



**EAtHC CL 01/2020**  
**JULY 2020**

**PROPOSED POSTPONEMENT OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> EAtHC AND ASSOCIATED  
ACTIVITIES RESULTING FROM EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES  
DUE TO COVID-19**

Dear Colleagues,

1. As you are aware, the biennial Conference of the EAtHC (EAtHC 16) is scheduled to hold in Lisbon, Portugal from 30 September to 2 October 2020. This Conference is to be preceded by MSI & MSDI Seminar from 28 – 29 September 2020. Considering the rapid changing nature of the Corona Virus (Covid-19) pandemic, many Member States have laid out rigid guidelines on public gathering and international travels with a view to controlling the spread of the virus. These guidelines, which vary from state to state will no doubt impact negatively on the proposed EAtHC16 and MSI/MSDI Seminar, more so as the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases has continued to rise in most Member States.
2. Accordingly, the EAtHC Secretariat, in consultation with some Member States and the host for EAtHC 16, is proposing a postponement of the 16<sup>th</sup> EAtHC Conference to 13–15 April 2021. This is to be preceded by the MSI & MSDI Seminar on 12 April 2020. The venue and host remain the same.
3. The proposed postponement would likely cause constitutional and operational challenges to the Commission, especially as it relates to the provisions of Article 6(a) of the Status of the EAtHC.

In order to minimize this disruption, Portugal, the host for EAtHC16, has agreed to host a Video Teleconference (VTC) on 29 September 2020, which is within the same week of the initially planned plenary meeting. Accordingly, it is proposed that Portugal will take over the Chair of the Commission at the end of VTC on 29 September 2020 and organize the plenary EAtHC16 Conference as proposed above in 2021, where the Vice Chair of the Commission would be elected and the host/date of EAtHC17 would be decided. In this way, the Commission would be back to its usual time for the next EAtHC Conference in 2022.

4. As a result of the above proposals, Member States' votes will be required to give effect to the new changes. Accordingly, Member States are hereby invited to vote on the proposed changes to the EAtHC 16 using the voting form at Annex A. Completed voting forms are to be returned to the EAtHC Secretariat (email: info@nnho.ng) on or before Friday 31 July 2020.

5. While anticipating the best for the Commission in the coming days ahead, please stay safe.

Yours Sincerely



**Chukwuemeka E. Okafor**  
Rear Admiral  
EAtHC Chairman

14 July 2020

**PROPOSED POSTPONEMENT OF THE 16<sup>th</sup> EAtHC**

**VOTING FORM**

To be returned to the EAtHC Secretariat no later than 31 July 2020

Member  
State:

Contact:

E-mail:

Do you approve the proposed postponement of the 16<sup>th</sup> EAtHC Conference and associated activities made by the Chairman?

Please tick  the appropriate box:

YES

NO

Please provide any additional comments in the section below.  
Comments (if required)