

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 16.11.2015
C(2015) 6698 final*

*The Lord Boswell of Aynho
Chairman of the European
Union Select Committee
House of Lords
Palace of Westminster
UK – LONDON SW1A 0PW*

Dear Chairman,

The Commission would like to thank the House of Lords for its second Opinion on a new EU Alcohol Strategy.

In addition to the Commission's response of 29 May to the House of Lords' first Opinion, the Commission would like to assure the House of Lords that it intends to find the best way to help Member States in reducing alcohol-related harm and addressing the reasons that lead to alcohol misuse. The Commission is currently examining options for action to support national authorities in this regard.

The Commission has taken full note of the the European Parliament's Resolution calling for a new Alcohol Strategy, as well as the calls for reinforced EU action to address alcohol related harm, which your Opinion refers to.

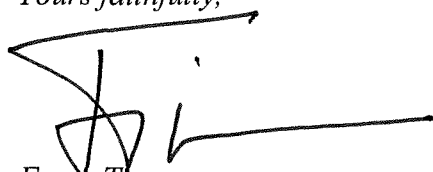
In addition, the Commission would like to recall that it pursues a 'health in all policies' approach and seeks to ensure that alcohol related harm is taken into account in all Union policies and activities. For example, the public consultation for the envisaged revision of Directive 2010/13/EU on Audiovisual Media Services¹ addresses alcohol advertising.

¹ Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive), Official Journal of the European Union, L95, 15 4 2010, pp. 1-21.

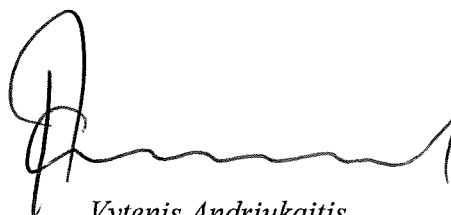
Regarding the European Alcohol and Health Forum, the Commission intends to continue to provide a platform for stakeholders that are willing to commit to take action aimed at reducing alcohol related harm. In this context, the Commission is discussing the best way of continuing co-operation on tackling alcohol-related harm with the NGOs referred to in the Opinion. In addition, the recently renewed EU Health Policy Forum provides another platform for health NGOs, including those working on alcohol related harm, to interact with the Commission.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the House of Lords and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'F' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, looped initial 'V' followed by a long, wavy horizontal line.

*Vytenis Andriukaitis
Member of the Commission*