



EUROPEAN ALCOHOL AND HEALTH FORUM

SCIENCE GROUP: 2ND MEETING

BRUSSELS, 29 OCTOBER 2008

SUMMARY REPORT

1. Welcome

- The Chair welcomed all participants (*cf. List in Annex I*) at the second meeting of the Science Group.

2. Quorum

- With 13 members of the Science Group being present the quorum for a valid meeting was met (Article 1.1 of the Rules of Procedure, hereafter indicated as RoP).

3. Declaration of interests

- On being asked by the Chair none of the present members of the Science Group declared any interests which might be considered prejudicial to their independence in relation to the items on the agenda for this meeting (Article 3.4 of the RoP).

4. Adoption of the agenda

- The agenda was adopted without modifications (Article 11.6 of the RoP).

5. Formal adoption of the draft summary report of the Science Group's meeting of 30 June

- The draft summary report was formally adopted.
- The Commission services were requested to pay special attention to the use of acronyms: when used for the first time the full text should be given. The Commission services agreed on this, as well as on another request: mentioning the names of those members of the Science Group who sent their apologies for not being able to attend.

6. Report on the meeting of the Forum's Task Force on Marketing Communication of 16 July 2008

- The Commission services indicated that the summary report of the last meeting of the Task Force was put on the agenda to give the members of the Science Group a clear picture of the context of their work on the Task Request on the impact of marketing communication on the volume of consumption. This was followed by a brief summary of the report, which ended by mentioning that the next meeting of the Task Force (on 12 November) will be dedicated to Social Marketing.
- Dr. Anderson asked about the mandate of the Task Force. With reference to the Charter establishing the European Alcohol and Health Forum the Commission services summed up the tasks of the Task Force. Apart from examining trends in marketing and product development, and reporting on this to the Forum plenary, the Task Force may make any appropriate recommendations to the Forum.
- Then Dr. Anderson asked whether the Science Group could play a role in the discussion on Social Marketing; could the Science Group submit a scientific opinion to the Forum without being asked to do so? The Commission services answered that, as a principle, it is the Forum which asks the Science Group for a scientific opinion on a specific issue. However, there is some room for the Science Group to take the initiative. Article 14.1 of the RoP stipulates that the Science Group may draw the European Alcohol and Health Forum's attention to any issue falling within its remit. However, as outlined in Article 14.2, the Forum shall decide on the action to be taken including, if appropriate, a request for a scientific opinion or a report on the matter and inform the Science Group accordingly.
- Dr. Moskalewicz suggested that a member of the working group (see agenda item 7) should attend the meeting of the Task Force on Marketing Communication on 12 November. The Commission services promised to clarify with the Chair of the Task Force.

7. Request to the Science group for scientific advice on the impact of marketing communication on the volume (and patterns) of consumption of alcoholic beverages, especially by young people

- Using a PowerPoint presentation (available on the Commission's public health website) Dr. Anderson informed the Science Group on the meeting, the day before, of the working group. The working group had agreed on the best available methodology (longitudinal studies) for answering the Forum's Task Request. The working group had also agreed on an ambitious time schedule: adoption of the scientific opinion by the Science Group at its 3rd meeting (23 February 2009).
- Dr. Anderson ended his presentation by asking three questions. 1) Are there other methodologies that may be relevant, such as experiments? 2) Are there other relevant studies? 3) As this Science Group is only recently established and this is the first time it is working on a Task

Request, we should ask ourselves if this is the right way to deal with task requests in general.

- Several members asked questions. Dr. Moskalewicz raised the issue of the relationship between attitudes and behaviours. Professor Romelsjö suggested that it would be important to have a look at the (alcohol) industry's spending on advertising. Professor Knibbe promised to send references to studies based on experiments. He also said it may be relevant to study advertising journals. Professor Fišer pointed at the former Warsaw Pact countries. Before 1990 there was no alcohol advertising in these countries. This changed. It might therefore be interesting to look at the development of consumption since 1990. Regarding the third question of Dr. Anderson the Chair asked what would be the consequence of the (expected) rapid response of the Science Group to the first Task Request: will the Science Group receive more Task Requests from the Forum or just the opposite?
- The Chair asked the approval from the members of the Science Group on his decision to ask Dr. Anderson to chair the working group, as well as on the other members of the working group: Dr. Martinic, Dr. Moskalewicz, Dr. Nociar and Professor Foxcroft and Professor Kaner as corresponding members. The Science Group approved both the Chair and members, including corresponding members, of the working group.
- Dr. Anderson asked the Science Group about the need for an external review of the scientific opinion. The Science Group agreed that a review by Professor Foxcroft and Professor Kaner would suffice.

