



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Štefanova 5, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Tel.: (+386) 1-478 60 01

Fax: (+386) 1-478 60 58

Ref.: 929-74/2002

Date: 16.2.2004

Dear Sir/Madam,

Comments of Slovenia on the WHO Draft Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health

Slovenia fully supports the Draft Global Strategy on Diet and Physical Activity; we believe that the Strategy will prove to be an important policy framework in defining priorities in terms of integrated prevention of noncommunicable diseases.

Slovenia was actively involved in the preparation and development of the global strategy since we recognize the importance of a global strategy in reducing the burden of mortality, morbidity and disability attributed to noncommunicable diseases and also the potential for improving preventive public health action in Slovenia.

In this vein the Global Strategy serves and is considered an important strategic framework for action in the prevention of noncommunicable diseases in Slovenia. In an effort to examine and address the major behavioral and environmental risk factors involved in the development of noncommunicable diseases, Slovenia is developing and will shortly implement a *Food and Nutrition Action Plan* as well as a *National Strategy on Health Enhancing Physical Activity*. Both strategies are striving to set achievable intermediate goals and short-term goals and a clear plan for long-term, sustained and effective prevention.

Many preventive programs have indeed already been implemented at the level of local communities, regions and at the national level with the aim to increase awareness and understanding of the role of diet and physical activity. They have demonstrated public willingness to change lifestyle behaviors throughout the life span. Priority has also been given to the development of the more economically deprived regions and to improving the state of health of the socio-economically vulnerable population.

In spite of progress, much effort is needed to ensure that a multidisciplinary, multisectoral participatory approach is firmly established in targeting noncommunicable diseases in Slovenia.

We believe that the Global strategy and recommendations will be able to make a valued contribution in the promotion and protection of health as well as encourage the strengthening and implementation of policies and essential public health action measures in all countries.

Let us once again express support by The Ministry of Health of Slovenia and appreciation of the current efforts undertaken by WHO to promote healthy diet, physical activity and other healthy lifestyles for prevention and control of chronic diseases and promotion of population health.

Sincerely,
Jožica Maučec Zakotnik
State secretary

Prof. Dušan Keber
Minister