

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003072/25
to the Commission
Gerald Hauser (P/E)
(24 July 2025)**

Subject: Objections to the amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR)

The deadline for objections to the 2024 amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) expired as planned on 19 July 2025. Some countries have rejected or clearly objected to these reforms: The US officially rejected the new provisions on WHO sovereign intervention, including travel restrictions, lockdowns and digital health documents (HHS.gov, Financial Times). Argentina also stated already in February that it would withdraw from WHO structures due to 'profound differences' (AP News). In addition, there are states such as Russia, which reserve the right to implement the amendments only as they see fit (Health Policy Watch). Austria and Italy have also raised objections or at least legal reservations.

1. Which EU Member States have formally objected to the IHR amendments?
2. Which EU Member States have definitively rejected the IHR amendments?
3. Is the Commission aware of any countries outside the EU that have objected to or rejected the IHR?

Submitted: 24.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(19 September 2025)**

The International Health Regulations (IHR) amendments⁽¹⁾ adopted on 1 June 2024 were notified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General to all States Parties on 19 September 2024.

Consequently, and in accordance with Article 59 of the IHR, as amended in May 2022, the 2024 amendments will enter into force on 19 September 2025, unless a State Party notified a rejection or reservation to one or more amendments to the WHO Director-General no later than 10 months after their notification, namely by 19 July 2025.

In the case of Slovakia, the Netherlands, Iran and New Zealand, which rejected the amendments to Article 59 of the IHR adopted in May 2022 and aimed to shorten the period for the rejection of, or reservations to, future IHR amendments from 18 to 10 months, as well as the period for their entering into force from 24 to 12 months, the date for notification of rejection is 19 March 2026 and the entry into force of the 2024 amendments is 19 September 2026, provided that the States concerned do not notify a rejection or reservation to one or more amendments to the WHO Director-General by 19 March 2026.

Information available to the Commission until now indicates that Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, the Philippines, and the United States of America (USA) have notified rejections of the 2024 amendments to the WHO Director General.

With the exception of Argentina, Israel, Italy and the USA, they provided an explanation for their rejection, which related to their need to await completion of relevant domestic processes, and which could be followed by a withdrawal of their rejection pursuant to Article 63 of the IHR. Confirmation of this information will be provided by the WHO in due course.

⁽¹⁾ https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA77/A77_ACONF14-en.pdf.