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**Sixteenth meeting of the European Environment  
and Health Task Force**

**EURO/EHTF16/2**

**Maynooth, Ireland  
25–26 November 2026**

**4 September 2026  
Original: English**

## **Scope and purpose**

### **Background**

The [Budapest Declaration of the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health and its Roadmap to 2030](#) provide the strategic framework for implementing the commitments of the European Environment and Health Process (EHP), aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Three years after their adoption and at the midpoint of the Roadmap, the sixteenth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF) will review progress, identify priorities for accelerating implementation and agree on the next steps. The meeting will be hosted by the Government of Ireland in the context of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Since the adoption of the Budapest Declaration, the environment and health landscape has continued to evolve. Alongside persisting challenges such as climate change, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss, the policy agenda is increasingly shaped by issues related to resilience, environmental and human security, misinformation and disinformation, and rapid technological developments, including digital transformation and artificial intelligence, with implications for environment and health. These developments also underline the growing importance of effective communication in making evidence accessible, supporting informed decision-making and maintaining public trust.

Recent regional policy and technical developments, including WHO/Europe's newly launched [Heat-Health Action Plans Guidance](#), the [Call to Action](#) of the Pan-European Commission on Climate and Health and the forthcoming environmental health competency framework, provide new opportunities to support implementation.

The meeting will combine plenary discussions with interactive formats to encourage active participation and exchange.

### **Objectives**

The meeting aims to:

- Discuss the most recent developments in science, policy and society that shape the environment and health agenda, and identify emerging priorities requiring greater attention and stronger cross-sectoral collaboration;
- Provide an opportunity for peer learning among Member States, stakeholders, academia and youth through the exchange of experiences, good practices and innovative approaches, including insights from Ireland, and identify opportunities for collaboration;

- Review progress in implementing the Budapest Declaration at national and regional levels, drawing on country experiences and achievements, and identify remaining gaps and areas where implementation needs to accelerate;
- Adopt the EHTF Programme of Work for 2026–2027;
- Strengthen practical communication skills in environment and health to support evidence-informed policies, counter mis- and disinformation and build public trust;
- Present and discuss the new WHO environmental health competency framework and its application in strengthening a future-ready and resilient environmental health workforce;
- Review the progress and future priorities of the [EHP Partnerships](#), and promote broader participation in their activities.

### **Expected outcomes**

The meeting is expected to strengthen shared understanding of progress and challenges in implementing the Budapest commitments at the midpoint of the Roadmap to 2030, and of the areas requiring greater attention in the coming years.

It will provide an opportunity to consider recent strategic, policy and technical developments and their relevance to national and regional action, discuss the contribution and future priorities of the EHP Partnerships, and identify emerging environment and health issues that require greater regional attention.

The meeting is also expected to result in agreement on the EHTF Programme of Work for 2026–2027, including priority themes for [Bonn Dialogues on Environment and Health](#). The discussions will also help inform preparations for the next Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health.