Is the World Health Organization on the right course?

(Presented by Dr Jo E. Asvall)

Former Regional Director of EURO, Dr Jo Asvall draws on his experience of almost 30 years in the region to pose some provocative questions.

Is WHO fulfilling its mandate to help all people attain better health? Is its staff exploring wisely the organization's huge potential?

Dr Asvall, Regional Director from 1985-2000, describes how EURO faced this challenge from the early 1980s to the end of the century, a period that saw 10 years of the Cold War followed by the collapse of the communist regimes, wars and socioeconomic disasters.

He concludes that, subsequently, the WHO leadership made a major mistake in dropping one of its strongest tools – the unique power of the Health For All policy.