



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

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA
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Date: 03 July 2025

Dr Karmen Joller
Minister of Social Affairs
Ministry of Social Affairs
Suur-Ameerika 1 Tallinn 10129
Estonia

Our reference:
Notre référence:
Unser Zeichen:
См. наш номер:

Your reference:
Votre référence:
Ihr Zeichen:
На Ваш номер:

Dear Madam,

I am writing to invite you or your delegated representative to take part in an online bilateral consultation on the potential configuration of the WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe)'s presence in your country. This consultation is expected to take place in the coming weeks. My team will be in touch with your office to find the most suitable time for you.

This consultation follows an initial discussion with your country's national counterpart that took place in June 2025. These discussions come at a pivotal moment for WHO and its Member States. In a context marked by increasing geopolitical complexity, shifting health needs, financial challenges and heightened expectations of public sector performance, it is more critical than ever that we align our efforts to strengthen health systems and improve outcomes for the populations that we serve.

In this spirit, WHO/Europe is undertaking a Region-wide reassessment of its models of collaboration, with particular focus on how our presence in countries can be most effectively configured to support national priorities.

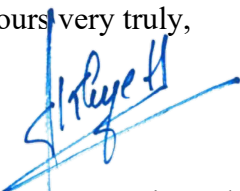
This effort is aligned with the evolving structures of both WHO/Europe and WHO headquarters. It is firmly rooted in the priorities of Member States, as well as in the objectives of the Fourteenth General Programme of Work, 2025–2028 (GPW 14) and the draft of the second European Programme of Work, 2026–2030 (EPW2). The process is also guided by principles endorsed during the recent Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe Subgroup Meeting on Country Work.

We see this as an opportunity to explore jointly how we can amplify the impact of our shared efforts, leveraging WHO/Europe's technical leadership and the Government of Estonia's commitment to health as a strategic priority. This collaboration is also formulated in the recently signed Country Cooperation Strategy 2024-2030.

Please find attached the initial Concept Note on the Review of WHO Country Offices in EU Member States.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and I look forward to your engagement in the consultation process.

Yours very truly,



Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge
Regional Director

Encls:

Concept Note on the Review of WHO Country Offices in EU Member States

Copy for information to:

Mr Margus Tsahkna, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tallinn, Estonia

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

Ms Helen Sõber, Adviser, European Union Affairs and International Co-operation Department, Ministry of Social Affairs, 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, Switzerland

H.E. Mr Andre Pung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Estonia, Denmark

Ms Kristina Köhler, Liaison Officer, WHO Country Office, Estonia, Tallinn, Estonia