

Intervention by Montenegro

Suggested Talking Points for Montenegro at 75th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe – Copenhagen High-level technical briefing: Second European Programme of Work (EPW2), 2026–2030

28 October Tuesday, 16:00–18:00 h

Dear Regional Director,
Distinguished delegates,

It is a great honour to address you today on behalf of Montenegro.

Let me first commend dr Kluge and the WHO Europe team for their excellent work and inclusive approach in preparing the Second European Program of Work. We recognize EPW2 as a key framework to guide Member States in strengthening resilience and accelerating progress towards better health and well-being for all.

Montenegro fully supports the vision and priorities of EPW2, which are closely aligned with our national Health Policy Development Strategy and the recently adopted modern Law on Health Care. This law reflects our commitment to a more integrated, people-centered, and efficient system. It expands services at the primary and secondary levels, strengthens the role of family doctors, defines telemedicine, and introduces the legal framework for e-health, public–private partnerships, and health tourism.

In addition, Montenegro is finalizing the Law on Health Data Collections, which will enable significant systemic improvements — including reduced administrative burden, enhanced health registries, and better data-driven decision-making.

In line with EPW2, we are focusing on three national priorities:

1. Strengthening primary health care as the foundation of our system. Following the 2005 reform, we are now conducting a new functional analysis to improve key processes — from appointment scheduling and patient consultations to home visits and continuity of care — improving both efficiency and patient experience.
2. Accelerating digital transformation, through interoperability of health data, e-prescriptions, and AI-based clinical decision tools.
3. Investing in workforce resilience, by supporting training, retention, and regional collaboration.

We greatly value WHO's continued support, which enables small countries like Montenegro to advance meaningful reforms and strengthen regional solidarity.

Thank you, dr Kluge, for your leadership and partnership. Together, we can make the goals of EPW2 a shared success story for the entire European Region.

Thank you