



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

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE  
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE  
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA  
ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

Date: 17 July 2020

## CIRCULAR LETTER TO MEMBER STATES IN THE WHO EUROPEAN REGION

Head office:

UN City, Marmorvej 51,  
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark  
Tel.: +45 45 33 70 00; Fax: +45 45 33 70 01  
Email: [eugovernance@who.int](mailto:eugovernance@who.int)  
Website: <http://www.euro.who.int>

Our reference:	RC70	Your reference:
Notre référence:	invitation	Votre référence:
Unser Zeichen:		Ihr Zeichen:
См. наш номер:		На Ваш номер:

Dear Sir or Madam,

### **70th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe Virtual, *de minimis* session, 14–15 September 2020**

I have the honour to convene the 70th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (RC70), in accordance with Rule 4 of the Regional Committee's Rules of Procedure.

Following the Decision EUR/Inter-session(1) of 29 May 2020 that was adopted under a written silence procedure and based on the assessment made by the Twenty-seventh Standing Committee of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe meeting in its special session on 29 June 2020, it has been decided that RC70 will be organized as a virtual, *de minimis* session. Under this format, the agenda will only include items of strategic orientation and governance continuity.

Given the current pandemic crisis, it will be important to count on the personal participation and intervention of the Health Ministers on the first day, when both the WHO Director-General and I will report on the lessons learned from the epidemiological situation and the evaluation of the COVID-19 response. At the same time, I will seek the Regional Committee's endorsement of the European Programme of Work, 2020–2025 – “United Action for Better Health in Europe”, which sets out the priorities for the Regional Office of the next five years, and I will welcome Member States' suggestions for its implementation.

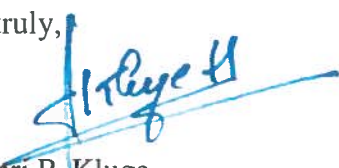
With regard to draft resolutions, under Rules 22 bis, 22 ter and 22 quarter of the Rules of Procedure, delegations are encouraged to submit any amendments or proposals prior to the session, if possible, or at least 24 hours before the draft resolution is taken up for discussion by the Regional Committee, in order to allow the Secretariat to translate them into the official languages and to distribute them for consideration among all other delegations.

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Further details regarding working hours, documents, online registration, credentials, the online platform, and speakers' list can be found in the enclosed materials. Special rules and procedures will be proposed to accommodate the virtual format of our session.

I look forward to our important reflections and decisions during RC70 in September!

Yours very truly,



Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge  
Regional Director

**Encl.:**

Annotated programme

Practical information regarding the conduct of the 70th session of the Regional Committee for Europe

Credentials form

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF THE 70th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

### WORKING HOURS

The working hours of the 70th session of the Regional Committee are from 09:00 to 16:00 (CET) on Monday, 14 September, and from 09:00 to 13:00 (CET) on Tuesday, 15 September.

### DOCUMENTS

Working documents in all official languages will be posted on the WHO Regional Office for Europe website six weeks prior to the session. Advance copies of some documents may be available earlier.

URL: <https://www.euro.who.int/en/about-us/governance/regional-committee-for-europe>

### REGISTRATION

Online registration is required for all sessions of the Regional Committee. Registration can be initiated by going to the following website:

URL: <http://extranet.who.int/bpmext/meetingregistration.aspx>

Username: Eurouser

Password: W@a=ri%fi\$28D034DF19

General instructions for online registration and submission of credentials using the Governing Bodies Meeting Registration System are available on the website of the World Health Organization at <http://apps.who.int/gb/gov/registration.html>. The same procedure applies to all categories of invited participants.

STEP 1: The online registration system allows one focal point to be designated per delegation. Once the focal point has been entered into the registration system, (s)he will receive an email with a unique user name and password and the link to the registration system. The focal point will then register and submit the names of the delegates and attach a copy of the credentials for all members of the delegation.

STEP 2: The Regional Governance Unit at the WHO Regional Office for Europe will verify the information received from the focal point, which will then be processed to generate the provisional list of participants.

STEP 3: Individual delegates will receive instructions by email for accessing the digital platform of the RC70 session.

The online registration for RC70 should be completed **no later than Friday, 4 September 2020**.

### CREDENTIALS

Credentials shall be issued by the Head of State, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Health, or any other appropriate authority, such as permanent missions or senior government officials. Please use the attached Credentials form.

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In accordance with Rule 1 of the Regional Committee's Rules of Procedure, the country delegations should consist of not more than two representatives from each of the Member States. The representatives may be accompanied by alternates and advisers.

In accordance with Rule 3 of the Regional Committee's Rules of Procedure, the names of representatives, which in the case of Members shall take the form of credentials, shall be communicated electronically to the Regional Director, if possible fifteen days before the opening date of the Regional Committee. Given the need to facilitate virtual access to the meeting, all credentials and lists of representatives should be submitted electronically during the online registration process.

