



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
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Date: 20 November 2024

Ms Yoko Alender
Minister of Climate
Ministry of Climate
Suur-Ameerika 1
10122 Tallinn
Estonia

Dear Madam,

Nomination of a focal point for the Working Group on Health in Climate Change

The impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly evident across the WHO European Region, underscoring the urgent need for coordinated action to protect the health and well-being of our populations. To address these challenges effectively, the Working Group on Health in Climate Change (HIC) was established in 2012 under the European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF). The Working Group aims to advance the implementation of the climate and health commitments set out in the Declaration of the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Budapest Declaration) and to foster collaboration across countries and sectors.

I would like to invite you to nominate a focal point for the HIC Working Group. According to the institutional arrangements of the European Environment and Health Process, the responsibilities of the focal point include actively participating in the annual meetings of the Working Group, contributing to the development and implementation of the EHTF's work programme in relation to climate change and health, and facilitating the achievement of the relevant commitments of the Budapest Declaration at the national level.

The forthcoming meetings of the HIC Working Group will be held annually, back to back with the EHTF meetings. To ensure the effective participation of your ministry in these events, we kindly ask you to nominate an HIC focal point by **15 January 2025**. Please provide your focal point's functional title, name of institution/ministry, postal address, telephone number and email address to the WHO secretariat (euroclimate@who.int). An alternate focal point may be nominated if desired.

I am pleased to inform you that this invitation to nominate a focal point is extended to both the Minister of Health and the Minister for the Environment of your country.

Please do not hesitate to contact our European Centre for Environment and Health in Bonn, Germany, should you desire any additional information (euroclimate@who.int).

Yours very truly,



Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge
Regional Director

Copy for information to:

Ms Riina Sikkut, Minister of Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, Suur-Ameerika 1, 10129 Tallinn, Estonia

Mr Margus Tsahkna, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islandi väljak 1, 15049 Tallinn, Estonia

Ms Agne Nettan-Sepp, Head, European Union Affairs and International Co-operation Department, Ministry of Social Affairs, Suur-Ameerika 1, 10129 Tallinn, Estonia

Ms Helen Sõber, Adviser, European Union Affairs and International Co-operation Department, Ministry of Social Affairs, Suur-Ameerika 1, 10122 Tallinn, Estonia

H.E. Ms Riia Salsa-Audiffren, Ambassador Representative of the Republic of Estonia, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28A, CH-1209 Genève, Switzerland

H.E. Mr Andre Pung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Estonia, Frederiksgade 19, 4th floor, 1265 Copenhagen K, Denmark

Ms Kristina Köhler, Liaison Officer, WHO Country Office, Estonia, Paldiski Road 81, 10617 Tallinn, Estonia