

Ref.: 2017/OES/412/ENV/1029

22 December 2017

Excellencies,

I have the honour to thank you for your letter dated 7 November 2017 and for accepting the invitation to engage in the Consultation Process under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe Protocol on Water and Health. Please be informed that Estonia and Lithuania also accepted the invitation and will take part in the Consultation Process.

At its fifteenth meeting (Geneva, 13–14 November 2017), the Committee discussed the scope and organizational aspects of the Consultation Process and decided that it should take place between November 2017 and November 2018. The Committee also agreed that the consultations with Parties will have the following components:

- A stock-taking exercise to understand the situation regarding water and health in your country, based on the Latvian national summary report, information directly provided by your country, including during face-to-face exchanges at the Committee's meetings and other relevant information accessible to the Committee;
- An interpretive note clarifying the relevant legal provisions of the Protocol based on the information and lessons gathered during the process;
- Provision of specific advice in writing and during the Committee meetings;
- Follow up on the implementation of the advice.

The Committee requested that I extend an invitation to Latvia to nominate its representatives to attend the Committee's sixteenth and seventeenth meetings (Geneva, 6-7 March and 5-6 November 2018, respectively) and to participate in the discussions under the item related to the Consultation Process. The first consultation will be held on Tuesday, 6 March 2018 and will comprise:

His Excellency
Mr. Kaspars Gerhards
Minister of Environmental Protection and
Regional Development
of the Republic of Latvia
Riga

Her Excellency
Ms. Anda Čakša
Minister of Health
of the Republic of Latvia
Riga

- Presentations by Parties (i) on their needs and expectations from the Consultation Process, (ii) the water and health situation in their countries and (iii) the challenges encountered in implementing the Protocol, in particular when setting targets;
- Parallel sessions with each Party and discussion in plenary on the next steps, in particular with regard to issues to be further explored and information to be provided to the Committee by the Parties.

The Committee would also like to invite you to express your country's specific needs and expectations from the Consultation Process as well as any challenges related to the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in Latvia and inform the secretariat by 15 February 2018 (nataliya.nikiforova@unece.org). Should you wish to provide any background material that might be useful for preparing the Committee's discussion and delivering advice, please send it to the secretariat by the same date.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Olga Algayerova

cc: Ms. Zsuzsanna Jakab, Regional Director, World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe