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Subject: Invitation to the High-level Meeting of the Small Countries Initiative: A Focus on Innovation, Bled, Slovenia, 11 - 13 May 2025

Dear minister, Ms Riina Sikkut,

the 11th High-level Meeting of the Small Countries Initiative (SCI) is fast approaching. I would like to personally invite you to join me in Bled for this important event.

In all our countries, we are facing urgent health challenges that require the transformation of our health systems. In the previous years we have identified many areas that present a greater demand on smaller countries and have worked together within Small Countries Initiative to find solutions to health-related needs and vulnerabilities of our populations.

This meeting will provide an opportunity for us to discuss together and with Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, the director of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, perspectives on how our countries could best contribute to maintaining and further strengthening international cooperation, as well as the most relevant EPW2 priorities for our countries.

We all agreed that at our 11th meeting, we will showcase lessons learned and innovative solutions to address the challenges of today by, for example, exploring the potential of personalized and preventive care, technological innovation, decarbonisation, sustainable financing and community engagement and social participation.

During your stay in Slovenia, I would be honoured to showcase firsthand, how we have organized preventive services in primary health care - an example of best practice that has already been shared with many countries in our region.

I look forward to welcoming you in Slovenia. The Small Countries Initiative has already strengthened our voice on the international stage, and this is becoming even more important as

we navigate our priorities within global collaboration. Let us use the meeting in Bled to ensure that our voice continues to be heard in the future.

Sincerely Yours,

Dr Valentina Prevolnik Rupel
Minister of Health



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