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15-Mar-2004

NMH HPM

Athens, 2/3/2004

Your Ref.: C.L.2.2004

Our Ref: DY7a/ 13215/F. 1/1/7

To: World Health Organization  
CH-1211 Geneva 27,  
Suisse  
Fax: 0041 22 791 31 11

Following your document, dated 28/1/2004, regarding the WHO Draft Global Strategy on Diet, physical activity and health, and having taken into consideration the EB113/44-27-11-2003 and EB113.R7/22-1-2004 documents of the Executive Board, we comment on the following:

- We fully agree with the guidelines recommended in the aforementioned documents.
- We consider prevention of chronic diseases related to improper diet and physical activity of vital importance to public health policy making.
- We emphasize on a multisectoral approach, including a) the cooperation between Ministries (i.e. Ministries of Agriculture, Education, Development, Economy and Health) and b) the development of a strategy on information that will ensure raising public awareness on healthy behaviors and dietary habits.
- In Greece, a *National Committee on Dietary Policy* has been set up since 16-11-2002, competent for dietary policy planning according to WHO objectives. We believe that such committees should be constituted in other countries, as well, in order to contribute - in cooperation with other health promotion committees - to the study, data evaluation and decision making.
- Greek diet, based on olive oil and vegetables consumption, could be promoted as an ideal dietary model.

Copy for Information:

1. Public Health Division
2. Honorable Director General of Health,  
Dr. Paraskeva-Violaki



Sincerely yours,

For the Director  
Am. Kofinas

Received In

16 MAR 2004

ADG / NMH