



European Union Health Policy Forum

The EU Health Policy Forum Resolution

**on the Implementation
of the EU Health Strategy**

**January 2009
Brussels**

The EU Health Policy Forum Resolution

The EU Health Policy Forum,

- A. Recognizing the adoption of *Together for Health* COM (2007) 630 as an important strategic development for health policy development at EU level;
- B. Noting the decision of the Employment, Social affairs, Health and Consumer Policy Council on 10 June 2008 to use a reformulation of the Working Party on Public Health convened at a senior level as its responsible coordinating body with respect to *Together for Health*, and not to create a new body;
- C. Considering the view of the European Parliament A6-0350 2008;
- D. Taking into account the opinions of the Committee of the Regions and Economic and Social Council;

Resolves that it

- 1. Welcomes the adoption of *Together for Health* as a long awaited strategic approach for European Union actions across all policy competences to protect and promote health;
- 2. Reiterates its call on all EU institutions to act to implement the provisions of TEU Article 152;
- 3. In particular welcomes confirmation of the importance of the role of wider stakeholder organisations as set out in *Together for Health* Principle 3: "*Health in all policies (HIAP) is also about involving new partners in health policy. The Commission will develop partnerships to promote goals of the Strategy, including with NGOs, industry, academia and the media*";
- 4. Believes the delivery of the objectives of *Together for Health* will not be possible without improved partnerships with stakeholders such as civil society bodies;
- 5. Considers that the establishment of the EU Health Policy Forum is an important step towards better cooperation of such bodies;
- 6. Urges member organisations to work constructively to contribute to the aims and objectives of *Together for Health*; encourages other stakeholder organisations to support this approach and to work collaboratively to help develop effective health approaches across the EU and in all its policies and programmes; and to help to raise awareness and increase engagement in health protection and promotion among EU citizens and beyond;
- 7. Welcomes the growing engagement of member states in EU health policy development via the Health Action Programme, the High Level Group on Health Systems and other bodies, and welcomes their involvement of consultations with expert and civil society bodies during their deliberations;

8. Expresses concern that the initial arrangements for involvement of regional bodies, expert and civil society organisations - as set out in the Council annex to the annex of 9639/08 "*experts may be invited to attend on an ad hoc basis for discussion of specific items according to Council rules*" – is not sufficient for good governance or to achieve the objectives of *Together for Health*.
9. Calls on The Employment, Social Affairs, Health & Consumer Council to act transparently in taking forward *Together for Health*, and to ensure the fullest possible involvement of stakeholder organisations in its consultative and deliberative processes including the Working Party on Public Health.
10. Requests successive Presidencies acting in Council to monitor and review the process for involving and consulting stakeholder bodies, specifically regional health organisations and the EU Health Policy Forum as the established collective body of representative pan European health organisations;
11. Recommends that such a review is published by the end of 2009 and implemented during 2010 so that stakeholder engagement can be effective through the remaining period to 2013;
12. Encourages the European Commission to take up the Council provision that it "*welcomes the EC to come to Council with well coordinated positions covering all health relevant policies*" and believes strongly that this necessarily includes fair prior consultation with the EUHPF and others;
13. Foresees an important role for the European Parliament in scrutinizing effective development of *Together for Health*, welcomes its participation in the EUHPF, and urges the newly mandated Parliament to review its procedures for engaging fully in taking forward health across all policies from 2009.
14. Asks the EUHPF secretariat to communicate this to the appropriate bodies of the European Council, Commission, Parliament, Committee of the Regions, Economic & Social Committee and member organisations, to work with them to achieve its objectives and to report back to the EUHPF before the end of 2009.

This resolution was adopted on 21 January 2009 in Brussels.

The EU Health Forum consists of the following member organisations:

Aids Action Europe (AAE)
Assembly of European regions (AER)
Association Internationale de la Mutualité (AIM)
Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)
Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER)
Association of the European Self-Medication Industry (AESGP)
Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs (BEUC)
Council of European Dentists (CED)
EUCOMED
EuroHealthNet
European Aids Treatment Group (EATG)
European Alcohol Policy Alliance (EUROCARE)
European Breast Cancer Coalition (EUROPA DONNA)
European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC)
European Committee for Homeopathy (ECH)
European Disability Forum (EDF)
European Federation of Allergy and Airways Disease Patients (EFA)
European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN)
European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA)
European Federation of Public Services Unions (EPSU)
European Generic Medicines Association (EGA)
European Genetic Alliances' Network (EGAN)
European Health Management Association (EHMA)
European Health Telematics Association (EHTEL)
European Heart Network (EHN)
European Hospital and Healthcare Federation (HOPE)
European Midwives Association (EMA)
European Network for Smoking Prevention (ENSP)
European Older People's Platform (AGE)
European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS)
European Patients' Forum (EPF)
European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)
European Public Health Association (EUPHA)
European Region of World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT)
European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP)
European Society for Mental Health and Deafness (ESMHD)
European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS)
European Union of Private Hospitals (UEHP)
European's Older People's Platform (AGE)
European Youth Forum – Youth Forum Jeunesse (YFJ)
Global Alliance of Mental Illness Advocacy Networks (GAMIAN EUROPE)
Groupement International de la Répartition Pharmaceutique (GIRP)
Health Action International Europe (HAI Europe)
International Alliance of Patient's Organisations (IAPO)
International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPFEN)
International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE)
Mental Health Europe – Santé Mentale Europe (MHE-SME)
Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU)
Red Cross - European Union Office
Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)