FOREWORD

Action on mental health in the European context is important because of the vital contribution made by mental health to the well-being of nations, and to their social, human and economic capital. Thanks to recent European developments, including the Amsterdam Treaty, the Council resolution on the promotion of mental health, and the new Public Health Framework, such action is now possible. This report, *Public Health Approach on Mental Health in Europe* is the response to a request by the European Commission to set out the main elements of public health action on mental health. Part I of the report, *Public Health Action Framework on Mental Health*, sets out the main broad elements of public health action on mental health and Part II, *Mental Health Matters: Relevant Background Information*, presents essential background information, outlines the key concepts and describes specific interventions.

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The other principal outcome of the project was the high-level (EU Presidency) European Conference on Promotion of Mental Health and Social Inclusion (held in Tampere, Finland, in October 1999). It was this conference that resulted in the Council resolution on the promotion of mental health (18 November 1999) mentioned above. The agendas of subsequent EU Presidencies (Portugal, France, and Sweden) have also given prominence to mental health. I warmly thank all members of the boards and committees who participated in the planning and implementation of this event and thus contributed to its success.

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The intended audience of the report, as commissioned by the EC, consists of officials of the European Commission and the Council of the European Union, members of the European Parliament, representatives of national governments of the EU Member States and Candidate Countries, and any other interested organisations and individuals.

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