



EUROPE

Regional Committee for Europe Fifty-second session

Copenhagen, 16–19 September 2002

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RESOLUTION

CERTIFICATION OF THE EUROPEAN REGION OF WHO AS A TERRITORY FREE FROM INDIGENOUS WILD POLIOVIRUS

The Regional Committee,

Welcoming with great satisfaction the report of the European Regional Commission for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication, which certified the Region as polio-free on 21 June 2002, and the regional plan of action to sustain “polio-free” status until global certification;

1. ACKNOWLEDGES the global efforts made to eradicate poliomyelitis since the adoption by the World Health Assembly of resolution WHA41.28 in May 1988;
2. STATES that the goal of elimination of poliomyelitis from all countries of the Region proclaimed in resolutions EUR/RC39/R5; EUR/RC47/R4 and EUR/RC50/R1 has been achieved;
3. CONGRATULATES all Member States, all partner organizations concerned, the WHO Secretariat and all other organizations and individuals that contributed to this historical achievement;
4. RECOGNIZING that thorough virological surveillance is the key to ensuring that wild poliovirus is not lying undetected in pockets from which it could re-emerge;

5. REQUESTS Member States to continue their efforts to sustain “polio-free” status until global certification, particularly with regard to sustaining a high level of routine immunization coverage, implementing supplementary immunization activities where necessary, maintaining surveillance of acute flaccid paralysis and polioviruses and making progress in the process for laboratory containment of wild poliovirus;

6. REQUESTS the Regional Director to support Member States in continuing to implement the above-mentioned activities at country level, in order to sustain a “polio-free” status within the European Region, and to:

- (a) promote the development of interregional projects on the control of poliomyelitis, malaria and other particularly dangerous infectious diseases;
- (b) initiate new fund-raising strategies;
- (c) strengthen the Regional Office’s activities in the field of information and cooperation with the mass media;

7. ENCOURAGES the partners of the Polio Eradication Initiative to continue to give strong support to and cooperate with the Regional Office for Europe in keeping the European Region “polio-free” and to help mobilize the necessary resources for global activities until the global certification of poliomyelitis eradication.