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Date: 1 October 2025

Mr Adonis Georgiadis
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
17, Aristotelous Street
10433 Athens
Greece

Dear Sir,

WHO European Regional Polio Laboratory Network Laboratory accreditation for 2026

I am pleased to inform you that, following the annual review by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the national polio laboratory of your country is fully accredited as a WHO national polio laboratory for 2026. Please find enclosed the accreditation review summary. All technical feedback has been shared with the laboratory through the WHO Global Polio Laboratory Network Management System.

The Polio Eradication Strategy 2022–2026 highlights the urgency of rapid, reliable poliovirus detection. To stay prepared for future diagnostic approaches, we encourage continued proficiency with the WHO molecular intratypic differentiation method and sustained investment in your national polio laboratory.

In today's complex global landscape, strengthening health security through uninterrupted poliovirus diagnostic capacity is vital. Ensuring contingency planning and continuity of operations will safeguard regional preparedness and reinforce resilience against emerging health threats.

Equally critical is compliance with global poliovirus containment requirements. According to the guidance of the Global Commission for the Certification of Eradication of Poliomyelitis, only infectious materials containing Sabin type 1 or type 3 poliovirus are exempt from containment, provided that comprehensive inventories of these materials are conducted regularly. All other infectious and potentially infectious materials must either be placed under certified containment or destroyed by the end of 2026, with records reported to the National Poliovirus Containment Coordinator in your country.

Your continued leadership and commitment are essential to keeping the WHO European Region polio-free. Please extend my congratulations to the laboratory team for achieving successful accreditation.

Yours very truly,

Dr Ihor Perehinets
Health Security and Regional Emergency Director
Division of Health Security

Encls:

Accreditation Review Summary

Copy for information to:

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