

Ref.: C.L.37.2025

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to States Parties to the International Health Regulations (2005) (“IHR”) and has the honour to refer to circular letters C.L.26.2025 and C.L. 33.2025 regarding rejections, reservations, declarations and statements submitted by States Parties in respect of the amendments to the IHR adopted by the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly through resolution WHA77.17 (2024) (“2024 amendments”), which entered into force on 19 September 2025.

... The Director-General has the honour to communicate a further statement received from the 27 Member States of the European Union, all of which are States Parties to the IHR. This statement will be included in the consolidated IHR text available on the WHO website.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to States Parties to the IHR the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 1 December 2025

... ENCL.: (1)



Declaration of the European Union (EU) and its Member States concerning the statement submitted by the Republic of Türkiye on 14 July 2025 to the Director-General of the WHO on the International Health Regulations

The International Health Regulations (IHR) are a very effective tool for reinforcing the connection between the surveillance systems and establishing rapid reaction mechanisms. The EU and its 27 Member States will continue to support the implementation of Article 57 of the IHR in full and without restrictions.

The EU and its 27 Member States take note of Türkiye's intention to implement the provisions of the IHR in accordance with the Convention regarding the regime of the Straits, signed at Montreux on 20 July 1936.

The EU and its 27 Member States understand the desire of the Turkish authorities to respect their international obligations, such as the Montreux Convention regarding traffic in the Straits. In this respect they would like to refer to Article 57 of the IHR, which provides that States parties recognize that the IHR and other relevant international agreements should be interpreted so as to be compatible. The provisions of the IHR shall not affect the rights and obligations of any State party deriving from other international agreements.

Concerning the reference by Türkiye to internal legislation which has no direct bearing on the implementation of the IHR, the EU and its 27 Member States understand that Türkiye will ensure that the application of its internal legislation fully respects the letter and spirit of the IHR and the regime of freedom of navigation in the Straits as established by the Montreux Convention.