## **ONLINE PLATFORM**

The proposed platform for the virtual meeting is Zoom, videoconferencing software as selected by other WHO regions. The WHO Regional Office will be contacting the Member States to verify feasibility and options to participate in the Zoom platform.

The Secretariat will organize several briefing and testing sessions prior to RC70, and information will be shared on these in due course.

Detailed instructions for secure registration of representatives and alternates to the virtual platform and for accessing the meeting will be provided to the Member States prior to the meeting and will be part of the testing process as well.

The RC70 participants should use the same naming convention as in their submitted credentials, otherwise their access to the online platform might not be granted.

The meeting will also be broadcast on the WHO Regional Office for Europe website.

## **WRITTEN, VIDEO AND LIVE STATEMENTS**

Member States, States not members of the Committee, invited representatives of the United Nations, specialized agencies and other regional international organizations, and non-State actors in official relations with WHO or accredited by the Regional Committee for Europe are invited to submit written statements of no more than 600 words in one of the working languages of the Regional Committee for posting on the WHO Regional Office for Europe website under the related agenda item. These are sent in advance of the opening of the 70th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe. Written statements may be submitted in lieu of a live intervention or to complement a live intervention. Interventions on the items of Accreditation of regional non-State actors to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, Matters arising from the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly, and Progress reports will be limited to only written statements.

Member States, States not members of the Committee, invited representatives of the United Nations, specialized agencies and other regional international organizations, and non-State actors in official relations with WHO or accredited by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe shall also have the opportunity, if they so wish, to submit pre-recorded video statements of no more than two minutes in duration in advance of the opening of the session, with an indication of the agenda item to which they refer. These video statements will be broadcast at the virtual meeting in lieu of a live intervention under the relevant item, except for those from non-State actors in official relations with WHO or accredited by the Regional Committee for Europe.

Member States are invited to send these pre-recorded video statements **by latest Friday, 11 September at 18:00 (CET)**, together with their written script in order to facilitate interpretation.

Written and video statements shall remain posted on the web site of the Regional Office in the language of submission until the adoption of the report of the 70th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe. The content of the written and video statements will be summarised/reflected, in accordance with the usual practice, in the report of the 70th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe.

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During the virtual session, only Member States, States not members of the Committee, invited representatives of the United Nations, specialized agencies and other regional international organizations shall be provided with the opportunity to take the floor. Individual statements will be limited to three minutes. Group statements will be limited to five minutes.

Member States are invited to express their wish to take the floor and the specific agenda item, if possible, **by Friday, 11 September 2020 at 18:00 (CET)**. Based on these submissions, the Secretariat will put together the speakers' list for each of the RC70 agenda items and update the official website with this information in due course.

Should you have any issues with online registration, submission of credentials, the online platform, or the speakers' list, please contact us at [eurorc70@who.int](mailto:eurorc70@who.int).

**Regional Committee for Europe**

EUR/RC70/3 Add.1

70th session

**Copenhagen, Denmark, 14–15 September 2020**

3 August 2020

200564

Provisional agenda item X(x)

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

## **Provisional annotated programme of the 70th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe**

**(virtual *de minimis* meeting)**

**Monday, 14 September 2020: Political and strategic matters**

09:00–09:30	<p><b>Opening of the session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Election of officers</b></li> <li>• <b>Adoption of special rules and procedures</b></li> <li>• <b>Adoption of the draft provisional agenda and the draft provisional annotated programme</b></li> <li>• <b>Report of the Twenty-seventh Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe</b></li> <li>• <b>Keynote speech by Her Royal Highness The Crown Princess of Denmark</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Opening by the outgoing RC69 President, followed by the election of the RC70 President, the Executive President, the Deputy Executive President and the Rapporteur.</i></p> <p><i>The Regional Committee is invited to note for information the draft decision EUR/Inter-session (1) on the dates and places of regular sessions of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in 2020–2021, and is reminded of the assessment by the 27th SCRC to organize RC70 as a virtual, de minimis session.</i></p> <p><i>The Regional Committee is invited to adopt the special rules and procedures to accommodate for a virtual de minimis session, and to adopt the abridged agenda and annotated programme for the session.</i></p> <p><i>The Regional Committee is invited to review the consolidated report of the Twenty-seventh Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe (including the report of the fifth session of the 27th SCRC) and to <b>adopt the related draft resolution</b>. The introduction of the report by the Chairperson of the Twenty-seventh Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe will be provided as a recorded video statement in advance of the</i></p>
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	<p><i>start of the session.</i></p> <p><i>The Patron of the WHO Regional Office for Europe will address the Regional Committee.</i></p>
09:30–10:00	<p><b>Address by the WHO Director-General: the state of health in the world, including lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic</b></p> <p><i>The plenary debate on the Director-General’s address will be taken jointly with comments to the Regional Director’s presentation, during the session following the Regional Director’s address.</i></p>
10:00–10:30	<p><b>Address by the WHO Regional Director for Europe: the state of health in the WHO European Region, including lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic</b></p> <p><i>The Regional Committee is invited to review the work of WHO in the European Region in 2019–2020 presented in the Regional Director’s report, including the status of 2020–2021 Programme budget implementation and lessons learned so far from the COVID-19 pandemic.</i></p> <p><i>The plenary debate on the Regional Director’s address will be taken jointly with the comments to the Director-General’s address, during the session following the morning healthy break.</i></p>
10:30–10:45	<b>Healthy break</b>
10:45–13:45	<p><b>Discussion on the addresses by the Director-General and the Regional Director</b></p> <p><i>Following the Director-General and Regional Director’s addresses, a general debate will be held on both addresses, jointly.</i></p> <p><b><i>At the end of the discussion, the Regional Committee is invited to adopt the related draft resolution on the Regional Director’s report.</i></b></p>
13:45–14:00	<b>Healthy break</b>
14:00–16:00	<p><b>The European Programme of Work (2020–2025) – “United Action for Better Health in Europe”</b></p> <p><i>The Regional Director will introduce this agenda item, followed by a keynote address (video address or live broadcast) by the special guest, the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety.</i></p> <p><b><i>The Regional Committee will then discuss the document, and at the end of the session, the Regional Committee is invited to adopt the related draft resolution.</i></b></p>

