



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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

Brussels,  
EUHPF Secretariat

## EU HEALTH POLICY FORUM

BRUSSELS, 14 May 2009

### Minutes

#### 1. SCOPE AND PURPOSE

Main focus of the meeting:

- EUHPF strategic priorities and workplan 2009/2010
  - Follow-up to the Open Letter on the economic crisis and health
  - Implementation of the EU health strategy
  
- Update stakeholders on the EU flu response
  
- Discussion on the Commission White Paper – Adapting to climate change – Towards a European framework for action

#### 2. DATE AND SITE

Date	14 May 2009
Time	10:00 – 17:00
Site	Brussels, 36 rue Froissart, Centre Albert Borschette – Room AB 4B

All meeting documents are published on the public health website under:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_overview/health\\_forum/events\\_health\\_forum\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/health_forum/events_health_forum_en.htm)

## MORNING SESSION

### WELCOME AND OPENING

**Chair: Robert Madelin, Director General, DG SANCO**

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Documents:	Draft agenda; Minutes of the EUHPF meeting on 21 January 2009; Provisional list of participants.
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Mr Madelin, Director General of DG SANCO opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. After brief information on the meeting arrangements including the timing, the draft agenda was adopted.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 21 January 2009 were adopted without any modification.

In view of the future role and mandate of the EU Health Policy Forum and following discussions at previous meetings, Mr Madelin informed members that DG SANCO is planning to launch the publication of an open call for the renewal of membership in the EU Health Policy Forum. It is foreseen to publish the call for applicants before the summer break with the deadline by end of September 2009.

### UPDATE ON EU ACTIONS IN RELATION TO THE NOVEL FLU VIRUS

Following the outbreak and developments of the global spread of the influenza A(H1N1) virus, Mr Madelin informed members about the current situation and what the EU has been doing to manage this crisis; in particular the Commission's co-ordination efforts to exchange information on surveillance, case definition and measures taken in collaboration with Member States, the ECDC and WHO to respond effectively to this novel flu virus.

EuroHealthNet complimented the Commission work on its action in relation to the threat of pandemic flu virus and suggested to address in particular health inequalities within the future discussions on this issue. which was agreed by Mr Madelin.

Members will be updated again on the situation at the next meeting in October.

### FUTURE WORK AND ACTIVITIES OF THE EU HEALTH POLICY FORUM

- 1. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND WORKPLAN 2009/2010**
- 2. FOLLOW-UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HEALTH STRATEGY**
- 3. FOLLOW-UP ON THE OPEN LETTER ON ECONOMIC CRISIS AND HEALTH**

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Documents:	<p>EUHPF Strategic Priorities – final, PowerPoint Presentation on Strategic Priorities,</p> <p>Minutes from the EUHPF meeting on 10 December 2008, PowerPoint Presentation on the Implementation of the Health Strategy</p> <p>EUHPF Open Letter on Economic Crisis and Health, PowerPoint Presentation on Open Letter on Economic Crisis and Health, EFN Report on WHO High Level meeting “Health in times of global crisis: implications for the who European Region “, Discussion paper: Health in times of global economic crisis: implications for the WHO European Region, European Economic and Social Committee – Letter of Mr Sepi to Mr Barroso</p>
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## **1. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND WORKPLAN 2009/2010**

Ms. Daly from EMA presented the final EUHPF Strategic Priorities document to the members and opened the discussion on follow up activities. The final document identified in particular specific areas of interest for the members of the forum as well as recommendations for priorities for the period 2009-2010.

The final document, which was again circulated to all members and to be published on the SANCO website, was agreed by the EUHPF members in written procedure as indicated in the minutes of the last meeting. In addition, Mr Hübel pointed out that EUHPF started already to work on several priority issues e.g. Open Letter on Economic Crisis, Resolution, implementation of the Health Strategy.

During the discussion, several member organisations (EuroHealthNet, EURORDIS, ASPHER, IPPFEN, IUHPE, CPME) underlined the need to structure the work of the forum on the basis of the agreed priorities and to develop further capacity building in health. The implementation of the work should be organised in (permanent or temporary) working groups in order to strengthen health within the activities of the European Parliament of the Commission.

The document was adopted as modified in the meeting. Mr Madelin concluded the discussion, indicating that on the basis of the final document and in view of the upcoming elections of the European Parliament, a summary of clear work packages will be circulated to members by the Secretariat for structuring the work in 2009 and 2010. A draft letter from the EU Health Policy Forum to be transmitted to the new elected Members of the European Parliament will also be prepared to draw attention to the importance of health and health-related issues to be treated as a priority. In order to use the transition period in the most effective and efficient way, member organisations are requested to support the efforts within their own constituencies at national, regional and local level. Information about websites and other relevant information will be circulated by the Secretariat.

