REPORT OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH TASK FORCE

VIRTUAL, 17–18 FEBRUARY 2021

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Abstract

The tenth meeting of the Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF) was convened virtually on 17 and 18 February 2021. Following an open dialogue for stakeholders and the general public, representatives discussed the implications of the pandemic of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) for the environment and health agenda, the programme of work of the EHTF for the next year, the monitoring framework for implementation of the Ostrava Declaration and initial preparations for the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health; they also adopted changes to the Rules of Procedure of the EHTF.

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Report of the tenth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force

Virtual meeting
17–18 February 2021
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Abbreviations
CoLSA EHTF Working Group on Collaboration of Local and Subnational Authorities
COP26 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change
COVID-19 coronavirus disease
ECEH European Centre for Environment and Health
EHP Environment and Health Process
EHTF European Environment and Health Task Force
HEAL Health and Environment Alliance
HIC EHTF Working Group on Health in Climate Change
IPBES International Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
SARS-CoV-2 severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2
SDG United Nations Sustainable Development Goal(s)
UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNEC United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP UN Environment
WASH water, sanitation and hygiene
1. The 10th meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force (EHTF) took place online on 17 and 18 February 2021. The online format was made necessary by the ongoing pandemic of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The meeting was generously funded by the German Federal Ministry of Health. See Annex 1 for the scope and purpose of the meeting, Annex 2 for the programme of work and Annex 3 for the list of participants.

Open dialogue: building forward better in the aftermath of COVID-19

Dr Nino Berdzuli, Director of Division of Country Health Programmes, WHO Regional Office for Europe; Ms Virginia Fuse (Environmental Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe); Professor Harry Rutter (co-Chair, Lancet-Chatham House Commission on improving population health post-COVID-19)

2. Immediately before the formal meeting, a virtual open dialogue took place, attended by Task Force representatives and stakeholders and open to the general public. Ms Francesca Racioppi, Head, WHO European Centre for Environment and Health (ECEH), welcomed participants and outlined the aims of the dialogue: to highlight the links between coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and environment and health risk factors and determine relevant mitigation action; and to discuss political aspects, tools and potential opportunities of the pandemic.

3. The COVID-19 crisis is marked by factors beyond the control of the health sector, including climate change and air pollution. WHO has responded to the COVID-19 crisis by adapting existing tools and policy instruments, including the global WHO Manifesto for green and healthy recovery and the European Programme of Work (2020–2025) and has convened the Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development (Monti Commission) to develop policy priorities for the post-COVID-19 era, which will be presented to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe at its 71st session in September 2021.

4. The pandemic has clearly shown the need for all stakeholders to work together. A coalition of 18 international agencies in Europe and central Asia has coordinated support for Member States in the COVID-19 response, implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and climate change mitigation. WHO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) have collaborated as the joint Secretariat of the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the preparatory work for the Fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (Vienna and online, 17 and 18 May 2021).

5. The Lancet-Chatham House Commission on improving population health post-COVID-19 was convened in 2020 with four main aims: to identify the common drivers of COVID-19 and other pandemics; to identify synergies and actions to tackle those common drivers; to produce projections of the costs and benefits of action – and of the consequences of inaction; and to produce detailed recommendations and mechanisms for future action. Most governments have focused on individual behaviour in the COVID-19 pandemic; however, many drivers of the pandemic are environmental or otherwise beyond the control of the individual, including overcrowded cities, frequent travel, urban air pollution and the wide-ranging inequalities in health within and between populations. The aim is not merely to “build back better” but to “build forward better and fairer”.

Panel discussion

Anne Larigauderie, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; Veronica Manfredi, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission; Maria Neira, Director, Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, WHO headquarters; Nick Watts, Chief Sustainability Officer, National Health Service England

6. The Workshop report on biodiversity and pandemics, published by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in October 2020, shows how pandemics emerge as a result of microbial diversity, but become threats as a result of human activity – increasingly close contact between humans and animals, environmental drivers such as deforestation and mining, trade in
wild animals and climate change. Increasing mobility and the demand for animals as sources of meat, medicines and furs exacerbate these drivers.

7. WHO’s work on environment and health forms a strong basis for the basic public health activities, backed by scientific evidence, which are required to reduce human vulnerability to future pandemics, protect the health of communities and contribute to economic recovery. Major areas where action is needed include: increasing biodiversity and making food production more rational; reducing inequalities in access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and advocating for health considerations in energy policy by publicizing the evidence on the health effects of air pollution and lobbying for an end to subsidies on fossil fuels. It is vital to make the voice of the health sector heard at the forthcoming 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP26).

8. The National Health Service (NHS) in England has continued its work towards a net zero carbon health system despite the demands imposed by the pandemic, which has shown that radical changes in procedures, previously thought far distant or even impossible, can be introduced quickly where necessary. More work is needed to promote the new ways of working in the community of practitioners, however, and the health sector must not miss the opportunity to promote health issues at COP26. The carbon footprint of all purchases will be taken into consideration, particularly anaesthetics and asthma inhalers, which currently account for 5–10% of NHS carbon emissions. All new hospitals will be built to a zero net carbon emission standard.

9. The radical changes imposed by the pandemic can help European Member States to build back greener and fairer and ensure greater digital equity. The European Union has adopted the Green Deal, including a range of policy documents, including the Circular Economy Action Plan and the Biodiversity 2030 Strategy, and is developing further policy documents on biodiversity, sustainable transport, sustainable industrial production, chemicals management and clean energy. The European Commission is preparing its position on the air pollution action plan, scheduled to be adopted in May 2021, which will bring all stakeholders together to create effective policy responses and formulate a convincing economic case for action on air pollution.

10. Responding to questions raised by participants, panel members stressed the importance of a proactive approach to prevent future pandemics. More investment is needed for research into microbial biodiversity in the animal kingdom and surveillance of potential environmental hotspots, particularly in the world’s tropical forests. WHO should play a leading role in the development of sustainable planning in urban environments and the transition to cleaner energy. The European Union will focus on efficient collection of data and coordination between all European Union agencies, working with academia and increasing awareness of environmental issues and policies among the medical community. There is a role for all stakeholders, both at national level (fiscal measures regulation and guidelines) and at local level, where measures will be implemented in practice.

