

Health Effects of Climate Change

Forthcoming European Commission Communication

Working Party on Health and Environment

24 May 2007

Objective

- To set out a coherent approach to address health effects of climate change-related phenomena and bring EU added value to problems of common concern

Scope

■ Human health:

- Heat waves
- Floods
- Cold spells
- Air-borne allergens and air pollution-related effects
- Ultraviolet Radiations (UVR)
- Vector-borne diseases
- Water-borne, food-borne and zoonotic diseases

■ Animal health:

- Vector-borne and other infectious diseases

Actions and Measures: Initial Thoughts

- Adaptation as key response strategy: Commission-Member States dialogue to be launched;
- Update/amend relevant EU veterinary measures, and adapt existing EU human public health legal framework, where needed;
- Make use of health systems and veterinary services, and involve private practitioners;
- Strengthen cooperation with international organisations;
- Ensure effective communication between the Commission, the national authorities and the public;
- Identify needs for further analysis and research.

Foreseen Timeline

- June 2007: Initiate Intra-Commission discussions
- Autumn 2007: stakeholder consultation
- End 2007: Impact Assessment
- First quarter 2008: Adoption of Communication

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