



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate C - Public Health and Risk Assessment
Unit C4 – Health Determinants

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL POLICY AND ACTION

2nd Meeting

BARCELONA, 2 April 2008

Summary Report

The meeting was chaired by Wilfried Kamphausen, Unit C4, DG SANCO

1. Adoption of the agenda

- The Chair welcomed all participants (*cf. List in Annex I*), explaining that because of the third European Alcohol and Health Conference ("Building Capacity for Action", Barcelona, 3-5 April 2008) this meeting of the Committee was taking place in Barcelona, and not, as usual, in Luxembourg. Next he thanked Spain for hosting this meeting.
- The agenda was approved with a slight modification (Agenda item 7 after agenda item 2).
- The Chair indicated that, unfortunately, DG Agriculture could not attend this meeting in order to give an update on the wine reform.

2. Formal adoption of summary report of last meeting

- Adopted without discussion.

3. Brief pre-conference update on Building Capacity project

- As current President of the EU and one of the organizers of the Conference Slovenia indicated that the Conference to a large extent focuses on the implementation of the EU Alcohol Strategy, identifying both obstacles and opportunities, also stressing the importance of permanently keeping the alcohol issue on the political agenda, raising awareness and exchange of best practices.
- Slovenia furthermore indicated that the outcomes of the Conference would be discussed at the Informal Health Council (17 April 2008).

4. Mandate and Rules of Procedure of the Committee

- The Chair briefly summarized and illustrated the draft document, prepared by the Commission services.
- The members of the Committee suggested several amendments to the name of the Committee (e.g. delete the words "Action" and "National" and insert the word "Alcohol"). Referring to the EU Alcohol Strategy the Chair made clear

that only the insertion of the word "Alcohol" is acceptable. So was decided. From now on the name of the Committee will be: "Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Action" (CNAPA).

- In reaction to a question the Chair remarked that the Commission services, after consulting the Member States, decided on the Mandate and Rules of Procedure of the Committee
- Regarding the third section of the draft document ('Mandate and priority areas') some members expressed their fears that the current wording ('As indicated in the Communication, priority areas for the Committee could include' etc.) would exclude issues not explicitly mentioned in the text from discussing by the Committee. The members mentioned various issues – such as alcohol and elderly, marketing, price policies – that are equally important as the three priority areas that are explicitly mentioned. The Chair answered that the Commission services did not intend a limitative description, and that there is no principal limitation to putting issues on the agenda of the Committee. Other members indicated that this is an informal Committee (no comitology!), in which sensitive issues can be discussed in an open way.
- Regarding the frequency of meetings of the Committee, some members expressed their wish to meet three times per year. The Chair replied that the current wording is adequate: at least two meetings per year, but additional meetings can be convened when the need arises.
- The Chair invited the members to send in textual suggestions until 18 April (by e-mail). Commission services will redraft the document and send it to the members.

5. Update on progress of the European Alcohol and Health Forum

- The Chair invited the members to attend the first meeting of the Open Forum (17 April 2008; around 200 registrations by the beginning of April; room for 250 persons). The focus of the Open Forum – the (draft) programme of which was outlined – is on discussion and arguing. In reply to a question the Chair said that the Open Forum is not a 'decision making body'.
- The Chair also outlined the (draft) agenda of the second plenary meeting of the European Alcohol and Health Forum on 16 April. Important agenda items would be, amongst other things, the 78 commitments for action by the Forum members (first analysis) and the establishment of the Science Group. Afterwards there were presentations on the progress of the two Task Forces: Youth-related aspects of Alcohol (Austria) and Marketing Communication (Commission services). Both presentations are available on the SANCO-website.

6. Monitoring of alcohol policy in Members States

- WHO (HQ/EURO) illustrated the new questionnaire, that was already pilot-tested by some members of the Committee. This is a joint WHO/EU undertaking. In the end it will save time, since there will no longer be separate EU and WHO surveys on alcohol consumption, harm and policy. However, the

first filling in of the questionnaire may be time absorbing ('the first time is the worst time'). Afterwards, only changes need to be reported.

