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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
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REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA
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Date: 30 January 2018

Dr Sofiko Belkania
Head, Executive Department
National Counterpart
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave.
0119 Tbilisi
Georgia

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

Dear Dr Belkania,

**WHO Regional Office for Europe and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control Joint Annual European Influenza Surveillance Meeting
Copenhagen, Denmark 6-8 June 2018**

I have the honour to inform you that the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe in collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) plans to hold the above-mentioned meeting of national level focal points for influenza surveillance.

The main objectives of the meeting are to:

- ~ Discuss the impact of previous influenza pandemics and discuss preparedness for future pandemics;
- ~ Review developments in influenza surveillance in the WHO European Region during the past decade and anticipate future developments;
- ~ Provide an overview of the 2017/2018 influenza season, with respect to epidemiology, virology, vaccination and burden of disease, and discuss opportunities and challenges related to influenza surveillance for the upcoming 2018/2019 influenza season;
- ~ Present new developments with respect to the joint ECDC-WHO/Europe Flu News Europe bulletin;
- ~ Agree on the proposal to revise EU case definitions related to influenza and other respiratory viruses;
- ~ Provide an overview of the global situation regarding influenza as well as global surveillance developments;
- ~ Maintain and strengthen collaboration and information sharing among network members.

An outline of the scope and purpose of the meeting is enclosed.

I have pleasure in inviting you to nominate two participants who are the national epidemiology and virology focal points for influenza surveillance and who are participating in Flu News Europe (<https://www.flunewseurope.org/>), the joint WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control influenza surveillance platform.

The working languages will be English and Russian and simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Travel for participants will be arranged and paid for by this office, and they will also receive a daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the meeting in accordance with our travel regulations.

I look forward to receiving your nominations, giving the names, functional titles and addresses of the proposed participants at your earliest convenience and no later than 28 February 2018. We shall then communicate with them directly and provide them with the necessary documentation and administrative information in good time.

Dr Caroline Brown, Team Leader of the High Threat Pathogens team, is responsible for this activity. It would be appreciated if you would address your reply to Halyna Borysyuk, Programme Assistant (tel: + 45 45336850; e-mail: borysyukh@who.int).

Yours very truly,



Dr Nedret Emiroglu
Director of Programme Management
Director of the Division of Health Emergencies and Communicable Diseases
WHO Regional Office for Europe

Encls:

Scope and purpose

Copy for information to:

Mr Shalva Tsiskarashvili, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Rue Richard-Wagner 1, CH-1202 Genève, Switzerland
H.E. Mr Gigi Gigiadze, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Georgia, Nybrogade 10, 1st. Floor, 1203 Copenhagen K, Denmark
Mr Niels Scott, United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme, UN House, 9 Eristavi St., 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia
Dr Marijan Ivanusa, WHO Representative and Head of WHO Office, WHO Country Office, Georgia, 81 Barnov Street, Apt.4, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia