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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
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Date: 10 September 2019

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Ms Zoriana Skaletska
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
7 Hrushevskoho str.
Kyiv 01601
Ukraine
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Dear Madam,

I have the honour to refer to the letter of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, dated 10 January 2019, acknowledging that WHO has recognized the Public Health Centre of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, virology reference laboratory and influenza and acute respiratory infections department, headed by Dr Oksana Artemchuk and Dr Iryna Demchyshyna, as a WHO national influenza centre, and subsequently, as a member of the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS).

The WHO recognition of the National Influenza Centre at the L.V. Gromashevsky Institute of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, headed by Dr Alla Mironenko, will be discontinued as of 1 January 2020

Please find enclosed the terms of reference for the national influenza centres for both seasonal influenza viruses and influenza viruses of human pandemic potential. Official recognition by WHO is for one year and will be reviewed annually on the basis of the criteria for maintaining WHO recognition and the annual review of the compliance of the national influenza centres with the terms of reference.

I hope it will be possible for WHO to call upon the national influenza centre of Ukraine to provide expertise on influenza whenever necessary and to participate in the activities of the WHO GISRS, as well as to contribute to the joint WHO Regional Office for Europe/European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control influenza bulletin, Flu News Europe.

Yours very truly,

Dr Pirooska Östlin
Acting Regional Director

Enclosures:

Terms of Reference for National Influenza Centres of the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System How to become a WHO-recognized National Influenza Centre: Description of the process for influenza laboratories in the WHO European Region
http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/national_influenza_centres/tor_nic.pdf

Copy for information to:

H.E. Mr Yurii Klymenko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, 14, Rue de l'Orangerie, Genève CH-1202, Switzerland

H.E. Mr Mykhailo Vydoynik, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Ukraine
Toldboldgade 37A, 1st Floor, Copenhagen K 1253, Denmark

Ms Osnat Lubrani, United Nations Resident Coordinator, United Nations Development Programme, 1, Klovsky Uzviz Str., Kyiv 01021, Ukraine

Dr Jarno Habicht, WHO Representative and Head of WHO Office WHO Country Office, Ukraine, 58, Yaroslavska str., Kyiv 04071, Ukraine