- Several members indicated that the deadline (June 2008) was too short, especially since the data in the recently published Member States' Tables (SANCO website) can not be automatically used since they may already out of date. There were several other questions about e.g. definitions. Both WHO and the Commission services stressed the importance of receiving the filled in new surveys before the summer: the data will be crucial for first evaluation of the EU Alcohol Strategy (November 2009, draft version in spring 2009) and for the WHO Global Status Report on Alcohol (Autumn 2009).
- The Chair concluded that nobody looks forward to filling in another questionnaire, but at the same time everybody underlines the importance of this exercise. Experiences of the 'pilot-member' appear to indicate that proposed deadline (June 2008) is realistic. In a period of two weeks after this meeting members may send questions on the questionnaire (regarding definitions, omissions etc.) to WHO which will send a revised version afterwards.

7. Varying international recommendations about sensible drinking amounts

- Because of lack of time the planned presentation by Mr Crispin Acton from the UK was postponed. It was decided that this presentation will be at the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee (with priority).

8. Report from Member States on ongoing activities, with presentations from Spain and Latvia

- The Spanish Committee member made a detailed presentation on alcohol policy developments in Spain, which was followed by a brief discussion. The presentation is available at the SANCO website.
- Because of lack of time the planned presentation by the Latvian Committee Member was postponed. It was decided that this presentation will be at the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee (with priority).

9. Any other business

- No further points were raised.
- The next meeting of the Committee will be held in the second half of September.

Annex 1 – List of participants

MEMBER STATES + OBSERVERS	SURNAME	FIRST NAME
Austria - Bundesministerium für Gesundheit, Familie und Jugend	KOHL	Doris
Belgium – federal public service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment	CAPOUET	Mathieu
Bulgaria – State Psychiatric Hospital of Treatment of Alcohol and Drug Addiction	TOTEVA ZHENKOVA	Sonya
Czech Republic - Ministry of Health	GOTTVALDOVA	Eva
Cyprus – Ministry of Health	CONSTANTINO	Costas
Denmark - National Board of Health	BROHOLM	Kit
Estonia – Ministry of Social Affairs	NURM	Ülla-Karin
Finland – Ministry of Health and Social Affairs	PAASO	Kari
Germany - Bundesministerium für Gesundheit und Soziale Sicherung	KIRSCHBAUM	Gaby
Germany - Bundesministerium für Gesundheit	HOLZER	Tilmann
Hungary – National institute of Addictology	BUDA	Bela
Ireland – Department of Health and Children	BREEN	Robbie
Italy – Istituto Superiore di Sanità	SCAFATO	Emanuele
Latvia – Public Health Agency	TAUBE	Maris
Lithuania - Public Health Division	KRIVELIENE	Gelena
The Netherlands - Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport	VAN GINNEKEN	Sandra
Norway - Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care services	BULL	Bernt
Portugal - Institute on Drugs and Drug Addiction	CARDOSO	Manuel
Romania - Bucarest National Public Health Institute	STOLICA	Constantin Bogdan
Slovak Republic - Ministry of Health	OKRUHLICA	Lubomir
Slovenia - Ministry of Health	KOSIR	Matej
Spain – Ministry of Health	LIBRADA	Maria Villar

MEMBER STATES + OBSERVERS	SURNAME	FIRST NAME
Spain – Ministry of Health	LIZARBE	Vicenta
Spain – Ministry of Health	ASTORGA	Vergara
Sweden - Ministry of Health and Social Affairs	NILSSON-KELLY	Karin
Switzerland - Federal Office of Public Health	BAERISWYL	Petra
World Health Organisation (Headquarters)	RENSTROM	Maria
World Health Organisation (Regional Office for Europe)	MOLLER	Lars
United Kingdom - Department of Health	ACTON	Crispin

EUROPEAN COMMISSION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME
DG SANCO C4	KAMPHAUSEN	Wilfried
DG SANCO C4	DE CONINCK	Pieter
DG SANCO C4	WONNER	Josepha