

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA



ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE

ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ
ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

**WHO/Europe Medical Specialty Associations
Engagement Brainstorming Meeting**
UN City, Copenhagen, Denmark

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Joint statement

A new era of collaboration between the WHO Regional Office for Europe and medical specialty associations

Copenhagen, Denmark | 10 June 2026

Preamble

We, the representatives of the undersigned European medical specialty associations, together with the WHO Regional Office for Europe and its Regional Director, Dr Hans Kluge, convened at UN City in Copenhagen on 10 June 2026 for a high-level strategic dialogue.

Recognizing the vital contributions of medical specialty associations to improving health outcomes across the WHO European Region through clinical expertise, extensive networks, and insights into clinical practice and health inequities, and WHO's role as the leading normative agency to direct and coordinate international health work, establish standards, policies and frameworks, we affirm our shared responsibility to advance evidence-based practices, support effective and equitable health policy and contribute to addressing complex public health challenges across the Region.

A shared vision, aligned with the Second European Programme of Work (EPW2)

In the face of emerging megatrends, evolving health and care demands, budget constraints and increasing workforce pressures, we welcome the development of a structured, sustained and strategic partnership between WHO/Europe and Medical Specialty Associations. In line with the core priorities of the Second European Programme of Work 2026–2030 (EPW2), we aim to strengthen our engagement and leverage our collective expertise to improve the quality of health and care delivery for patients across the Region.

Core areas of commitment

Moving forward, we express our shared interest in co-creating practical, innovative models of collaboration built around three pillars¹:

- **Translating policy into clinical practice:** Contributing our technical expertise to the development of WHO guidance through WHO-established processes and supporting the translation of public health priorities into policies, practice, pathways, and curricula.
- **Driving joint action on shared priorities:** Aligning our expertise with regional challenges including climate and environment, demographic change, the growing burden of NCDs and mental health conditions, workforce challenges (such as shortages, retention, training, well-being) and health system transformation including the responsible use of artificial intelligence and machine learning. In doing so, we will foster trust, innovation and partnerships as key enablers of change.
- **Strengthening health systems and reducing inequalities:** Leveraging our clinical expertise and networks to strengthen core public health functions, improve access to high-quality care and reduce health inequalities across our respective fields.

Next steps and sustained dialogue

To support concrete and sustained action, we propose to:

1. Identify leadership and operational mechanisms to develop, implement, and mobilise resources to support specific joint initiatives.
2. Maintain a continuous and structured mechanism for clinician engagement to strengthen collaboration and maximise impact across the WHO European Region.
3. Work collaboratively toward convening a broader regional meeting of medical specialty associations to advance collective action across the WHO European Region.

Signatories²

Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Signature: _____

Prof. Radost Asenova, Executive Board Member, World Organization of Family Doctors

Signature: _____

¹ Any future collaboration between WHO/Europe and participating associations will be subject to applicable WHO rules, and relevant internal clearances. This statement does not create legal, financial, programmatic or normative commitments and does not imply WHO endorsement of any participating entity, its members, products, services, views or activities. No use of the WHO name, acronym, emblem, photographs or related communications materials is authorized without prior written clearance by WHO.

² Signature by meeting participants does not necessarily imply endorsement of the entity's views.

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