

WHO RC75: Second European Programme of Work, 2026–2030 – “United Action for Better Health” (EPW2) - UK Intervention:

The UK welcomes the Second European Programme of Work.

We would like to thank the EPW2 team for their collaborative efforts and commitment in developing this important piece of work, particularly during such a challenging and uncertain time for staff.

The consultative process engaged an extensive range of stakeholders including not just Member States but importantly also civil society. This process has been a showcase of the vast technical and strategic expertise of our region, and we were proud to contribute throughout.

The UK is pleased to see that EPW2 is grounded in Member States' priorities and aligns with GPW14. The inclusion of new measurable outcomes and clearer deliverables is a welcome evolution from EPW1. We appreciate the effort to ensure transparency and accountability with a clear prioritisation of actions – critical, resource-dependent, and supportive.

We are particularly pleased to see the prominence of Health Security in EPW2 as a key priority. Disease across the region is rising, and protecting against health threats in the region is vital. We are keen that EPW2 actions related to AMR, infectious diseases, immunisation programmes, surveillance, and laboratory strengthening are given utmost priority within budget allocations. Tackling NCDs is another important area for the UK, particularly prevention, and we look forward to working together with WHO and Member States to address this in our region.

EPW2 arrives at a pivotal moment, with an opportunity to not just respond to today's challenges, but to learn from this moment and shape a resilient, agile WHO EURO for the future. We were pleased to see the vital consideration of future-proofing this work beyond the current transformation process.

We also welcome proposals to monitor the impact of EPW2, including to ensure it is responsive to emerging threats. We would also welcome linking to the monitoring of the transformation implementation to ensure understanding of how the transformation supports delivery of EPW2.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, it is key that WHO EURO retains the best technical expertise and trusted advisors to deliver EPW2, with a focus on safeguarding core capabilities. Staff and their technical expertise are fundamental to WHO EURO's success and ability to deliver EPW2. Ensuring WHO retains its technical excellence should be a central consideration in the Secretariat's monitoring of EPW2 and transformation implementation.

The UK would like to again congratulate WHO in developing EPW2 and we stand ready to support its implementation.