



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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Date: 20 November 2024

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

Our reference:	Your reference:
Notre référence:	Votre référence:
Unser Zeichen:	Ihr Zeichen:
См. наш номер:	На Ваш номер:

Dear Madam,

### **Confirmation or 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 either confirm the current focal point or nominate a new focal point for the HIC Working Group. According to the institutional arrangements for the European Environment and Health Process, the responsibilities of the focal point include active participation 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 current HIC focal points from your country are Ms Aive Telling and Ms Kädi Ristkok.

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 either confirm the abovementioned HIC focal point(s) or nominate a new focal point. In either case, please provide his/her functional title, name of institution/ministry, postal address, telephone number and email address to the WHO secretariat ([euroclimate@who.int](mailto:euroclimate@who.int)) by **15 January 2025**. An alternate focal point may be nominated if desired.

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

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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](mailto:euroclimate@who.int)).

Yours very truly,



Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge  
Regional Director

**Copy for information to:**

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