

Report from the World Health Organisation's 68th Regional Meeting



The 68th Regional Meeting of the World Health Organisation was held in Rome, Italy, between the 17-20 September 2018. Stephanie Saenger, COTEC President, attended this meeting representing both WFOT, COTEC and OT-Europe. This meeting which is above all meant for ministry representatives from European Countries, is always attended by delegates from various Non-Governmental Organisations and United Nations Offices as well as a delegation from outside Europe. The President and Vice-President of the Italian Association of OT (AITO)

were also present for (social) parts of this meeting.

Before the conference, Stephanie Saenger was invited by other NGO's to join four statements. Stephanie contributed to these statements and endorsed them in behalf of COTEC and WFOT.

Stephanie followed five side events on Health Literacy, Men's Health, Response of Health Systems on refugee in Turkey, and the GDO breakfast where attendees could meet with the WHO special offices and the breakfast meeting on universal health coverage and Alma Ata conference (40 years declaration). It is a pleasure to note that four out of five sessions had links with Occupational Therapy and will be followed up by targeted actions.



This year 19 NGO's applied for registration in the FENSA register and were accredited. COTEC and WFOT are not in this process, as WFOT has an official relationship with WHO and automatically COTEC does too. We did support a statement (5n) which emphasised the importance of collaboration with NGO's by WHO. The accreditation means that these organisations can always be sure to be invited to the WHO regional meetings and can be included in collaborative WHO-Europe projects. For WFOT and COTEC this is important because it offers continuous collaboration possibilities.

The following joint statements were signed by COTEC:

Written statement on 'Advancing public health for sustainable development in the WHO European Region' (5c/5e) http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/381191/5c-EUPHA.pdf?ua=1

Joint statement in initiative of WONCA with 6 co-signers on overdiagnosis in health care and over-medicalisation of society (5c)

http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/381988/5e-MMI-IAHPC-Wemos-Wonca-WFOT-COTEC-IFMSA-PSI-EPSU-Studiorum-EMSA-EFPC-EUPHA.pdf?ua=1

Joint statement on Health systems strengthening and health coverage we co- signers.(5e)

http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/381232/5i-COTEC-EFPC-WFOT-WONCA.pdf?ua=1

Joint statement in Vaccine-preventable diseases and immunisation on initiative of WONCA/EFPC (5i)

http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/382391/5n-19-accredited-NSA-supported-by-11-NSA.pdf?ua=1

Joint Oral Statement on Accreditation of 19 Non State Actors in FENSA (5n)

http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/381253/5o-WSO-ESO-WFN-EAN.pdf?ua=1

The full report from this meeting can be found [here](#)