Opening and adoption of agenda and programme

11. The 10th meeting of the EHTF was formally opened by Ms Brigitte Staatsen, Chair of the EHTF, who welcomed representatives of 33 Member States and 25 institutional stakeholders. Ms Racioppi likewise welcomed participants. The agenda and programme of work were adopted with minor amendments.

Implications of COVID-19 for the environment and health agenda: results of an online consultation

(Documents EURO/EHTF10/1; EURO/EHTF10/2; EURO/EHTF10/3; EURO/EHTF10/4)

12. An online survey of Member States of the WHO European Region on the issues of greatest relevance to them in respect of the COVID-19 crisis was conducted between October and December 2020; it elicited replies from 44 respondents in 36 Member States, mostly from public health authorities. The main issues arising from the pandemic that are directly related to the commitments undertaken by Member States in the Ostrava Declaration of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and
Health (Ostrava, Czechia, 13–15 June 2017) are WASH services, sustainable post-pandemic recovery, air pollution, inequalities and low-carbon healthy energy transition. In regard to the main issues indirectly related with Ostrava commitments, risk communication and the integration of the planetary health approach were the leading ones based on the number of responses. Indoor air quality, particularly in relation to the transmission of COVID-19 in aerosols, and the lack of access to piped water among marginalized groups were other frequently cited issues. Between 25% and 45% of national public authorities indicated that they required technical support for one or more of the issues mentioned in the survey, while only 9% could provide technical support for other Member States.

13. WHO headquarters has set up a “myth-buster” platform to combat the “infodemic” of misinformation about COVID-19, as well as creating apps for health workers and the general public. The Regional Office’s communication activities include virtual country missions, press conferences with the Regional Director, social media webinars and answers to approximately 6000 media enquiries over the past year. A social media listening programme, a behavioural insights tool and the multilingual Health Buddy+ chatbot serve both to provide accurate and authoritative information for the general public and to identify current and potential unanswered questions. WHO has also developed a guide for journalists on accurate, ethical and responsible reporting and a guide for spokespersons on dealing with media. WHO will continue to provide evidence-based recommendations, but also make it clear when these are based on incomplete evidence and may be subject to change.

14. Participants then divided into small groups to discuss specific issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Air pollution**

15. The pandemic has revealed a new aspect of poor air quality and its health effects. The sudden, albeit short-lived, improvement in air quality due to the widespread lockdowns in 2020 has long-term policy implications. There is already enough evidence to take effective action to combat air pollution: this will reduce the impact of the pandemic and benefit public health in general. More information is needed about ambient and indoor air quality in relation to COVID-19. Funding is potentially available through the European Union’s economic recovery programme.

**Inequalities**

16. Existing inequalities within and between countries have been exacerbated by the pandemic, since many risk factors for COVID-19, including work which cannot be done at home, overcrowded living conditions and poor air quality, disproportionately affect disadvantaged groups. Some of the measures introduced to combat the pandemic, such as economic lockdowns, have further worsened the situation of these groups. It is essential to consult communities in order to identify their problems and their proposed solutions and to consider inequalities in areas beyond health, such as Internet access. Keeping schools open, with free school meals for eligible pupils, and convincing the public that it is safe to travel on public transport even during the pandemic are essential measures to protect health and the environment for all groups in society.

**Planetary health**

17. There are gaps in the current research in planetary health, particularly the close interactions between humans and animals. These interactions form a complex system which can be reformed only through close collaboration between multiple sectors. More research is needed into the links between current food systems and climate change. An online platform of national or regional good practices would facilitate exchanges of experience between Member States.

**Sustainable and resilient recovery**

18. The WHO Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19, issued in June 2020, provides recommendations for sustainability and resilience in the post-COVID-19 period, including well-being, inclusiveness and building forward better. The pandemic has brought about major changes in mobility, with people taking public transport less frequently and seeking out green spaces within walking distance of their homes. Heating of homes, waste management and reducing the volume of raw materials in industrial production are other important factors.
Wastewater surveillance

19. Environmental surveillance of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) RNA in wastewater provides evidence for public health decision-making in managing the COVID-19 pandemic. Wastewater analysis provides integrated information on the infected population in a given catchment area, regardless of whether people show clinical symptoms. It is a valuable early-warning measure, since it detects SARS-CoV-2 RNA in wastewater 3–7 days before an individual shows clinical signs of infection. It will be especially useful in spotting re-emergence of infections in low-prevalence settings and towards the end of the pandemic, when clinical testing is not so widespread and public vigilance and compliance are declining.

Progress towards implementing the programme of work for the EHTF for 2020–2021 and reports from working groups and body established under the EHTF

(Documents EURO/EHTF10/7; EURO/EHTF10/15; EURO/EHTF10/16; EURO/EHTF10/17; EURO/EHTF10/18; EURO/EHTF10/21; EURO/EHTF10/24; EUR/RC70/8(H); EURO/EHTF10/19; EURO/EHTF10/10; EURO/EHTF10/22)

20. Work is continuing to develop the EHP communications network, a voluntary network of Member States supported by the ECEH Secretariat, which is expected to meet for the first time in the first half of 2021; a draft action plan has been prepared. The Secretariat continues to work closely with relevant United Nations agencies and multilateral environmental agreements. A progress report on the work of the EHP will be submitted to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe at its 71st session in September 2021 and to the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy at its 27th session in November 2021.

