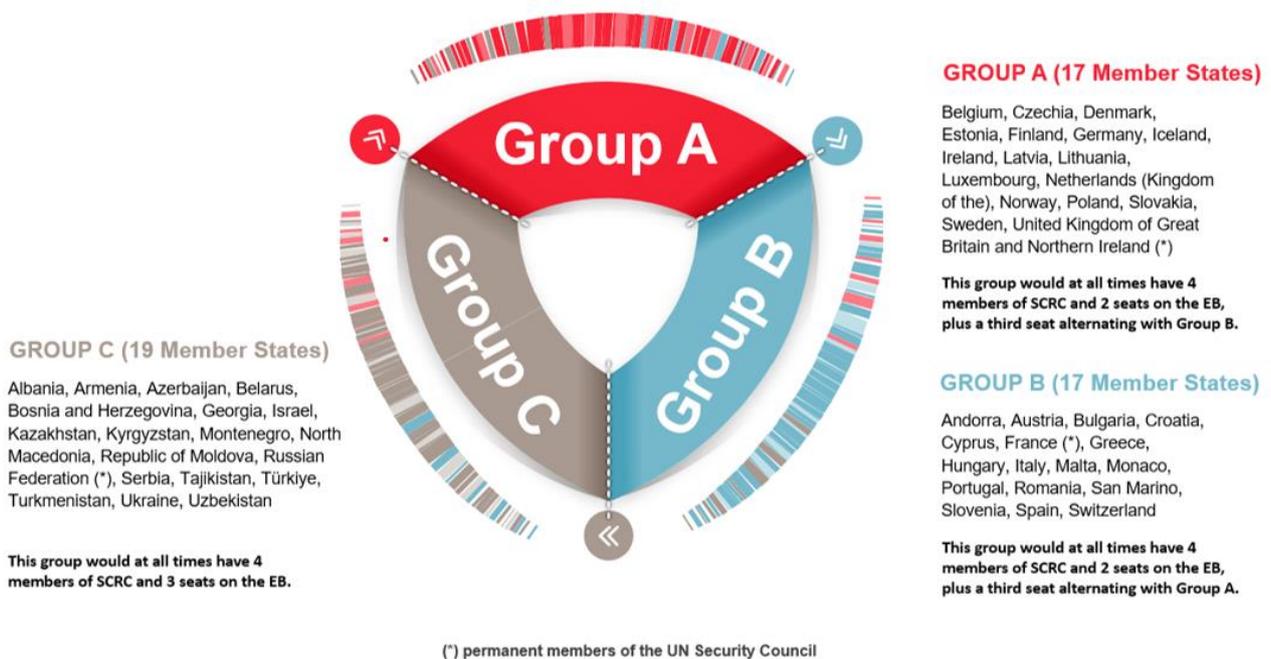
Underlying principles and selection criteria

3. Regarding the election of membership to WHO governing bodies and committees, Rules 14.2.1 and 14.3 of the [Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Europe](#) set out the need for equitable geographical distribution, adequate representation of the interests of the WHO European Region, the opportunity for all Member States in the Region to participate over time in the work of WHO governing bodies and committees, as well as other considerations relevant to maximizing the effectiveness of the work of the governing bodies and committees.
4. Equitable geographical distribution is ensured through the creation of three subregional groupings of Member States (resolution [EUR/RC63/R7](#), Annex 1; see Fig. A1.1).

5. Other selection criteria refer to:

- (a) the equal opportunity for each Member State to serve on WHO governing bodies and committees;
- (b) the candidate countries' past engagements and collaborations with WHO and their commitment to WHO's priorities at the global and regional levels, as reflected in the Fourteenth General Programme of Work, the European Programme of Work, 2020–2025 – “United Action for Better Health” (EPW) and the Second European Programme of Work, 2026–2030 (EPW2); and
- (c) the proposed representatives' broad mix of skills and practical experience in public health and in national administration, as well as gender balance (as further detailed in Annex 2 of resolution [EUR/RC63/R7](#)).

Fig. A1.1 Subregional grouping of Member States in the WHO European Region



Number of seats and distribution

6. The Region has eight seats on the EB, which are distributed according to geographical subregional groupings as follows: two seats each in Group A and Group B, respectively (plus a third seat alternating between both groupings), and three seats in Group C.

