

## **Mandate**

### **Health and Environment Working Party (HEWP)**

#### 1. Purpose of the Health and Environment Working Party

In implementing the health information and knowledge strand of the Public Health Programme and in particular the **Work Plan 2003** thereof, the Health and Environment Working Party shall be established.

The Health and Environment Working Party shall contribute **to the improvement of information and knowledge** on the relationship between health and environmental factors.

The purpose of the Working Party is to provide **a forum for discussion** and exchange of views and experience on information and information needs related to health and the environment.

The Working Party shall contribute to the compilation and development of **a sustainable health monitoring system** in the field of health and environment, to the collection, the sharing and diffusion of health and environment related data.

In developing its activities, the Working Party will advise on the contribution of the health information system towards the creation of a European Integrated Environment and Health Monitoring and Response System<sup>1</sup> and to the Environment and Health Information System to be created within the framework of WHO. It will take account of and co-ordinate with relevant work of the European Environment Agency (EEA).

In its activity field (defined on point 2) the Working Party shall:

- a) Contribute health and environment **indicators** to the short list of European health indicators.
- b) **Co-ordinate** in this respect **with other priority areas** of the information and knowledge system.
- c) Advise on the implementation of the EU environment and health strategy
- d) Provide information input on policy and programme development in environment and health field.
- e) Contribute to the preparation of the **annual work plans** of the Public Health Programme 2003-2008.
- f) Examine relevant links to **other Community policies** and co-ordinate its own activities with those of related European and International Institutions and Organisations, such as the WHO, the Council of Europe, OECD, etc
- g) Advise on strategies for the diffusion of Member States' **best practices** regarding the relationship between health and environmental factors.

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<sup>1</sup> Cf the Commission's Communication on A European Environment and Health Strategy, COM (2003) 338 final of 11.6.2003

## 2. Scope

The activity field of this Working Party encompasses all the aspects of the relationship between health and environmental factors for **information and knowledge** aspects.

## 3. Duration and members

The Health and Environment Working Party is established for the duration of the Public Health Programme 2003-2008.

Members of the Health and Environment Working Party are contract holders in the area of health and environment information, and competent stakeholders in the field of health and environment such as International Organisations and NGOs.

The Commission services and the members shall agree to nominate among the participants a Working Party Leader and a Deputy.

Relevant Commission services and the European Environment Agency will be represented.

The Network of Competent Authorities in Health Information shall be informed of the participants of this working party.

## 4. Co-ordination with the Health and Environment Working Party Secretariat

The Working Party could be assisted by a secretariat. The Working Party shall provide regular updates to the Secretariat on its activities and take into account the suggestions offered by the Secretariat regarding priority actions.

## 5. Tasks

The tasks are closely related to the purpose of the Working Party, in its activity field.

- a. To contribute to the compilation and development of a sustainable health monitoring system, to the collection, sharing and diffusion of health and environment data;
- b. To participate in identifying health and environment indicators and to develop them further;
- c. To co-ordinate with other priority areas of the information and knowledge system;
- d. To contribute to the preparation of the annual work plans;
- e. To evaluate and diffuse national 'best practices', in the field of knowledge and diffusion;
- f. To examine the possibilities of common evidence-based actions;
- g. To examine links to relevant work in other Community policies;

The Health and Environment Working Party shall meet twice per year in Luxembourg. Exceptional meeting can be called by the Commission services as needed.