8. Global vaccine action plan

Dear Chair,

Slovak Republic fully supports the report of the Director-General regarding Global vaccine action plan.

Vaccination is one of the greatest public health and medicine success stories of the 20th century, saving millions of lives worldwide every year.

We strengthen our efforts with aim to reduce the risk of measles by implementing legislation changes in 2020. The legal amendments concern the mandatory measles, mumps and rubella vaccination (MMR) scheme. According to the new vaccination scheme, children will be vaccinated with the second dose of MMR vaccine in the 5th year of life, instead of the 11th year of life.

The first dose of MMR vaccine remains unchanged and will continue in the 15th to 18th month of life. Changes are based on the recommendations of the Working Group on Immunization after evaluating the laboratory results of the Immunological Survey in Slovakia carried out in 2018. They showed that while the proportion of three-year-olds with protective antibody levels is 97.24%, the 5-9 years old children it is 93.46%.

We echo Romania and others regarding the support for joined activities to strengthen cooperation between countries to fight vaccine-preventable diseases. Communicable diseases do not respect state borders, therefore exceptional attention should be focused on cooperation, coordination of vaccination schemes, information sharing and common rapid response to these threats among countries.

Thank you chair