



European Union
Statement

WHO

76th World Health Assembly

(21-30 May 2022)

Items 13.3 - Substandard and falsified medical products
AND
13.4 - Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems

Geneva, 24 May 2023

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EU Grouped Statement

Chair,
Director General,
Excellencies,
Colleagues,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

The candidate countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina*, the potential candidate country Georgia, as well as Armenia align themselves with this statement.

We acknowledge EB152 Board Member's discussion of item 13.3 on substandard and falsified medical products and their welcoming of the related report.

The EU and its Member States have fully supported the WHO Member State Mechanism on Substandard and Falsified Medical Products activities, considering the added value of the cooperation between the different WHO Regions in the

* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

prevention, detection and response to of this increasingly serious threat to people's health worldwide.

The EU acknowledges the role of WHO in guiding Member States to address the harm caused by substandard and falsified Medical Products, and the importance of an effective fight against such products in both the legal and illegal chain of distribution.

We recommend that Member States take steps, in cooperation with the WHO, to share the existing web-based tools (such as databases) and platforms (such as knowledge management systems), with the view to set up a single platform, so creating a stronger, coordinated and shared system to implement the existing good practices at a broader level. This would also allow to target emerging trends of substandard practices, falsification (such as the infiltration of stolen medicines) and diversion, by building the Member States activities on the ground of the previous experiences of other International/ Member States Institutions.

With respect to the streamlining the use of resources, we also strongly support that the outcomes of an independent evaluation of the Mechanism have to be reported to the governing bodies.

The EU and its Member States support the adoption of the decision on substandard and falsified medical products as recommended by the EB152.

The EU also welcomes the fact that rehabilitation is becoming a priority in health services.

We support full and timely access to rehabilitation services for all, including but not limited to people with temporary or permanent disabilities and physical and psychological impairments. As such, we firmly believe that rehabilitation should be comprehensive, not limited to assistive technologies, but addressing physical

and mental factors and integrated into a continuum of person-centered services, including in emergency situations.

We want to highlight the necessity of ensuring continuity of rehabilitation services (or continued provision of the services) but also the importance of addressing the inclusion of psychological and medical help with a view to sexual recovery into rehabilitation services.

We strongly emphasize the importance of synergy between rehabilitation services and social services.

The EU remains committed to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), per the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the outcomes of their review conferences and article 34 of the new EU consensus on development, essential to the realization of the enjoyment of human rights and the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.”

The EU and its member states encourage WHO and member states to continue considering rehabilitation as a combination of many intersectoral activities that help people to strengthen or regain their functional capacity, including mental health.

Thank you.