

No. 55448*

**World Health Organization
and
Netherlands (for the European part of the Netherlands)**

**Agreement between the Government of the Netherlands and the World Health Organization
Regional Office for Europe (with annex). Utrecht, 13 June 1990**

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**Organisation mondiale de la Santé
et
Pays-Bas (pour la partie européenne des Pays-Bas)**

**Accord entre le Gouvernement des Pays-Bas et le Bureau régional de l'Organisation
mondiale de la santé pour l'Europe (avec annexe). Utrecht, 13 juin 1990**

Entrée en vigueur : *13 juin 1990 par signature*

Texte authentique : *anglais*

Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies : *Pays-Bas,
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Note : *Voir aussi annexe A, No. 55448.*

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[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

AGREEMENT

between the
GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS

and the
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

Preamble

The Ministers of the Environment and of Health of the Member States of the European Region of the World Health Organization, together with the Environmental Commissioner of the Commission of the European Communities, meeting together at Frankfurt-am-Main on 7 and 8 December 1989, adopted the European Charter on Environment and Health (see attached).

The Charter invited the WHO Regional Office for Europe to examine the desirability and feasibility of establishing a European Centre for Environment and Health with a view to strengthening collaboration on the health aspects of environmental protection with special emphasis on information systems, mechanisms for exchanging experience and coordinated studies. Taking into account the proposals submitted by the Governments of the Netherlands and Italy, and after taking advice from representatives of Member States, the Regional Director of the European Region of the World Health Organization decided to initiate an intercountry project for the purpose of setting up a European Centre.

The Ministry of Welfare, Health and Cultural Affairs and the Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment of the Netherlands (hereinafter referred to as "the Netherlands"), and the

World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen (hereinafter referred to as "WHO/EURO") hereby agree on a pan-European project of cooperation in the field of environmental health over an initial period of five years for the purpose of developing a European Centre for Environment and Health (hereinafter referred to as "the Centre") as an integral part of WHO/EURO. The Centre will comprise three units, in Bilthoven, Netherlands, in Rome, Italy, and at the WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, by which it will be directed. The initial programme of the individual units of the Centre will be developed on the basis of the minute of the meeting held in Copenhagen on 6 April 1990.

At the end of the fourth year an evaluation of the programme of cooperation will be made, on the basis of which a decision will be taken not less than six months before the end of the five-year period concerning the continuation or closure of the Centre.

Article I

The Centre - Organizational Structure

The Centre will be known as the European Centre for Environment and Health and will comprise three units, respectively in Bilthoven, Netherlands, in Rome, Italy, and at the WHO Regional Office for Europe of which it will be an integral part. The project will be established initially for a period of five years, commencing 1 January 1991, with a preparatory phase of six months commencing 1 July 1990.

The Centre will have an Advisory Board, comprising nine eminent persons experienced in the field of environment and health, which will advise the Regional Director on the orientation of the work of the Centre. The Board will be selected by the WHO Regional Director for Europe, with a tenure of three years. The Board will meet no less than once per annum.

The overall direction of the Centre will be a function of the Director of Environment and Health, WHO/EURO, and s/he will chair a management group, also including the senior staff members of each of the project offices, to be known as Assistant Directors.

Article II

Premises

The Netherlands will provide an appropriate building, constructed to international standards within the grounds of RIVM, (Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiene, Bilthoven). The WHO flag and emblem shall be used in accordance with the World Health Organization flag code and regulations. It will be fully equipped with furniture and fittings for a minimum of twenty staff and be provided with office equipment, including text processing and computer facilities which will be fully compatible with those in WHO/EURO (see also Article VII).

The Netherlands will be responsible for maintenance of the building, furniture, equipment and all facilities, for the supply of stationery and office material and for covering local costs such as cleaning services, electricity, water supplies and telecommunication services.

Article III

Funding

The Netherlands will provide funds to cover salaries and allowances for six professional staff, including an assistant director, and four support staff, to be based in Bilthoven together with funds for one professional and one support staff to work in a liaison capacity, to be based in Copenhagen. All staff will be the employees of the World Health Organization and their remuneration will be in accordance with the appropriate (international or local) United Nations salary scales and local conditions in the country of their employment.

The Netherlands will additionally provide funding of US \$300 000 (three hundred thousand) per annum for the implementation of the work of the Centre, including working groups, workshops, seminars and other meetings, together with costs of staff travel.

All funds for staff and programme costs would be transferred in a convertible currency or US dollars through a designated WHO/EURO bank account or by cheque, together with 13% programme support costs, in accordance with World Health Assembly Resolution WHA34.17 of May 1981. The timing of payments will be decided subsequently and included in an annex to this Agreement, to be issued later.

Any increase in costs due to the variations in exchange rate fluctuations between the currency of deposit vis-à-vis the United States dollar will be compensated by The Netherlands, as will statutory cost increases and inflation.

The obligations of WHO/EURO under this Agreement are contingent on the prior receipt of the funds as stated above.

An official acting on behalf of both the Ministry of Welfare, Health and Cultural Affairs and the Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment will be nominated responsible officer for all matters related to the administrative and financial aspects of this agreement.

WHO/EURO shall:

- administer the funds in accordance with its financial and other regulations, rules and directives;
- maintain a separate account for the funds showing all receipts and expenditures. Any interest accruing on the funds shall be calculated and credited in accordance with the financial regulations, rules and directives of WHO.

All financial records maintained in connection with the funds shall be expressed in US dollars. Income and expenditure in other currencies shall be converted into US dollars at the United Nations rate of exchange applicable on the date of such transactions.

WHO/EURO confirms that the financial transactions relating to the funds will be:

- examined in a comprehensive internal control procedure based on the financial regulations, rules and directives applicable in WHO and currently in force, and subject to the internal audit of WHO; and