7. Based on resolution [EUR/RC53/R1](#), Member States in the Region that are permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are granted semi-permanent membership of the EB, meaning that each of them can take up membership every three out of six years.

8. The 12 seats on the SCRC are distributed equally among each of the three subregional groupings.

9. To provide more clarity around the annual vacancies for a three-year mandate in each subregional grouping, in combination with the above principle of semi-permanency, a long-term schedule of membership for both governing bodies was adopted (Table A1.2).

Table A1.2. Schedule of European membership of WHO governing bodies and committees: annual overview of vacant seats per subregional group by year of nomination (based on Annex 2 of decision [EUR/RC69\(1\)](#))

Nomination year [§]	Group A	Group B	Group C
Executive Board (EB)			
2026	1	2 (France)*	1
2027	1	0	1
2028	0	1	1
Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe (SCRC)			
2026	3	0	1
2027	0	2	2
2028	1	2	1
Joint Coordinating Board of the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (JCB TDR)			
2026	1		
Policy and Coordination Committee (PCC) of the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP)			
2027	1		

[§] For the SCRC, the nomination year indicates the year when Member States are requested to nominate candidates for consideration by the Regional Committee at its annual session that same year. For the EB, the nomination year is one calendar year prior to the actual year of commencement of the term as an EB member. This means that candidates are nominated by the Regional Committee in the calendar year prior to commencement of their tenure as EB members.

* Semi-permanency pursuant to resolutions [EUR/RC53/R1](#), [EUR/RC60/R3](#) and [EUR/RC63/R7](#).

The nomination process: applicable rules and practices

10. The process for selecting Member States in the Region to serve on WHO governing bodies and other committees is governed by Rules 14.2 and 14.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Europe.

11. Following notification by the Regional Director, Member States are required to submit their nomination six months in advance of the Regional Committee session, with (1) a curriculum vitae, in a standard format, of the representative they intend to nominate if elected, as well as (2) a letter of intent explaining their relationship with WHO, their commitment to WHO priorities at the global and regional levels, and the contribution that they would make as a member of the specific body or committee (Rule 14.2.2 (a)).

12. Following the deadline for the submission of nominations, the Secretariat first reviews the validity of the nominations received, namely, checking if each nomination was received within the deadline and with all the necessary documentation. Then, this information is compiled in the Membership of WHO bodies and committees document and communicated to the members of the SCRC.

13. Based on the received information, the SCRC is asked to review all nominations and identify which candidates in its opinion would best meet the criteria enumerated in the Rules of Procedure and relevant resolutions. This is done in a private session, usually held during the fourth session of the SCRC in June. The outcome of these deliberations is reflected in an assessment report that is sent to the candidate countries. In so doing, the SCRC in the first instance tries to seek consensus among Member States submitting nominations in case there are more candidates than seats (Rule 14.2.2 (b)). SCRC members representing a

Member State that submitted its nomination for one of the vacant seats shall abstain from the assessment of received candidacies for that particular body or committee.

14. If consensus is not possible, and if immediately prior to the start of the Regional Committee session there would still be more nominations than seats to be filled for a specific body and within a particular subregional group, the SCRC will submit the relevant assessment report to the Regional Committee for its information (Rule 14.2.2 (c)). These assessment reports will be forwarded to the Member States as approved by the SCRC during the private session in June.

15. If consensus is still not reached by the time of the actual selection, the Regional Committee will proceed to an election by secret ballot in accordance with Rule 43. Candidate Member States must be represented during the relevant agenda item at the Regional Committee session (Rule 14.2.2 (d)).

16. Any changes in representation during the assessment process should be communicated to the Secretariat in accordance with the existing rules and practices and will be duly reflected in the membership document.

Requirements for submitting nominations

17. Only nominations received **no later than 27 April 2026** will be presented to the RC76 in October 2026. Nominations should be submitted to the following email address: eugovernance@who.int.

18. Each candidature must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae in standard format and a letter of intent.

Curriculum vitae

19. A curriculum vitae must be completed for the representative whom a Member State intends to appoint if elected for any of the above-mentioned bodies and committees. The templates in standard format are attached.

Letter of intent

20. The letter of intent must be written in one of the four official languages of the Region and should not exceed 600 words in length. It should include a short description of the following items:

- (a) an overview of the key elements of the relations between WHO and the nominating Member State, including events or programmes of particular relevance to the Member State concerned;
- (b) which WHO priorities the nominating Member State plans to represent during its membership term; and
- (c) how the nominating Member State plans to achieve those priorities during its term, and the reasons why the Member State is applying for membership of a governing body.

21. To facilitate a comparative consideration of the candidacies submitted by Member States, the letter of intent may include:

- (a) a record of Member States' engagement with WHO's governance and technical activities, for example, active participation in governing bodies' meetings, or in special programmes such as the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases; active participation and involvement in intergovernmental negotiations launched under the aegis of WHO; compliance with reporting requirements to WHO at regional or global level; as well as other examples considered relevant by Member States to demonstrate a high level of engagement with WHO;

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- (b) details and evidence of their commitment to the implementation of global and regional WHO policies considered as a priority by them within the framework of their national health policies as well as their foreign policy; and
 - (c) details of how they aim to engage and cooperate with WHO if elected, and the contributions they intend to make as members of the SCRC, the EB or the JCB TDR.

Annex 2. Expression of interest to serve on WHO governing bodies and committees in 2026–2028 (results from the informal consultation)

1. By filling out an online survey that was sent on 17 November 2025, Member States in the Region were invited to informally share their intentions to serve on WHO governing bodies and committees in 2026–2028. At the suggestion of Member States, this informal consultation was issued earlier than previously and shortly after the closure of the RC75 session, in order to provide as much time as possible for Member States to reflect before the formal process commences.
2. This informal consultation procedure has been a valuable practice in recent years and brings an important element of predictability and transparency to the process of elections and nominations in the Region, while also supporting Member States in their efforts to plan when to submit their nomination and, possibly, in engaging with other potential candidate countries at an early stage.
3. The feedback received from this informal consultation by the deadline of 6 February 2026 can be found below in Table A2.1, Table A2.2, Table A2.3 and Table A2.4. Since Member States' participation was strictly voluntary, this information is not binding and does not in any way curtail their right to submit their nominations in accordance with Rule 14.2.2 (a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Committee for Europe.
4. Following the launch of the call for nominations, the Secretariat will organize virtual briefings with the Member States to provide any further information about the process for nominations and elections.

Table A2.1. Executive Board (EB): expressions of interest received from Member States (until 6 February 2026)

Nomination year [§]	Group A	Group B	Group C
2026 (May 2027–May 2030)	1 Iceland (last served 2006) Luxembourg (last served 2007)	2 (France)* Romania (last served 2021)	1 Kazakhstan (last served 2018) Republic of Moldova (last served 2025)
2027 (May 2028–May 2031)	1 Ireland (last served 1998) Sweden (last served 2018)	0	1 Kazakhstan (last served 2018)
2028 (May 2029–May 2032)	0	1 Slovenia (last served 2024)	1 Kazakhstan (last served 2018)

[§] For the EB, the nomination year is one calendar year prior to the actual year of commencement of the term as an EB member. This means that candidates are nominated by the Regional Committee in the calendar year prior to commencement of their tenure as EB members.

* Semi-permanency pursuant to resolutions [EUR/RC53/R1](#), [EUR/RC60/R3](#) and [EUR/RC63/R7](#).

Table A2.2. Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe (SCRC): expressions of interest received from Member States (until 6 February 2026)

Nomination year [§]	Group A	Group B	Group C
2026 (October 2026– October 2029)	3 Czechia (last served 2023) Estonia (last served 2016) United Kingdom (last served 2023)	0 Romania (last served 2025)	1
2027 (October 2027– October 2030)	0	2	2 Republic of Moldova (last served 2021)
2028 (October 2028– October 2031)	1	2	1

[§] For the SCRC, the nomination year indicates the year when Member States are requested to nominate candidates for consideration by the Regional Committee at its annual session that same year.

Table A2.3. The Joint Coordinating Board of the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (JCB TDR) (paragraph 2.2.2): expressions of interest received from Member States (until 6 February 2026)

Nomination year	Group A	Group B	Group C
2026 (January 2027– December 2030) (4-year mandate)	1 Vacant seat Romania (never served)		

Table A2.4. Policy and Coordination Committee (PCC) of the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) (cat. 2): expressions of interest received from Member States (until 6 February 2026)

Nomination year	Group A	Group B	Group C
2027 (January 2028– December 2030) (3-year mandate)	1 Vacant seat Czechia (last served 2021) Israel (never served)		

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