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**Ministry of Health and Social
Affairs
Sweden**

CSR Representatives of the NDPHS

*Division for EU and International Affairs
(EIS)
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Invitation to WG Meeting on NDPHS Legal capacity

We are hereby pleased to invite legal expertise from partners to the NDPHS to a meeting in the WG on the Legal capacity of the NDPHS Secretariat. The meeting will take place in **Stockholm, Sweden on the 16 September 2010. 10:00 – 17:00**

Sweden has offered to present a draft founding agreement for the Secretariat for further discussions within the WG, **this draft agreement will be circulated shortly by the Norwegian WG Chair**. The agreement will be discussed during the meeting in Stockholm.

As discussed during CSR 17 in Moscow partners recognises the need to urgently solve the issue of legal capacity of the NDPHS Secretariat in order to facilitate the activities of the Partnership and to take advantage of the new role of NDPHS as health sub-area coordinator in the EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy, including close collaboration between EU and non-EU members of the Partnership.

Since the meeting on February 26th in Moscow of the ad hoc Working Group on the Secretariat's legal capacity, the Norwegian chair of the ad hoc WG has met in Stockholm with Swedish legal expertise in order

to further clarify issues that need to be settled during the process. Following this meeting the domestic Swedish preparations have continued and further contacts with the Norwegian WG chair have taken place.

There is now an understanding that a two-step approach could be applied.

In the first step the framework of the Permanent Secretariat as a legal subject will be defined, but without discussing the site of the Secretariat or specific aspects of immunity and privileges for Secretariat employees. According to Swedish legal expertise the Secretariat should be established as an International Organisation under international law and as such be given necessary legal capacity to perform its function.

In a second step – Sweden will present a comprehensive package as to the immunities and privileges that it is ready to offer to the Secretariat, including a draft host country agreement. This package and the host country agreement will most likely be similar to that of other international organisations hosted by Sweden.