21. The pilot edition of the Environment and Health School took place in Bonn from 29 October to 1 November 2019. A total of 61 environment and health experts from 33 Member States and areas took part in the School, of whom 61% were female. The topics they considered most useful were air quality (the AirQ+ tool), links between environment and health, risk communication and contaminated sites. The next School is planned to take place online in the fourth quarter of 2021, focusing on strategic, policy and other challenges and supplemented by self-study and online tuition.¹

22. The Working Group on Health in Climate Change (HIC) held its eighth meeting online in December 2020, with 110 participants representing 35 Member States and organizations. The Working Group concluded that much stronger policies and actions are needed to change the trajectory of carbon emission levels. The pandemic offers countries a unique opportunity to embrace a climate-friendly recovery that integrates health, equity and sustainability in moving towards a zero carbon economy. In the coming year, the Secretariat will issue a policy brief on water scarcity and health and will develop suggested health messaging and information about possible side meetings and interventions, including the launch of a WHO report, at COP26. Short thematic webinars will be organized online during 2021.

23. The Working Group on Collaboration of Local and Subnational Authorities (CoLSA) held its first meeting in January 2021. It decided on five core priorities for its programme of work: dialogue and exchanges of experience at all levels; integration of health concerns into local and regional development strategies; engagement of leaders and decision-makers; revision of local and subnational environmental governance; and dissemination of examples of subnational action. Planned future activities include a survey of local authorities on policy and legal barriers to action.

Environment and health marketplace

24. Participants took part in a “marketplace” activity in small groups, in which new publications and various tools, mechanisms and initiatives were presented and Member States and stakeholders had the opportunity to exchange information and experiences.

¹ Subsequently scheduled for the period 9 November–2 December 2021.
25. The new publication **Heat and health in the WHO European Region**: updated evidence for effective prevention\(^2\) was launched during the EHTF session. It was produced by the Regional Office and the UNEP DTU Partnership and provides evidence to update the Regional Offices guidance on heat-health action planning, dating from 2008.

26. The **AirQ+ software tool** allows quantification of the health effects of exposure to air pollution and provides estimates of both short-term changes in air pollution and the effects of long-term exposure. A new version of the tool will be launched shortly.

27. **Chemical safety**: the Secretariat demonstrated a new tool to assess risks from combined exposure to multiple chemicals in indoor air, focusing on children’s health.

28. The **European Climate and Health Observatory** is a joint initiative of the European Commission, the European Environment Agency and other stakeholders including the Regional Office. The pilot website is scheduled to launch in late February 2021.

29. **Environmentally sustainable health systems**: efforts are continuing to reduce the carbon footprint of health-care facilities, mobilizing the leadership and experience gained through the European Green Deal.

30. Health Care Without Harm Europe has launched its **Operation Zero: Decarbonizing European Healthcare** initiative, which promotes national decarbonization plans with the ultimate aim of achieving net zero emissions.

31. **Knowledge about environmental quality across Europe**: the European Environment Agency is focusing particularly on air quality for vulnerable groups and regions, noise, chemical safety, climate change and human biomonitoring.

32. ** Redeveloping contaminated sites**: the Regional Office has recently completed a project on the health relevance of the impact of redevelopment of contaminated sites, with key messages for local authorities.

33. The Regional Office is continuing its work to integrate health in environmental impact assessments.

34. The **sustainable cities and regions** initiative has conducted interviews with 10 city authorities to identify ways of building forward better in practice in the post-pandemic period.

35. The Regional Office has published a technical brief on the links between WASH and antimicrobial resistance.

**Towards the seventh WHO Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health: repositioning the EHP in the context of the green and healthy recovery from COVID-19**

(Document EURO/EHTF10/8)

36. The COVID-19 crisis has changed many priorities in environment and health work, but the problems of climate change, air pollution, loss of biodiversity and water and sanitation management have not gone away. New policy tools have been developed, including the WHO Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19 and the European Union Green Deal. The Regional Office has planned a series of Bonn Dialogues to address the commitments made under the Ostrava Declaration in the post-COVID-19 context in order to build forward better and fairer, increase emergency preparedness and resilience and contribute to economic recovery.\(^3\) The Dialogues will take the form of high-level discussions on selected topics by ministers or their deputies, high-level government officials and

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\(^3\) First Dialogue subsequently scheduled for 14 October 2021.
experts; they will be open to all interested stakeholders and seek to engage a wide range of audiences. They will promote exchanges of experience and strategic partnerships between policy-makers from different sectors, and help to identify topics for the next Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health.

37. The Regional Office also plans to launch the Campaign for Resilience and Building Forward Better, which will showcase relevant initiatives and demonstrate the commitment and support of Member States and stakeholders for a healthy and green recovery from the pandemic. The Campaign will bring together examples of good practice at all levels and help Member States to revise their national portfolios on health and the environment as necessary.

38. It is proposed that the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health should take place in 2023, in line with the decision taken at the Ostrava Ministerial Conference. The Bonn Dialogues will take the place of the usual mid-term review. A host country and the necessary funding have yet to be identified.

39. The Fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment will take place online on 17 and 18 May 2021, with online side events and exhibitions running from 10 to 12 May. The theme is “Building forward better by transforming two new, clean, safe, healthy and inclusive mobility and transport”. It is expected to adopt the Vienna Declaration and the Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion.

40. Participants welcomed the proposed Bonn Dialogues but stressed the need to find solutions that are genuinely workable in practice and feasible in all parts of the Region. Member States need positive examples of innovative practices if they are to move on from the harmful practices of the past, such as subsidies for fossil fuels. The themes addressed during the Dialogues should be aligned not only with the Ostrava commitments, but also with the monitoring framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Suggested themes include the agenda of the next Ministerial Conference, biodiversity, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, alignment of the Ostrava commitments with the national voluntary reviews under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the creation of a citizens’ health and environment network.

Monitoring progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets relevant to environment and health: status of implementation

(Documents EURO/EHTF10/12; EURO/EHTF10/23)

41. The EHP relies on the global indicator framework established under the 2030 Agenda as the primary source of information on progress towards implementing the Ostrava commitments. The Secretariat has reviewed the availability of 35 key SDG indicators related to environment and health. Data were available for 28 of the 35 indicators (nine more indicators than in the previous year), with WASH and healthy cities being covered by seven indicators each. No data were available for seven further indicators, which are still in development. A more solid framework of indicators and statistical data on the implementation of the Ostrava Declaration would help to inform policy and ensure accountability of all stakeholders. The EHTF may wish to conduct a review of data availability in each country and consider developing national or subregional indicators to monitor national activities.

42. Participants noted that a monitoring system for sustainability in health-care facilities relied largely on data collected outside the health sector. Any review of available data should include non-traditional data sources such as social media. Subregional indicators could be used if no national ones yet exist, beginning with the 11 Member States that indicated in a 2019 report on the progress in the development of the national portfolios of action on environment and health to the Secretariat that they had devised specific indicators to measure their implementation of their national portfolios on environment and health. One participant said that it would be more useful to focus on implementation of the Ostrava Declaration overall, rather than on specific indicators, some of which might become less relevant over time.
43. The EHTF agreed that no survey would yet be conducted using the identified indicators: instead, data would be gathered from existing sources as far as possible. Ms Racioppi noted that the current monitoring system, based on the SDG monitoring framework, did not collect data from some areas relevant to the implementation of the Ostrava Declaration, although the review described above would help to fill in the gaps.

**Partnerships and major global and regional developments relevant to environment and health**

44. **Protocol on Water and Health:** since the previous EHTF session, the Protocol Secretariat has organized three webinars, on financing of small-scale water and sanitation systems (July 2020), inequality in access to WASH (July 2020) and surveillance of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in wastewater (October 2020). WHO ECEH has supported national assessments of WASH in health care facilities in Hungary and Serbia, and similar assessments are under way in Georgia and Tajikistan.

45. The Parties to the **Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)** held their eighth session online in December 2020. The Meeting of the Parties adopted the Vilnius Declaration and guidance on the application of the Convention to extension of the working lifetime of nuclear power plants. WHO is an observer at meetings of the Convention bodies and contributes to their working groups.

46. The **Health Environment Research Agenda (HERA)** programme conducts research on six areas related to environment and health in which scientific evidence is lacking. It has produced a report on gaps in research related to the COVID-19 pandemic. A forthcoming series of webinars will highlight the link between strategy and research at the environment-health nexus. In the final year of the HERA programme, WHO will be involved in activities on risk communication, the development of modules for the WHO Environment and Health school on assessing research gaps on environment and health and in finalizing the environment and health research agenda.

47. **European Commission Directorate-General for Health (DG SANTE):** the European Commission has revised its proposal for the future European climate law, adding a binding Union climate target of a reduction of net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared with 1990 levels. Other policy documents relevant to environment and health include the Renovation Wave Strategy, the Adaptation Strategy to combat climate change and the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan.

48. The **European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD)** conducts a number of activities relevant to environment and health, including the Enhancing Belmont Research Action programme which supports European Union policy-making on climate change and health, the European Human Exposome Network and the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative (now extended to 2022). New clusters of activities on testing for endocrine disruptors, the health impacts of microplastics and nanoplastics and urban health were launched in the first quarter of 2021.

The Horizon Europe funding programme for 2021–2028 includes a cluster on living and working in a health-promoting environment. Many of the staff of the Directorate-General will move to a new European Health and Digital Executive Agency from April 2021.

49. The **Green Climate Fund (GCF),** founded in 2010, has 103 accredited partners and has approved 158 projects specifically related to the climate change agenda, including air pollution, although the health sector, central Asia and eastern Europe are currently under-represented. Funding for national projects is potentially available under the GCF Readiness Window (strategic planning, technical assistance and capacity-building), the GCF Project Preparation Facility (design, feasibility and environmental and social safeguard studies) and the GCF Investment programme for paradigm-shifting investment with potential involvement of the private sector.

50. **UNECE** will convene the online Regional Forum on Sustainable Development on 17–18 March 2021, dealing with efforts to combat the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the promotion of sustainable recovery and the 2030 Agenda. The Forum will include peer-learning sessions on policy action to promote COVID-19 recovery and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference will now take place in Nicosia, Cyprus from 5 to 7
October 2022, incorporating the Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries. EHTF members are invited to brief their colleagues in the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy on any issues they would like to see included in the ministerial declaration of the conference.

51. **UN Environment (UNEP)** has joined the One Health partnership with WHO, FAO and OIE. The agency is organizing the five action tracks for the Food Systems Summit in September 2021 (safe and nutritious food; sustainable consumption patterns; nature-positive production; equitable livelihoods; and resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress). The fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly has been postponed until February/March 2022; at this session, Member States are expected to adopt a new Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2022–2025.

52. In 2019, **Health Care Without Harm Europe** commissioned the first ever global estimate of the climate footprint of health-care facilities. The report shows that the climate footprint of health-care facilities is equivalent to 4.4% of global net emissions; however, 71% of those emissions arise from the supply chain and are beyond the direct control of the health sector. The Operation Zero initiative is intended to produce a comprehensive overview of the carbon footprint of the European health care sector and develop a new framework for national decarbonization roadmaps, which will be piloted in four European countries.

53. The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** has an interagency task team on sustainable procurement and the health sector, which conducted a well attended online forum for health product manufacturers in 2020. In a joint project with Health Care Without Harm Global, UNDP aims to launch a pilot sustainable procurement index for health, covering greenhouse gas emissions, resource depletion, chemicals and human and labour rights. In 2020, the UNDP Regional Hub for Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the WHO Regional Office published a value proposition and service offering on addressing climate change and health in the Europe and central Asia region, intended to strengthen national health adaptation and mitigation capacities.

54. The main priority of the **Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)** is the implementation of the European Union Green Deal, which has the potential to bring about radical improvements in health protection from environment and climate threats. Another major priority is reducing pollution: in particular, HEAL is working to ensure that European Union clean air standards are fully aligned with WHO recommendations. Healthy cities and chemical safety, particularly in relation to chemicals and plastics, are other major areas of work.

