



PARLIAMENT  
OF ESTONIA

World Health Organization  
Dr Tedros Adhanom GHEBREYESUS  
Director-General

06.12.2023 No 3-8/23-156/5

Appeal to Honorable Dr Tedros Adhanom GHEBREYESUS

Rebuttal of misleading information

I Facts:

1. We informed you by our letter No. 3-8/23-156/1 of 22 November 2023 that Estonia rejected, and did not give consent to, the international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, as well as complementary amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) and improving the sustainability of financing of WHO.
2. Unfortunately, Liisa-Ly Pakosta, Chair of the European Union Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu (Parliament of Estonia), sent you misleading information in her letter No. 3-8/23-156/3 of 28 November 2023.

In this letter, Chair of the Committee Liisa-Ly Pakosta says that the Republic of Estonia has no objections to the international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, as well as to negotiations on complementary amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005).

She substantiates her claims by referring to the Riigikogu Rules of Procedure and Internal Rules Act, according to which the European Union Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu is a standing decision-making committee of the Riigikogu, and the European Union Affairs Committee, in cooperation with other standing committees, gives its approval to the draft legislation of the EU on behalf of the Riigikogu, and the Government of the Republic is obliged to follow the positions of the Riigikogu (Article 152(4)2) and 152(3)1) of the Riigikogu Rules of Procedure and Internal Rules Act).

## II Rebuttal of misleading information and legal justifications

Unfortunately, the positions expressed in the letter of the Chair of the European Union Affairs Committee are ignorant and legally incompetent.

Namely, the Act that the Chair refers to does not give the Committee the role of a decision-maker in the Parliament. The Committee's competence is defined in Article 22(1) of the Riigikogu Rules of Procedure and Internal Rules Act, which states the following:

### § 22. Rights of committees

(1) A committee of the Riigikogu has the right to:

- 1) require the Government of the Republic, executive authorities of the State to present data necessary for the performance of its functions;
- 2) require a member of the Government of the Republic to participate in a committee sitting in order to obtain information on matters within the powers of the member of the Government;
- 3) invite officials of government authorities and other persons to participate in a sitting of the committee in order to inform and advise the committee.

On the basis of the above, it can be said that Liisa-Ly Pakosta has given you misleading information.

We reiterate briefly the information delivered in our letter No. 3-8/23-156/1 of 22 November 2023 that the Republic of Estonia, on the basis of Article 22 of the Constitution of the World Health Organisation, declares that it rejects and does not give its consent to the international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, as well as complementary amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) and improving the sustainability of financing of WHO.

The reason for this rejection is that, according to Article 121 of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia, treaties of the Republic of Estonia are ratified and denounced only by the 101-member Parliament the Riigikogu. The Riigikogu has not passed such a resolution, and none of its committees cannot and does not have the right to replace the Parliament.

With kind regards and hopes for good and continuous cooperation in future,

Martin Helme  
Kalle Grünthal

