



Better health. Better Environment. Sustainable Choices.

09 March 2017

Dr David Sergeenko
Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave.
0119 Tbilisi
Georgia

Dear Sir,

**Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health
Ostrava, Czech Republic, 13–15 June 2017**

The WHO Regional Office for Europe, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Government of the Czech Republic, represented by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Environment, are honoured to invite you to participate in the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, to be held in Ostrava, Czech Republic, from 13 to 15 June 2017.

The Sixth Ministerial Conference, to be hosted by the Government of the Czech Republic, the Moravian-Silesian Region and the City of Ostrava, will be a major milestone for the European Environment and Health Process, which was initiated in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1989. More than a quarter of a century later, the Sixth Ministerial Conference will take stock of the changed geopolitical, socioeconomic and demographic scenario of the WHO European Region, and the new scientific knowledge that underpins the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The aims of the Sixth Ministerial Conference are to define the environment and health priorities for Europe in the 21st century and to enhance the engagement and commitment of Member States and other stakeholders in the European Environment and Health Process. In particular, the Ministerial Conference will leverage the Environment and Health Process as a platform for the coordinated implementation of selected goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Health 2020, the European policy for health and well-being, focusing on inequalities, improved governance, intersectoral work, strategic partnerships and rights-based approaches in addressing the environmental determinants of health.

Member States participating in the Ministerial Conference will be called on to adopt a focused and target-based political declaration, which has been negotiated through an inclusive consultative process steered by the European Environment and Health Task Force. The ministerial declaration is expected to include an action plan for its implementation and an agreement on the revised institutional framework for the European Environment and Health Process.

The scope and purpose and provisional agenda of the Conference are enclosed. The working languages of the Conference will be English, French, German and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided. The Conference will start at 12:00 on Tuesday, 13 June 2017 and will

close no later than 14:30 on Thursday, 15 June 2017. All main sessions will be in plenary. A detailed programme will be provided in due course.

Both the Minister of Health and the Minister of the Environment of your country are invited to attend the Sixth Ministerial Conference, and it is recommended that the two ministries liaise in preparing for the Conference and in deciding on the composition of the national delegation.

We are pleased to invite you and up to five other national delegates to attend this Conference. You may wish to include representatives of other governmental sectors, such as transportation, forestry, agriculture, education and research, economy, foreign affairs or finance, in your delegation. The Czech Government has generously offered to cover the participation costs for two representatives (for example, one from the Ministry of Health and one from the Ministry of the Environment) from your country.

In addition, and in line with the commitment of the Parma Declaration which acknowledges the importance of active youth participation in decisions and activities concerning health and the environment, we strongly encourage you to include one or more young people in your delegation. We would suggest that youth organizations associated with the environment and health be invited to nominate potential representatives for your consideration. The Conference will provide opportunities for active participation of the youth delegates (more information to follow). The participation costs for one youth representative from your country will also be supported by the Czech Government.

Facilities will be available for a limited number of side events, such as seminars, workshops, or parallel discussions, during the Conference. There will also be space available to Member States and partners to promote and share their success stories and important achievements through exhibits, poster presentations or audiovisual materials. A call for expressions of interest will be published, along with all other relevant information and documentation, on the Conference website:

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/ostrava2017>

We look forward to receiving the nominations for your delegation. The names, functional titles and full contact details, including email addresses, should be forwarded to the WHO Conference Secretariat at EUCEH@who.int **no later than Friday, 28 April 2017**. We emphasize the need for early submission of nominations in order to be able to secure the accommodation of your choice in Ostrava.

Policy or technical issues relating to the Conference should be addressed to Dr Srdan Matic, Environment and Health Conference Coordinator (telephone: +45 45 33 67 73; email: EUCEH@who.int). Ms Julia Solovieva is the focal point for organizational issues (telephone: +49 22 88 15 04 13; email: EUCEH@who.int).

We look forward to welcoming your country's delegation to the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Ostrava in June.

Yours very truly,



Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab
WHO Regional Director
for Europe



JUDr. Ing. Miloslav Ludvík
Minister of Health
Czech Republic



Mgr. Richard Brabec
Minister of the
Environment
Czech Republic

Attachments:

Scope and Purpose

Provisional agenda

Copy for information to:

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Mr Mikheil Janelidze, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sh. Chitadze str. 4, 0118 Tbilisi, Georgia

Dr Nino Berdzuli, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, 144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave., 0119 Tbilisi, Georgia

Dr Nana Kavtaradze, Head, Executive Office, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, 144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave., 0119 Tbilisi, Georgia

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