55. The **European Environment Agency** is issuing a call for tenders on environment and health topics in April 2021 and calls upon EHTF members to publicize the opportunity in their own countries. The Agency relies on strong partnerships with other agencies; it has recently published a report on the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet) and launched in cooperation with WHO ECEH the Observatory on Climate Change and Health to share knowledge on climate change adaptation and public health.

56. The **European Environment and Health Youth Coalition** has worked mainly at national and subnational level to disseminate evidence on environment and health issues to young people and other members of the public. The Coalition has presented the youth perspective at events in Portugal, Romania and Serbia and contributed to a peer review of WASH in schools; it has also produced board games, simulation games and a guide for educators on health and environment topics.

### Revision of the EHTF Rules of Procedure and election of officers

(Documents EURO/EHTF10/9; EURO/EHTF10/20)

57. The EHP Secretariat presented a number of proposed amendments to the EHTF Rules of Procedure, including rule 4.1 (increased flexibility relating to high-level meetings), rule 9 (mandate and eligibility of Chair and co-Chair), rule 19.3 (rules of procedure to apply also to working groups and other subsidiary bodies) and rules 20, 21 and 22 (Bureau and ex-officio memberships and re-election of former Chairs) (see document EURO/EHTF10/9).
58. One participant queried the proposed new provisions of rule 21 and suggested that it should be amended to follow the wording of the Ostrava Declaration.

59. The Secretariat, taking into consideration the comments made, proposed to revise the text and to circulate the revised version of the Rules of Procedure for approval by the EHTF through an electronic consultation.

60. The EHTF elected Dr Tamás Pandics of Hungary as its Chair for the coming year. Ms Staatsen was elected co-Chair.

**Any other business**

61. There was no other business.

**Summary of decisions, next steps and closure of the meeting**

62. Ms Racioppi briefly summarized the main highlights of the session, thanked all participants for attending and commended her staff on their hard work in preparing the virtual session.

63. Ms Staatsen thanked the Secretariat staff for their hard work and thanked participants for their confidence in her. She declared the session closed.
Annex 1. Scope and purpose

The tenth meeting of the EHTF is convened to support the Member States in the implementation of the commitments from the Declaration of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Ostrava, Czechia, 13–15 June 2017) and to promote green and healthy recovery from COVID-19 in the WHO European Region.

Background

The Ostrava Declaration\(^4\) is the key commitment for all Member States to attain visible, measurable and equitable progress in environment and health in the WHO European Region by enhancing national implementation and action, which is paramount for effective advancement on health and environment. To this effect, Member States committed to develop national portfolios of action on environment and health by the end of 2018. The main purpose of the portfolios, which should reflect national specificities, priorities, means and capacities in the selection of objectives and activities, is to ensure that Member States have well-coordinated, comprehensive and coherent approach to address the persistent burden of disease attributable to environmental determinants (Annex 1 of the Ostrava Declaration)\(^5\).

The focal points from the Ministries of Health and of Environment are responsible for initiating and coordinating country actions leading to the establishment or/and improvement of already existing environment and health portfolios of action at the national level (Annex 2 of the Ostrava Declaration)\(^6\).

Scope and purpose

A significant number of Member States included health and environment and the follow up to the Ostrava Declaration in the Biannual Collaborative Agreements with WHO for 2020–2021 and this meeting would also be of direct support to the country-level work in the current biennium.

Environment and health risks as well as COVID-19 are interconnected public health threats of global scale. The European Programme of Work 2020–2025 “United action for better health in Europe” sets out a vision of how the WHO Regional Office for Europe can support countries’ environment and health authorities towards meeting citizens’ expectations to thrive in healthy communities, where public health actions and appropriate public policies, including on environment, secure a better life and well-being. The 2020 WHO Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19 provides actionables to address persisting and emerging environmental health risks.

Objective

This virtual meeting of the EHTF aims to further support and follow up on the work of the Member States on making progress on the environment and health agenda, including the development and implementation of national portfolios of action on environment and health; to offer a platform for the exchange of experiences, challenges encountered and solutions identified through this process, and to promote green and healthy recovery from COVID-19 in the WHO European Region. In particular, this considers how the commitments taken through the Ostrava Declaration could be best leveraged in the context of the new scenarios and international policy developments that have emerged in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, notably through the ambition to “build forward better”\(^7\).

The meeting will bring together national focal points for the EHTF, representatives of international, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, academia, and other key stakeholders in the fields of environment and health.

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Specific objectives and outputs

Building on the reflections prompted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the experiences developed by Member States in addressing its environment and health dimensions, the meeting aims to contribute to the discussion on rethinking our responses to global crises, also considering the WHO Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19 and the European Green Deal initiative. The specific objectives of the meeting are to:

- follow-up on the research and policy developments and progress on environment and health at global and regional levels, including consideration of healthy and green recovery from COVID-19;
- discuss the implications of COVID-19 in terms of (re)emerging environment and health issues, by providing state-of-the-art updates, and facilitating an exchange among representatives of Member States, who are experiencing similar issues;
- review the experience of Member States in implementing the commitments taken in Ostrava by promoting a peer-to-peer exchange of experiences and knowledge, notably through the development of national portfolios of action on environment and health and other mechanisms/processes;
- provide updates on the work carried out by the working groups and body established under the EHTF: (a) Health in Climate Change activities; (b) Working Group on Collaboration of Local and Subnational Authorities; and (c) EHP Communications Network; present new tools and evidence to support the Member States in implementing environment and health policies and strengthening national coordination on environment and health;
- initiate the discussion on the preparations of the seventh WHO Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, including a possible repositioning of the EHP in the context of green and healthy recovery from COVID-19 through the Bonn Dialogues and the Campaign for Resilience and Building Forward Better;
- monitor progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets relevant to the environment and health;
- present updates on partnerships and major global and regional developments relevant to environment and health;
- review the Rules of Procedure of the EHTF;
- elect the new Chairperson and co-Chairperson of the EHTF.

