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Date: 25 November 2024

Mr Aurimas Peckauskas
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
Vilniaus g. 33 Vilnius LT-01506
Lithuania

Dear Minister,

WHO European Regional Polio Laboratory Network Laboratory accreditation for 2025

As part of the annual accreditation procedure, the national polio laboratory of your country, as a member of the WHO Global Polio Laboratory Network, was reviewed by the WHO Regional Office for Europe. Based on the results of this review, I am pleased to inform you that the laboratory is **fully accredited** as a WHO National Polio Laboratory for 2025. Please find enclosed the accreditation review summary for your information. All technical recommendations have been shared with the laboratory using the WHO Global Polio Laboratory Network Management System platform.

The Polio Eradication Strategy 2022–2026 (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240031937>) continues to emphasize the importance of rapid poliovirus detection. To that end, the introduction of molecular intratypic differentiation (ITD) in all polio laboratories would prepare them to adopt direct molecular detection of poliovirus once this approach becomes available. I trust that you will continue providing your kind support to the polio laboratory in your country by ensuring that the WHO ITD method is accepted and endorsed for use in your country and that the polio laboratory is adequately resourced to continue its critical function.

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that implementation of poliovirus containment requirements in all polio laboratories is critical within the framework of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative activities. In accordance with the latest recommendations of the Global Commission for Certification of Eradication of Poliomyelitis, only the Sabin type 1 and 3 poliovirus infectious materials are exempt from containment; certified containment of all other materials must be implemented by the end of 2026. Any unneeded poliovirus infectious and potentially infectious materials should be destroyed at the earliest opportunity, with their destruction documented and communicated to the National Poliovirus Containment Coordinator in your country.

I would like to thank you personally for your ongoing support of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and to congratulate the staff of the laboratory on the successful accreditation.

Yours very truly,

Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge
Regional Director

Encl.: Accreditation Review Summary

Copy for information to:

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H.E. Mr Darius Staniulis, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva Chemin Louis-Dunant 15 Geneva CH-1202, Switzerland

H.E. Ms Asta Radikaite, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania Bernstorffsvej 214 Charlottenlund 2920, Denmark

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