## **2. FOLLOW-UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HEALTH STRATEGY**

Mr. Pinto Antunes, DG SANCO.C5, presented an overview of the progress in implementation of the EU Health Strategy. He summarized the recent work and current discussions in Council and the European Parliament on the health strategy including important initiatives on cancer, Alzheimer, HIV/AIDS and health inequalities which the European Commission intends to adopt within its 2009 work programme before the end of this year.

He informed the Forum about the current activities of the Council Working Group at Senior Level.<sup>1</sup> The next meeting of the Group will take place on 29 May and includes discussion on HIAP, quality of healthcare, sustainability of health systems and eHealth.

Mr Madelin concluded the discussion by highlighting the important role of EUHPF input into the co-ordination mechanism for the implementation of the EU Health Strategy. The Commission will keep members of the EUHPF informed about the outcomes of the May meeting of the Council Working Group on Public Health at Senior Level and about the work of the Group in the second half of 2009 under the Swedish presidency.

### **3. FOLLOW – UP ON THE OPEN LETTER ON THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND HEALTH**

Mr De Raeve, EFN, who participated in the WHO high level meeting on health aspects of the economic crisis on behalf of EPHA, informed the participants about the outcomes and conclusions of this meeting, which took place in Oslo on 1 and 2 April 2009. He underlined the recommendations which were formulated by participants of the conference which were directly linked to the issues already developed by the EUHPF Open Letter on the Economic Crisis and Health which the Forum has adopted in April. In this context, Ms Misigova described the process of drafting and adoption of the Open Letter and its distribution to the EU Institutions as well as the Member States.

Following publication of the Open Letter, the European Social and Economic Committee (EESC) showed particular interest in the issue and invited members of the EUHPF to attend an EESC session in relation to discussions in this context, in particular in preparing its contribution to the May EU Employment summit. Following these contacts, Mr Crook, member of the EESC, informed about EESC activities in relation to the impacts of the crisis on employment and health including the letter which was recently sent from the President of the EESC to Mr. Barroso proposing measures to reduce impacts of the crisis on employment and health.

During the discussion several member organisations (HOPE, EHMA, IPPFEN, MHE, ASPHER, CPME and EuroHealthNet) pointed out the importance to address the issue and emphasised the need for action towards sustainable solutions, approaches and initiatives at European, national, regional and local level. A multi-stakeholder approach is needed to deal with the situation and members will need to mobilise their constituencies in Member States. Consequences at short, medium and long term need to be closely monitored and reported back to decision makers.

Mr. Madelin concluded the discussion and appreciated the work and activities already undertaken by the members of the EUHPF and their national constituencies. However, he stressed the importance to continue efforts on this issue and asked members for a co-ordinated feedback of the financial crisis to their organisation(s). The Secretariat will therefore within the next 2 weeks circulate a short questionnaire to all members in order to have quick feedback. Members will be requested to respond as rapidly as possible so that the Secretariat could develop an analysis before the summer break.

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<sup>1</sup>Council Working Group on Public Health at Senior Level embodies the co-operation mechanism between the Commission and the Council on the implementation of the Health Strategy. It was created by the Council Conclusions adopted in June 2008. The Working Group consists of senior public health officials and senior representatives of the Commission. The Working Party met twice on 9/12/08 and 29/5/09.

## COMMISSION UPDATE ON KEY POLICIES

- **SANCO Stakeholder Dialogue Group**

Mr. Madelin informed members about the call of expression of interest for becoming a member in the SANCO Stakeholder Dialogue Group. The group was created in September 2007 as a result of the SANCO Peer Review on stakeholder involvement. The call for expression of interest was published and members were informed by e-mail. More information can be found at: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health\\_consumer/sdg/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/sdg/index_en.htm)

- **Conference on Youth and Health**

Mr. Hübel, SANCO.C4 informed the members about the forthcoming conference on Youth and Health, organised by the European Commission in cooperation with the European Youth Forum and other youth organisations on 9 - 10 July in Brussels. The Commission expects to attract participants in particular young people from across Europe, representatives of youth organisations as well as health professionals working with young people and officials from national authorities and EU Institutions. More information can be found at: [http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/youth/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/youth/index_en.htm)

- **Directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare**

Mr. Baer, SANCO.C4 informed about the current status of the legislative proposal. The first reading in the EP was concluded in April by adoption of the report and amendments. Discussions in the Council Health Group are on-going. It is expected to have a progress report in the Council of Ministers meeting on 9 June which could lead then to reaching a political agreement under the Swedish presidency by end of 2009.