The expected outcomes of the meeting are:

- an increased understanding of countries' priorities, activities and progress of implementation of the commitments under the Ostrava Declaration, taking into account the new context created by COVID-19 and the new international policy environment; and
- agreement on a pathway towards the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health.
Annex 2. Programme of the meeting

Wednesday, 17 February 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30 – 09:30</td>
<td>Dial-in, technical Zoom tests</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30 – 11:00</td>
<td><strong>Welcome and introduction</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ms Biljana Filipovic, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Serbia, Chair of the EHTF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Dr Nino Berdzuli, Director of Division of Country Health Programmes, WHO Regional Office for Europe</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Mr Marco Keiner, Director of Environment Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Open dialogue</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The main objectives of this open dialogue are:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. to raise awareness on the evolving understanding of the complex interactions between human activities, policies, the natural environment and health, particularly with respect to the factors that play a role in the development of pandemics;</td>
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<td>2. to highlight policy directions, knowledge, platforms and resources that are available at the international level to support national actions to address the root causes of global health and environmental threats and “build forward better”.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Keynote speech:</strong> Prof. Harry Rutter, Global Public Health, University of Bath</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Panel discussion:</strong> Building forward better in the aftermath of COVID-19 – health, environment, nature and climate change: the building blocks of prevention, resilience and socioeconomic recovery of the WHO European Region.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moderator: Ms Brigtit Staatsen, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment in the Netherlands, Chair of the EHTF.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Panellists:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Dr Anne Larigauderie, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental SciencePolicy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ms Veronica Manfredi, Director for Quality of Life, Directorate-General Environment, European Commission</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• Dr Maria Neira, Director of Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, WHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Dr Nicholas Watts, Chief Sustainability Officer, National Health Service (NHS) England and NHS Improvement</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 - 11:15</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 - 11:30</td>
<td><strong>Session 1 – Adoption of agenda and programme</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Purpose of the meeting will be introduced by Ms Francesca Racioppi, Head of WHO European Centre for Environment and Health.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EHTF will adopt the agenda and programme of the meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Relevant documents:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Concept note of open dialogue for meeting participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EURO/EHTF10/26 WHO (2020). WHO Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 - 12:00</td>
<td><strong>Session 2 - Implications of COVID-19 on the environment and health agenda:</strong> results of an online consultation (part I: Introduction)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EHTF will be informed on the outcomes of the survey on emerging COVID-19 implications on environment and health, completed by Member States and EHP stakeholders of the WHO European Region.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The session will also include a presentation on risk communication in relation to COVID-19 and its links to environment and health.

Relevant documents:
- EURO/EHTF10/11 Overview of results of the survey on WHO European Region Member States’ views on emerging COVID-19 implications on environment and health
- EURO/EHTF10/13 Report of the sixth EHTF Bureau meeting (virtual, 3 December 2020)

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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</table>
| 13:00 - 14:30 | **Session 2 – Implications of COVID-19 on the environment and health agenda: results of an online consultation (part II: Topic-specific discussions in parallel break-out rooms)**  
In this session, the topics emerged from the survey as of highest interest will be discussed in virtual working groups that will consider state-of-the-art updates, and experiences shared by representatives of Member States and stakeholders.  
The break-out rooms will address:  
- COVID-19 and wastewater surveillance;  
- COVID-19 and sustainable, resilient recovery beyond;  
- COVID-19 and air pollution and energy transition;  
- COVID-19 and inequalities in environment and health;  
- COVID-19 and integration of a planetary health approach in policy, research and expertise.  
Please consult the document “Briefing for sessions” (EURO/EHTF10/6) for further details on the group work in break-out rooms. |
| 14:30 - 15:00 | **Session 3 – Progress towards implementing the programme of work for the EHTF for 2020-2021 and reports from working groups and body established under the EHTF**  
This session will provide updates on the progress towards implementing the programme of work for the EHTF for 2020-2021, including the Bonn School on environment and health, and work carried out by the working groups established under the EHTF:  
- Health in Climate Change (HIC);  
- Collaboration of Local and Subnational Authorities (CoLSA);  
- EHP Communications Network.  
Relevant documents:  
- EURO/EHTF10/7 Draft Programme of Work of the CoLSA  
- EURO/EHTF10/15 Report of the first CoLSA meeting (virtual, 20 January 2021)  
- EURO/EHTF10/16 List of nominations for the CoLSA  
- EURO/EHTF10/17 List of nominations for the EHP Communications Network  
- EURO/EHTF10/18 EHP Newsletter, December 2020  
- EURO/EHTF10/21 Programme of work for the EHTF for 2020-2021  
- EURO/EHTF10/24 WHO Regional Office for Europe (2020). EUR/RC70/8(H) Progress report on implementation of the EHP  
- EURO/EHTF10/19 Report and evaluation of the pilot edition of the WHO Environment and Health School  
- EURO/EHTF10/10 Preliminary list of provisionally planned environment and health activities of relevance to the EHTF in 2021  
- EURO/EHTF10/22 Communications strategy of the EHP for 2020-2021 |

**Thursday, 18 February 2021**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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| 09:00 - 10:30 | **Session 4 – Environment and Health “Marketplace”**  
This session aims to launch new publications, present different tools, mechanisms and initiatives, and provide an opportunity to exchange information and experience among Members States and stakeholders, increasing synergies and enhancing cooperation.  
The session will start with the launching of the publication: “Heat and Health in the WHO European Region: updated evidence for effective prevention”.
Following a plenary pitch of the kiosks on offer, participants will be able to visit the kiosks of their choice for interactive discussions with the kiosks' owners. Please consult the document “Briefing for sessions” (EURO/EHTF10/6) for further details on the Environment and Health “Marketplace”.