8. Study on the affordability of alcoholic beverages (progress report by Commission services)

- The Commission services pictured an overview of the background of the study, commissioned to RAND Europe and stressed that the study is not resulting from a Forum decision, but that it is an initiative of the Director General for Health and Consumers. However, members of the Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Health, the Forum and the Forum's Science Group have been involved in the study as much as possible. In this respect he mentioned the workshop on 11 November, in which four members of the Science Group will participate.
- Professor Fišer said that, according to him, affordability is not the most important factor to look at when discussing tools to reduce alcohol related harm. He stressed the importance of taking into account a broader context. He has prepared a PowerPoint presentation on this. The Chair remarked that Professor Fišer might present his views at the next or subsequent meetings of the Science Group, depending on the agenda.
- In general the members showed great interest in the affordability study and asked for an opportunity to comment on the draft report. The Commission services indicated that they, after consulting RAND, would see if this would be possible.
- It was decided that those members of the Science Group participating in the workshop on 11 November will report on this to the other members.

The affordability study, including the workshop, will be on the agenda of the plenary meeting of the Forum on 13 November. Most probably the final study will be on the agenda of the plenary Forum meeting on 11 March 2009 as well.

9. Participation of Science Group representatives in the Forum plenary meeting of 13 November 2008

- The Chair indicated that he would not be able to attend the Forum meeting on 13 November. However, Dr. Moskalewicz (Vice Chair) and Dr. Anderson as Chair of the Working Group will be available.

10. Communication aspects

- After further reflection on the need for opening a restricted CIRCA group, already discussed at the meeting of 30 June, the Science Group decided that there is no need for this.
- The members agreed that it would be useful to receive the CV's of all members of the Science Group. The Secretariat will do so.
- Dr. Moskalewicz asked the Secretariat to use specific headings in email correspondence. The Secretariat will do so.

11. Conclusions and way forward

- The Chair concluded that there is good progress on the scientific opinion, that the final Rand study will be on the agenda of the next meeting of the Science Group, and that the Science Group will be represented at the meetings of 11, 12 and 13 November.

12. Next meeting, any other business

- The next meeting will be on Monday 23 February 2009 (11h00 – 18h00).

Annex 1 – List of participants

Name SURNAME	INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION
Chairman Prof. Ian GILMORE	Royal College of Physicians, London
Dr. Peter ANDERSON	Public Health consultant
Prof. Roumen BALANSKY	Специализирана болница за активно лечение по онкология еад (<i>National Centre of Oncology, Sofia</i>)
Dr. Alberto BERTELLI	Università degli Studi di Milano – Dipartimento di Morfologia Umana (<i>University of Milan – Department of Human Morphology</i>)
Prof. Bohumil FIŠER	Masarykova Universita, Brno (<i>Masaryk University</i>)
Prof. Michael KLEIN	Kompetenzplattform Suchtforschung an der Katholischen Fachhochschule Nordrhein-Westfalen (KFH NW) (<i>Centre of Excellence on Applied Addictions Research at the Catholic University of Applied Sciences North Rhine-Westphalia</i>)
Prof. Roland KNIBBE	Maastricht University – Department of Health Promotion and Health Education
Dr. Katrin LANG	Tartu Ülikooli tervishoiu instituut (<i>Tartu University - Department of Public Health</i>)
Dr. Marjana MARTINIC	International Center for Alcohol Policies (ICAP), Washington DC
Dr. Jacek MOSKALEWICZ	Institute of Psychiatry & Neurology, Warsaw
Dr. Alojz NOCIAR	Výskumný ústav detskej psychológie a patopsychológie, Bratislava (<i>Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology</i>)
Dr. Alicia RODRÍGUEZ-MARTOS	Agència de Salut Pública, Barcelona (<i>Public Health Agency of Barcelona</i>)
Prof. Anders ROMELSJÖ	Centrum för socialvetenskaplig alkohol- och drogforskning (SoRAD), Stockholm (<i>Stockholm university – Center for Social Research on Alcohol and Drugs</i>) Karolinska Institutet, Institutionen för folkhälsovetenskap, Stockholm) (<i>Karolinska Institutet – Department of Public Health Sciences</i>)

Absent with notice

- Prof. Patrice COUZIGOU
- Prof. Ludovic DROUET
- Prof. Irmgard EISENBACH-STANGL
- Prof. Morten GRONBAEK
- Prof. Eileen KANER
- Prof. Ulrich KEIL
- Dr. Dusan NOLIMAL

EUROPEAN COMMISSION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME
DG SANCO C4	HÜBEL	Michael
DG SANCO C4	DE CONINCK	Pieter
DG SANCO C5	OBIERZYNSKA	Danuta
DG ENTR F4	ORTIZ	Isabel