The Executive Board,

Having regard to the Agreement respecting Facilities to be accorded to Merchant Seamen for the Treatment of Venereal Disease, signed at Brussels on 1 December 1924;

Having regard to the duties and functions exercised by the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organisation by virtue of the above-mentioned agreement and to Article II of the Agreement between these organizations;

Considering the resolutions adopted by the International Union against Venereal Diseases at its annual general assemblies in 1947 and 1948, requesting the World Health Organization and governments to take urgent steps which would again permit strict application of the Brussels Agreement and to collaborate in the creation of a technical commission for the control of venereal diseases with respect to navigation on the Rhine;
Considering the request made by the representatives of Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the American, British and French occupation zones of Germany at a preparatory meeting held at Geneva on 30 and 31 May and 1 June 1949 for the creation as soon as possible of an anti-venereal-disease commission for the Rhine river area;

Considering the resolution of the fourth session of the Executive Board concerning the report of the above-mentioned preparatory meeting;\(^\text{15}\)

Considering the report of the preparatory meeting held at Rotterdam on 18 and 19 December 1950;

RESOLVES as follows:

There is hereby created an anti-venereal-disease commission for the Rhine river area, to be known as the "International Anti-Venereal-Disease Commission of the Rhine", hereinafter referred to as "the Commission", with the following terms of reference:

1. The Commission, acting within the framework of the policies of the World Health Organization, and in accordance with the terms of the Brussels Agreement of 1924, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect to any Country without the agreement of the Government of that Country:

   (a) initiate the co-ordination of the anti-venereal-disease services in Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland, with a view to strengthening the fight against venereal disease among Rhine river boatmen;

   (b) initiate the establishment of diagnostic and treatment centres in the principal river ports which do not as yet possess dispensaries or specialized consultation services;

   (c) participate in the application of the principles approved by the World Health Assembly to assure the functioning of venereal-disease services, especially:

      (i) free medical examination, treatment and hospitalization when necessary, not only for nationals but also for foreigners;

      (ii) distribution to patients of an individual treatment card free of charge in accordance with the model drawn up by virtue of the Brussels Agreement of 1924;

      (iii) international tracing of infectious contacts through exchange of epidemiological information, where appropriate by direct communication between the medical authorities concerned;

      (iv) development or creation of social services, preferably specialized, so that epidemiological action can be taken and social assistance be given to patients;

      (v) distribution of an international booklet giving a list of treatment centres with addresses and consultation hours.

2. The members of the Commission shall, in the first instance, consist of Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Switzerland, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the World Health Organization shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

3. The Allied High Commission in Bonn and the German Government in the area may be represented by observers.

4. The Commission may invite representatives of specialized agencies and of inter-governmental or non-governmental organizations in official relationship with the World Health Organization to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization.

5. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members concerned.

6. The Commission shall submit to the Executive Board once a year a full report on its activities and plans.
The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

The Director-General shall, within the limits of the provisions of the Constitution and the programme and budget of the World Health Organization, furnish necessary staff and assistance to the Commission.

The Director-General shall convene a meeting of the Commission once in each year. He may convene additional meetings upon the request of the Chairman of the Commission or of a majority of its members.

The Commission shall establish an administrative secretariat in Strasbourg and a technical and medico-social secretariat in Rotterdam.

The Executive Board shall review the work of the Commission annually with a view to determining whether the Commission should be terminated or continued, and if continued what modification, if any, should be made in its terms of reference.

(Adopted at the fifth meeting, 26 January 1951)