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30 - 10:45</td>
<td>Physical activity break</td>
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| 10:45 - 11:45 | Session 5 – Towards the seventh WHO Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health: repositioning the EHP in the context of the green and healthy recovery from COVID-19  
In this session, the EHP Secretariat will present for EHTF consideration the draft roadmap of the EHP towards the seventh WHO Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health. The draft was developed through a process of consultation with the Chairs and Co-Chair of the EHTF and Bureau members, and considers how the commitments taken through the Ostrava Declaration could be best leveraged in the context of the new scenarios and international policy developments that have emerged in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, notably through the ambition to “build forward better”. This session will also include information on the upcoming Fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment. Relevant document: EURO/EHTF10/8 Draft roadmap of the EHP towards the seventh WHO Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health |
| 11:45 - 12:00 | Session 6 – Monitoring progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets relevant to the Environment and Health: status of implementation  
As agreed in the Ostrava Declaration, the EHP will rely on the global indicator framework established under the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, including the voluntary national reviews, as the primary source of information to monitor the progress towards implementing Ostrava Declaration commitments, as well as further international reporting schemes already established. One year after the ninth EHTF meeting, the EHP Secretariat reviewed developments in the availability of the “key” EHP-related SDG indicators, identified in the “Monitoring framework of Ostrava commitments using Sustainable Development Goals indicators”. Relevant documents: EURO/EHTF10/12 Report of desk review on environment and health data availability in the SDGs’ metadata repository in the WHO European Region  
EURO/EHTF10/23 Monitoring framework of Ostrava commitments using SDGs indicators |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch break          |
| 13:00 – 14:30 | Session 7 – Partnerships and major global and regional developments relevant to Environment and Health  
In this session, relevant partnerships and the major global and regional developments relevant to environment and health will be presented. |
| 14:30 – 14:45 | Session 8 – Revision of the EHTF Rules of Procedure and elections of officers  
This session will present a revision and update of the Rules of Procedure of the EHTF, approved by its Bureau at its sixth meeting, for discussion and adoption by the EHTF. Also, the session will recall that, according to its Rules of Procedures, the EHTF is expected to elect its Chair and Co-Chair for the next one-year period. Relevant documents: EURO/EHTF10/9 Draft revised Rules of Procedure of the EHTF  
EURO/EHTF10/20 Rules of Procedure of the EHTF |
| 14:45 – 14:55 | Session 9 – Any other business |
| 14:55 – 15:00 | Session 10 – Summary of decisions, next steps and closure of the meeting |
Annex 3. List of participants

**Armenia**
Anahit Aleksandryan  
Head of Hazardous Substances and Waste Policy Division  
Ministry of Nature Protection  
Yerevan

Nune Bakunts  
Deputy Director General  
National Centre of Disease Control and Prevention  
Ministry of Health  
Yerevan

**Austria**
Robert Thaler  
Head of Department  
Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology  
Vienna

**Azerbaijan**
Ismayil Afandiyev  
Adviser  
Ministry of Health  
Baku

**Belarus**
Alena Drazdova  
Deputy Director for Science  
Republican Scientific-Practical Center for Hygiene  
Minsk

Larisa Karpuk  
Chief Specialist  
Department of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Prevention  
Ministry of Health  
Minsk

Tanya Pronina Ph.D.  
Head of International Cooperation  
Department, Scientific and Practical Centre of Hygiene  
Minsk

**Belgium**
Eddy Wille  
Senior Adviser  
Flemish Government  
Brussels

**Croatia**
Natasa Janev Holcer  
Head, General Environmental Health Department  
Croatian Institute of Public Health  
Zagreb

Pavle Jeljicic  
Head of Division  
Croatian Institute of Public Health  
Zagreb

Marina Prelec  
Senior Expert Adviser  
Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development  
Zagreb

**Cyprus**
Charitini Frenaritou  
Senior Chemist  
Cyprus State General Laboratory  
Ministry of Health  
Nicosia

**Czechia**
Dominika Bachmanova  
Officer  
Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic  
Prague

Ondrej Mikes  
Member of CoLSA Working Group  
Researcher  
RECETOX, Masaryk University  
Brno

Frantisek Mudronka  
Ministerial Counsellor  
Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic  
Prague

**France**
Caroline Paul  
Head of Outdoor Environment and Chemicals Unit  
Ministry for Solidarity and Health  
Paris

**Georgia**
Nana Gabriadze  
Head of the Department of Environmental National Center for Disease Control & Public Health of Georgia  
Tbilisi
Maia Javakhishvili  
Deputy Head of Environment and Climate Change Department  
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia  
Tbilisi

Germany
Falko Drews  
Senior Scientific Adviser  
Federal Ministry of Health  
Bonn

Verena Kurz  
Senior Scientific Adviser  
Federal Ministry of Health  
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Jutta Litvinovitch  
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Barbara Werschkun  
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Wissenschaftsburo  
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Ute Winkler  
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Greece
Vassiliki Karaouli  
Director General  
Public Health & Quality of Life Directorate  
Ministry of Health  
Athens

Dionysia Papathanasopoulou  
National Coordinator  
WHO-Hellenic Health Cities Network  
Athens

Iceland
Sigridur Jakobinudottir  
Senior Advisor  
Ministry of Health  
Reykjavik

Israel
Isabella Karakis  
Head of Environmental Epidemiology Department  
Ministry of Health  
Jerusalem

Orna Matzner  
Senior Manager (science and research)  
Ministry of Environmental Protection  
Jerusalem

Italy
Aldo Di Benedetto  
Medical Officer  
Ministry of Health  
Rome

Latvia
Ivonna Grinvalde  
WHO Healthy Cities Network Coordinator  
Chief Specialist of Public health promotion and prevention division, Riga City council  
Department of Welfare, health care administration  
Riga

Lithuania
Grazvyde Norkiene  
Centre for Health Education and Disease Prevention  
Vilnius

Olita Kriukoviene  
Public Health Specialist  
Centre for Health Education and Disease Prevention  
Vilnius

Vijole Miskiniene  
Member of WG CoLSA  
Head, Panevezys Municipality Public Health Bureau  
Panevezys

Romualdas Sabaliauskas  
Director  
Center for Health Education and Disease Prevention  
Vilnius

