

Dear John,

Thank you very much for the draft summary record. I just have a couple of comments below:

1. In reaction, stakeholders (Brewers of Europe and Comité du Vin) referred to a letter sent to Mr. Madelin criticizing the alleged lack of independence and bias of Dr. Anderson, one of the contracting authors of the report. Dr. Anderson was given a copy of the letter concerned in the meeting, but declined to comment.

I did not comment on the letters during the meeting, and did not regard that there was any expectation that I should comment. Therefore, I do not think that it is quite correct to say that I declined to comment. So, I would be grateful if the words "but declined to comment" could be removed for the summary record.

2. Several participants criticised the methodology suggested by the contractor for calculating alcohol related harm in drafting the report: this was particularly the case as regards the ECAS study ("European Comparative Alcohol Study" published in 2002 and partly financed by the Commission), where a series of remarks were made on the approximate nature of some data. An offer was made by one participant to provide relevant national data (Professor Tempesta).

It was the Amsterdam Group that criticized the methodology and the ECAS report; no public health experts at the meeting criticized the methodology or the ECAS study. I think that this needs to be clarified in the summary record, to avoid the potential misinterpretation that public health experts who attended the meeting were critical of either the methodology or the ECAS study.

With many thanks,

And best regards,

Peter.

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