Participants welcomed the Commission initiative and the rapid work of the European Parliament. However, discussions in Council and European Parliament are still continuing; the Commission will keep the EUHPF informed about developments.

- **Patient Safety**

Ms. Neubauer, SANCO.C5 informed the Forum about the current status of the patient safety initiative. Following adoption of the draft Council recommendation by the Commission in December 2008, it is expected to have the recommendation adopted by the Health Council meeting on 9 June. The EUHPF will come back to this initiative at one of its next meetings to discuss relevant issues in relation to the implementation of the recommendation.

## Afternoon session

COMMISSION WHITE PAPER "ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE - TOWARDS A EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION"

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Document: COM(2009) 147 White Paper Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action,  
SEC(2009) 416/4 Commission staff working document: Accompanying document to the White Paper Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action. Human, Animal and Plant Health Impacts of Climate Change,  
HEAL response to a European framework to address health impacts of climate change: EU Plan targets health problems related to climate change, PowerPoint Presentation on EU approach to adaptation of Climate Change, PowerPoint Presentation on Impacts of Climate Change on Human, Animal and Plant Health – Adapting to Climate Change,  
PowerPoint Presentation on Protecting health in Europe from climate change

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Ms McCarthy-O'Kelly, DG ENVI/D/2 presented the above White Paper adopted by the Commission on 1 April 2009. She described impacts of climate change and regional variability and emphasised the need for taking action at EU level.

Potential actions at EU level are to provide a consistent analytical framework, to help identifying cross-cutting issues and to promote the exchange of best practices. The development of an EU adaptation framework started with the publication of a Green Paper by the Commission in June 2007 and consultation of stakeholders during 2007 - 2008.

Following the adoption of the White Paper, the Commission is now setting-up a forum for dialogue and co-operation together with national, regional and local authorities – the Impact and Adaptation Steering Group (IASG).

Ms. Pittman, DG SANCO/D1 presented the Commission staff working document accompanying the White Paper on Climate Change analysing the impact on human, animal and plant health. She underlined a number of detailed impacts on human health and stressed the importance of implementation and proper follow-up of the proposed action plan.

Ms Racioppi presented the work of WHO in this area and focused in particular on the collaboration with the European Commission as well as other international actors in the field of climate change. She confirmed that climate change remains high on the WHO agenda. WHO continues to encourage all countries to develop health measures and integrate them into plans for adaptation to climate change, to strengthen the capacity of health systems, to promote effective engagement of the health sector and its collaboration with all related sectors and to provide clear directions for planning and investment.

She underlined the importance of a continuing collaboration with the European Commission and other EU institutions as well as to improve collaboration with all other stakeholders and partner in this field, in particular the NGO and civil society sector.

Ms Jensen, from the Health & Environment Alliance (HEAL), introduced the work of her organisation in the area of climate change and health.

HEAL's "Health Proofing Climate Change" campaign aims to put health at the centre of a strong climate change policy across Europe in preparation for global climate change negotiations in Denmark in 2009.

In cooperation with WHO and the network of European local and regional authorities (EOREGHA) HEAL would like to enable public health professionals to take a leadership role in advocating for the personal and policy changes needed for a more sustainable future. They build cross-sector, interdisciplinary partnership to share best practice and introduce plans for a more sustainable future.

HEAL published factsheets on the impact of Climate Change on respiratory diseases in children.

During the discussion member organisations welcomed generally activities in view to reach a sustainable development in this area and to ensure that effective actions are implemented by Member States.

Mr Madelin concluded the discussion by considering that climate change and health as an important issue to be addressed now rapidly figures already under the work priorities of the EUHPPF. In order to proceed rapidly simple and brief messages which already exist could be further explored and circulated on political as well as on expert level between organisations. Examples, info and fact sheet from WHO, HEAL and other will be brought together and circulated widely. For further action by the EUHPPF and to measure progress, the issue will again be on the agenda of the next meeting.