Hungary
Tamás Pandics  
Head of Department  
National Public Health Center  
Budapest
Luxembourg
Laurence Wurth
Environmental Health Specialist
Ministry of Health
Luxembourg

Malta
Roberto Debono
Resident Specialist in Public Health Medicine
Office of the Superintendent of Public Health
Guardamagia

Monaco
Herve Raps
Deputy Director of the WHO Collaborative Centre on Sustainable Development and Health, Centre Scientifique de Monaco
Monaco

Netherlands
Esther Putman
Coordinator sustainable Health Care
Senior Policy Adviser
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports
The Hague

Brigit Staatsen
Senior Researcher Environment and Health National Institute for Public Health and Environment (RIVM)
Bilthoven

Miriam Weber
Member of CoLSA Working Group
Senior Policy Adviser, Healthy City Coordinator
City of Utrecht
Utrecht

Poland
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Warsaw

Karolina Konarzewska
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Ministry of Health
Warsaw

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Anabela Santiago
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Valentina Zagnitco
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Russian Federation
Oleg Sergeyev
WHO Project Healthy City
Chapaevsk City
Chapaevsk

Slovenia
Marjeta Recek
Head of Department for Health Protection
Ministry of Health
Ljubljana

Sweden
Karin Ljung Bjorklund
Acting head, Unit for Environmental health
Public Health Agency of Sweden
Solna

Karim Norstrom
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Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
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Selena Lopreno
Scientific Officer
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Bern

Lara Milena Lüthi
Scientific Officer
Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
Bern

Tajikistan
Samariddin Aliev
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic Of Tajikistan
Dushanbe

Turkmenistan
Shirin Rejepova
Head of Sanitary Surveillance Department
Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan
Ashgabat

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Raquel Duarte-Davidson
Head of Chemicals and Environmental Effects Department
Public Health England
Chilton

John Howie
Organisation Lead – Place
Public Health Scotland  
Glasgow

Revati Phalkey  
Head, Climate Change and Health Group  
Public Health England  
London

Uzbekistan
Boburjon Makhmudov  
Chief Specialist of International Cooperation and Projects Department  
State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection of Uzbekistan  
Tashkent

Temporary Advisers

Gabriele Bolte  
Head of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health Inequalities, Director of the Institute of Public Health and Nursing Research, University of Bremen Institute of Public Health and Nursing Research  
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Andre Conrad  
Head of Section II 1.1 General Aspects of Environment and Health  
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Francesca De Donato  
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Thomas B. Fischer  
WHO Collaborating Centre on Health in Impact Assessment at University of Liverpool  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Francesco Forastiere  
Epidemiologist  
National Research Council  
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Inge Heim  
HIC co-chair  
Croatian Academy of Medical Sciences  
Zagreb, Croatia

Franziska Matthies-Wiesler  
Senior Researcher  
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Munich
Hans-Guido Muecke  
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Danielle Sinnett  
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Tamás Szigeti  
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Myriam Tobollik  
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Andries van der Meer  
Research Intern  
ZonMW  
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Stakeholders

Central Asian Regional Environment Centre (CAREC)  
Heinrich Wyes  
Deputy Executive Director  
Central Asian Regional Environment Centre (Future)  
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European Environment and Health Youth Coalition (EEHYC)  
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Member of CoLSA Working Group  
European Environment and Health Youth Coalition  
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Tomaz Gorenc  
Member of CoLSA Working Group  
Director  
Institute for Health and Environment  
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Mariia Iemelianenko  
Member of CoLSA Working Group  
European Environment and Health Youth Coalition  
Kyiv, Ukraine
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role/Position</th>
<th>Organization/Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antonio Marques Pinto</td>
<td>Executive Board Member</td>
<td>Tenth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force 17–18 February 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedro Marques Pinto</td>
<td>National Coordinator for Portugal</td>
<td>Tenth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force 17–18 February 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hans-Martin Füssel</td>
<td>Expert – Climate change impacts and adaptation</td>
<td>Tenth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force 17–18 February 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giulio Gallo</td>
<td>Deputy Head of Unit</td>
<td>Tenth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force 17–18 February 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adriana Gheorge</td>
<td>Project Manager International Cooperation</td>
<td>Tenth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force 17–18 February 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuomo Karjalainen</td>
<td>Senior Expert Environment and Health</td>
<td>Tenth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force 17–18 February 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aleksandra Kazmierczak</td>
<td>Expert – Environment, Health and Wellbeing</td>
<td>Tenth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force 17–18 February 2021</td>
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<td>Peter Loffler</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>Tenth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force 17–18 February 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerardo Sanchez</td>
<td>Expert – Environment, Health and Wellbeing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urvaksh D. Patel</td>
<td>Regional Manager</td>
<td>Tenth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force 17–18 February 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wondwosen Asnake Kibret</td>
<td>Policy and Partnership Coordinator</td>
<td>Tenth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force 17–18 February 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genon K. Jensen</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Tenth meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force 17–18 February 2021</td>
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</table>
United Nations Development Programme
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Rosemary Kumwenda
Regional Team Leader Health and Development
United Nations Development Programme
Istanbul, Turkey

**World Health Organization Headquarters**
Kate Medlicott
Team Lead – Sanitation and Waste
World Health Organization
Geneva
Switzerland

Elena Villalobos Prats
Technical Officer Climate Change and Health
World Health Organization
Geneva
Switzerland

**WHO Regional Office for Europe**
Fahad Alfahad
Technical Officer
European Centre for Environment and Health
Bonn

Dovile Adamonyte
Consultant
European Centre for Environment and Health
Bonn

Philip Baumann
ICT Specialist
European Centre for Environment and Health
Bonn

Matthias Braubach
Technical Officer
Environment and Health Impact Assessment
European Centre for Environment and Health
Bonn

Massimo Cozzone
Programme Manager, Multisectoral Partnerships for Environment and Health
European Centre for Environment and Health
Bonn

James Creswick
Technical Officer
European Centre for Environment and Health
Bonn

Valentina Grossi
Technical Officer
European Centre for Environment and Health
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