

Ref.: 2018/OES/482/ENV/276

21 December 2018

Excellencies,

I refer to the Consultation Process under the Compliance Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe – World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe Protocol on Water and Health (“Protocol”), which was held between November 2017 and November 2018, with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania being Parties to the process.

The Consultation Process comprises the following components:

- (a) A Stocktaking Exercise to understand the situation with water, sanitation and health in each of the three Parties;
- (b) An Interpretive Note of general nature clarifying the relevant legal provisions of the Protocol and its relation to the European Union legal framework with regard to water, sanitation and health;
- (c) The provision of Specific Advice;
- (d) Follow-up on the implementation of the advice.

At its sixteenth and seventeenth meetings (Geneva, 6–7 March 2018 and 5–6 November 2018 respectively), the Committee carried out consultations with the delegations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, including plenary discussions, individual sessions and country presentations. The presentations made by the representatives of Latvia provided an overview of the water, sanitation and health situation in the country, including challenges and latest developments. They also reflected on the role of the Protocol and the Consultation Process in achieving progress and highlighted the preliminary benefits of the Consultation Process. At its seventeenth meeting, the Committee provided its provisional specific advice to Latvia and the two other Parties and requested that I convey to you the final Specific Advice (see enclosed), which will be made publicly available.

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

The Committee is currently working on the development of the above-mentioned Interpretive Note which is expected to be finalized in the first quarter of 2019.

I hope that the Consultation Process and the Specific Advice provided by the Committee will support Latvia in implementing the provisions of the Protocol on Water and Health.

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



Olga Algayerova

Enclosure

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