#### **IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION BY MEMBERS**

- **ASPHER (Association of Schools of Public Health in European regions)**

ASPHER informed the Forum about the EU Public Health Core Competencies Programme (EPHCC) for Public Health Education (more information is available at ASPHER's webpage: <http://www.aspher.org>)

- **HAI (Health Action International)**

HAI informed about their work on general competitions and enforcement provisions (more information on their website <http://www.haiweb.org>)

- **HEAL (Health & Environment Alliance)**

HEAL informed on the exhibition event in the European Parliament in October 2009.

- **EuroHealthNet**

EuroHealthNet informed on their recently launched website of the project "Equity Channel", which brings together the work of an international collaboration on social determinants of health. The website is: <http://www.equitychannel.net>

- **EMA (European Midwives Association)**

EMA asked to include the point on Impact Assessment into the next meeting's agenda, which was agreed by Mr Madelin..

#### **CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

Mr Madelin closed the meeting with a brief summary of the discussion and commitments. He thanked all for their participation in the discussions and announced that the next meeting is scheduled to take place as foreseen on 16 October 2009 in Brussels.

# EU HEALTH POLICY FORUM

## Brussels, 14 May 2009

### List of participants

AER	Assembly of European Regions	Camille Bullot
AESGP	Association of the European Self-Medication Industry	Luca Battistini
		Hubertus Cranz
AGE	European's Older People's Platform	Isabel Borges
ASPHER	Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Regions	Christopher Birt
		Stojgniew Jacek Sitko
BEUC	Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs	Ilaria Passarani
CED	Council of European Dentists	Nina Bernot
CPME	Standing Committee of European Doctors	Sophie Peresson
		Dr. Michael Wilks
ECH	European Committee for Homeopathy	Ton Nicolai
ECL	The Association of European Cancer Leagues	Wendy Tse Yared
EDF	European Disability Forum	Ask Andersen
		Doriane Fuchs
EFA	European Federation of Allergy and Airways Disease Patients	Susanna Palkonen
EFN	European Federation of Nurses Associations	Paul De Raeve
		Andreas Xyrichis
EHMA	European Health Management Association	Jeni Bremner
EMA	European Midwives Association	Deirdre Daly
ENSP	European Network for Smoking Prevention	Francis Grogna
		Cornel Radu-Loghin
EPF	European Patient's Forum	Nicola Bedlington
EPHA	European Public Health Alliance	Jessica Imbert
ESIP	European Social Insurance Platform	Julia Schroeder
EUMS	European Union of Medical Specialists	Frederic Destrebecq
		Bernard Maillet
EUPHA	European Public Health Association	Dineke Zeegers Paget
EUROCARE	European Alcohol Policy Alliance	Ruth Ruiz
EUROHEALTHNET	European Network of Health Promotion Agencies	Clive Needle
		Veronica Scognamiglio
EUROPA DONNA	The European Breast Cancer Coalition	Ellen Verschuur/van der Voort
EYF / YFJ	European Youth Forum	Kadri Vanem
GIRP	Groupement International de la Répartition Pharmaceutique	Martin FitzGerald
HAI	Health Action International Europe	Katrina Perehudoff
HEAL	Health and Environment Alliance	Genon Jensen
		Pendo Maro
		Christian Farrar-Hockley
HOPE	European Hospital and Healthcare Federation	Bieke Schulz
		Pascal Garel
		Karolina Hanslik
IAPO	International Alliance of Patient's Organisations	Rod Mitchell *
IPPFEN	International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network	Irene Donadio

MHE-SME	Mental Health Europe-Santé Mentale Europe	Mari Fresu
PGEU	Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union	John Chave
UEHP	Union Européenne de l'Hospitalisation Privée	Paolo Giordano
WCPT	World Confederation for Physical Therapy (European Region)	Roland Craps
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee	Nick Crook
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee	Ewa Kaniewska
WHO	World Health Organisation	Francesca Racioppi
WHO	World Health Organisation	Albena Arnandova
WHO	World Health Organisation	Stefano Gargulo
EC	European Commission, DG SANCO	Robert Madelin
EC	European Commission, DG SANCO/C/4	Michael Hübel
EC	European Commission , DG SANCO/C/4	Walter Baer
EC	European Commission, DG ENV/D/2	Helen McCarthy-O'Kelly
EC	European Commission, DG SANCO/D/1	Maria Pittman
EC	European Commission, DG SANCO/C/5	Jorge Pinto Antunes
EC	European Commission, DG SANCO/C/5	Katja Neubauer
EUHPF	Secretariat	Iva Misigova Tamsin Rose Shona Rose Stefania Succi

\* Rod Mitchell attends the meeting on behalf of IAPO and EGAN