

28. November 2023 No 3-8/23-156/3

Honourable Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

On behalf of the European Union Affairs Committee of the Estonian national parliament Riigikogu, I need to rebut the information contained in the letter sent to you by eleven members of the Riigikogu (22.11.2023 No 3-8/23-156/1). Regretfully, the letter, which is simply reflecting the opinion of individual members of the parliament, gives the impression that it was sent on behalf of a parliamentary committee or the parliament itself.

I hereby confirm that the Republic of Estonia has no objections to the negotiations on the international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, nor on the negotiations on the complementary amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005).

According to the Riigikogu Rules of Procedure and Internal Rules Act, the European Union Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu is a standing committee that holds the decision-making role in European Union matters in the Riigikogu. The European Union Affairs Committee, in cooperation with other standing committees, gives the mandate on behalf of the Riigikogu concerning European Union draft legislation, and the Government of the Republic is obliged to abide by the position of the Riigikogu (RKKTS § 152⁴ (2) and (3)¹).

I deem it necessary to emphasise that the resolution of 4 March 2022 of the European Union Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu decided to support the positions of the Government of the Republic, in accordance with the opinion of the Social Affairs Committee, which authorised the European Commission to negotiate on behalf of the European Union on the international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, as well as on the complementary amendments to the International Health Regulations. The committee also decided to support the position of improving the sustainability of WHO's financing.

According to Article 121 of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia, treaties of the Republic of Estonia are ratified and denounced by the 101-member Parliament the Riigikogu. However, the European Union Affairs Committee authorised the negotiation of the European Commission on behalf of the European Union on the international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, not the ratification of any treaty.

I confirm that the European Union Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu, which has a decisive role in European Union matters on behalf of the Riigikogu, has not changed its position.

¹ Riigikogu Rules of Procedure and Internal Rules Act–Riigi Teataja

Expressing my full support to your crucial work, I wish you and your colleagues at the WHO best of success in all your endeavours.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Liisa-Ly Pakosta", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Liisa-Ly Pakosta
Chairman of the European Union Affairs Committee