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ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

Head office:

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

Date: 29 May 2018

Dr Akaki Zoidze
Committee of Healthcare and Social Issues
Parliament of Georgia
Abashidze str. 26,
4600 Kutaisi,
Georgia

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

Dear Dr Zoidze,

I have the honour to award you the WHO World No Tobacco Day Award, in appreciation of your relentless efforts and wise leadership to fight the epidemic of tobacco and to protect public health. The award is the highest given by the World Health Organization for tobacco control.

As a Chairman of the Committee of Healthcare and Social Issues of the Parliament of Georgia you led the process of endorsement tobacco control legislation which was adopted by the Parliament in May 2017 and entered into force just recently. As a result, Georgia has comprehensive tobacco control law which includes, prohibition of smoking in public places, comprehensive ban on display, advertising, promotion and sponsorship, 65% pictorial health warnings on packages, plain packaging of tobacco products, regulation of e-cigarettes with nicotine as tobacco products.

You led negotiations with Georgian executive and legislative branches, worked closely with media, coordinated work with tobacco control civil society and international organizations. You were successful in overcoming hesitation of Georgian decision makers and frustration of society after many unsuccessful attempts during previous years to change the legislation.

Your critical contribution to substantially strengthening the tobacco control in Georgia and your exemplary dedication to placing health on the top of the political agenda is inspiring for policy makers around the world.

The World Health Organization would be honoured by your acceptance of this award as a token of WHO's appreciation for the outstanding efforts and the constructive part played by you to stop the tobacco epidemic.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab
Regional Director

Copies for information:

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

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

H.E. Mr Victor Dolidze, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Rue Richard-Wagner 1, Genève CH-1202, Switzerland

H.E. Mr Gigi Gigiadze, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Georgia, Nybrogade 10, 1st. Floor
Copenhagen K 1203, Denmark

Mr Niels Scott, United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme, UN House, 9 Eristavi St., Tbilisi 0179, Georgia

Dr Marijan Ivanusa, WHO Representative and Head of WHO Office, WHO Country Office, Georgia, 81 Barnov Street,
Apt.4, Tbilisi 0179, Georgia