**Tuesday, 15 September 2020: Governance matters**

09:00–09:45	<p><b>Private meeting: elections and nominations (followed by announcement of outcome in public session)</b></p> <p>(a) Nomination of four members of the Executive Board</p> <p>(b) Election of four members of the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe</p> <p>(c) Membership Category 2 of the Policy and Coordination Committee (PCC), Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP)</p> <p><i>The Regional Committee will consider, in a private meeting, the nominations received for WHO bodies and committees contained in the membership document. The Regional Committee will also consider the RC President proposal with regard to filling a WHO European Region vacancy in the PCC of HRP.</i></p> <p><b><i>The outcomes of the private meeting will be announced in the subsequent public session.</i></b></p>
09:45–10:00	<p><b>Healthy break</b></p>
10:00–10:15	<p><b>Transformation in the WHO European Region</b></p> <p><i>The Regional Committee is invited to review the relevant working document, as well as the information document (global document on transformation referred to the regional committees under Matters arising from resolutions and decisions of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board).</i></p>
10:15–10:30	<p><b>Implementation of the Programme budget 2018–2019 in the WHO European Region</b></p> <p><b>Proposed high-level Programme budget 2022–2023: for Regional Committee consultations</b></p> <p><i>The 70th WHO Regional Committee for Europe is invited to review the working document on the implementation of the Programme budget 2018–2019 in the WHO European Region.</i></p> <p><i>Also, the Regional Committee is invited to review and provide its observations and recommendations to the Programme Budget 2022–2023, and to inform the next version of the budget going to the 148th session of the Executive Board in January 2021.</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the global draft Programme budget 2022–2023 will be delivered by the Director of Planning Resource Coordination and Performance Monitoring, WHO headquarters.</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the regional perspectives on the draft Programme budget 2022–2023 and high-level regional budget envelopes will be delivered by the Director of Business Operations, WHO Regional Office for Europe.</i></p>



	<i>Aspects related to Programme budget 2020–2021 will be addressed under the Regional Director's presentation.</i>
10:30–11:30	<p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p><i>The Regional Committee will discuss both items on transformation and Programme budget, jointly.</i></p>
11:30–11:45	<b>Healthy break</b>
11:45–12:00	<p><b>Accreditation of regional non-State actors to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe</b></p> <p><i>The Regional Committee is invited to review the related working document and to adopt the related draft decision.</i></p> <p><b>Matters arising from resolutions and decisions of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board</b></p> <p><i>The Regional Committee is invited to review the technical resolutions and decisions adopted by the Seventy-third World Health Assembly under the written silence procedure, and of particular relevance to the European Region. The Executive Board Standing Committee of the Regional Committee (EB-SCRC) link will deliver an intervention on this topic.</i></p> <p><i>The global items referred by the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board on transformation and Programme budget 2022–2023 will be taken together with their relevant items already on the agenda.</i></p> <p><i>Any other global items that would normally be referred to the regional committees, will be addressed through technical briefings and consultations after RC70.</i></p> <p><b>Progress reports</b></p> <p><i>The Regional Committee will be invited to note the progress reports that were due in accordance with adopted resolutions.</i></p> <p><i>Comments on any of the above items will be made only through written statements.</i></p>
12:00–12:15	<p><b>Confirmation of dates and places of regular sessions of the Regional Committee</b></p> <p><i>The Regional Committee is invited to adopt the draft resolution on dates and places for the RC in 2021–2023.</i></p> <p><b>Other matters</b></p> <p><b>Closure of the session</b></p>
13:00–14:00	<b><i>First session of the Twenty-eighth Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe</i></b>