

Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia
WHO Regional Office for Europe

Note for the press
5 March 2010
Tallinn and Copenhagen

New WHO Regional Director for Europe visits Estonia on first official visit

Ms Zsuzsanna Jakab makes her first official country visit to Estonia as World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Europe on 4–5 March 2010, at the invitation of the Minister of Social Affairs of Estonia, Mr Hanno Pevkur.

During the visit she will hold meetings with the Minister and health sector officials.

“European health policy should be better aligned to the current needs of the population, and take into account the burden of chronic diseases and the role of social determinants of health. Policy-makers need to work in partnership across sectors and eventually develop health as a joined-up governmental responsibility,” says Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe. “This visit to Estonia is an excellent opportunity for me to exchange ideas with the Minister and other senior officials, and to open a new chapter in an already very productive and fruitful relationship.”

Hanno Pevkur, Minister of Social Affairs of Estonia is happy that the new Regional Director of the WHO European Office visited Estonia in one of her first country visits: “Our cooperation with WHO has been very successful. WHO has provided us with important expertise in building up and finding new solutions on how to keep our health system sustainable,” added Mr Pevkur.

With the Minister of Social Affairs, she will also address the Conference “Responding to the challenge of financial sustainability in Estonia’s health system” on 5 March, to share WHO’s vision for public health and health care in Europe for the new decade.

In the afternoon they will visit the North Estonia Medical Centre, a hospital which recently opened modern facilities.

For more information, please contact:

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