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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee

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Subject: Declaration of the European Union and its Member States concerning the statement submitted by the Republic of Türkiye on 14 July 2025 to the Director-General of the WHO concerning the International Health Regulations

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Delegations will find in Annex the draft of the Declaration of the European Union (EU) and its Member States concerning the statement submitted by the Republic of Türkiye on 14 July 2025 to the Director-General of the WHO concerning the International Health Regulations.

**Draft Declaration of the European Union (EU) and its Member States concerning  
the statement submitted by the Republic of Türkiye on 14 July 2025 to the Director-General  
of the WHO concerning the International Health Regulations**

The International Health Regulations (IHR) are a very effective tool for reinforcing the connection between the surveillance systems and establishing rapid reaction mechanisms. The EU and its 27 Member States will continue to support the implementation of Article 57 of the IHR in full and without restrictions.

The EU and its 27 Member States take note of Türkiye's intention to implement the provisions of the IHR in accordance with the Convention regarding the regime of the Straits, signed at Montreux on 20 July 1936.

The EU and its 27 Member States understand the desire of the Turkish authorities to respect their international obligations, such as the Montreux Convention regarding traffic in the Straits. In this respect they would like to refer to Article 57 of the IHR, which provides that States parties recognize that the IHR and other relevant international agreements should be interpreted so as to be compatible. The provisions of the IHR shall not affect the rights and obligations of any State party deriving from other international agreements.

Concerning the reference by Türkiye to internal legislation which has no direct bearing on the implementation of the IHR, the EU and its 27 Member States understand that Türkiye will ensure that the application of its internal legislation fully respects the letter and spirit of the IHR and the regime of freedom of navigation in the Straits as established by the Montreux Convention.