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

Dear Ms Sõber,

**Accreditation visit to the WHO National Polio Laboratory,
Tallinn, 9-10 June 2026**

Polio eradication is a priority goal for the WHO European Region, as reflected in the European Immunization Agenda 2030. High-quality, comprehensive epidemiological surveillance of disease cases, carried out with the support of laboratory services, is essential for successful disease monitoring and for evaluation of efforts to ensure progress towards eradication.

WHO coordinates the global network of diagnostic laboratories for polio and guarantees the high quality of their work through its accreditation programme. The accreditation programme consists of an annual review of the quality of laboratories, including external quality assessments and periodic visits to laboratories by the WHO coordinator and/or their representative.

In this context, I have the pleasure to confirm the forthcoming visit of Dr Eugene Saxentoff, Coordinator of the WHO European Regional Polio Laboratory Network, Regional Office for Europe, on 9-10 June 2026, to conduct an on-site accreditation visit to the WHO National Polio Laboratory at the Health Board of Estonia, Tallinn. The dates of the visit have been coordinated with the laboratory staff (Head of Laboratory Dr. Oksana Joamets) and were found to be convenient by them.

The accreditation process includes a review of the laboratory's infrastructure, procedures, work practices and activities. Moreover, it will provide an opportunity to exchange information, discuss issues related to polio surveillance and to collaboration with WHO.

Dr Eugene Saxentoff (saxentoffe@who.int) can be contacted for questions and additional information.

I would be grateful for any assistance that you are able to extend to them during their mission and wish to thank you for your continued support to the polio eradication programme.

Sincerely yours,


a.i.

Dr Ihor Perehinets
Health Security and Regional Emergency Director

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