

# **European Alcohol and Health Forum**

## **Task Force on Youth-Specific aspects of Alcohol**

### **Mandate, Rules of Procedure and Work Plan**

#### ***I. Basis***

The Task Force on Youth-Specific aspects of Alcohol has been established by the Charter of the European Alcohol and Health Forum, which was launched on 7 June 2007. The overall objective of the Forum is to provide a common platform for all interested stakeholders at EU level that pledge to step up actions relevant to reducing alcohol-related harm, notably in the following areas:

- strategies aimed at curbing under-age drinking;
- information and education programmes on the effect of harmful drinking and on responsible patterns of consumption;
- possible development of efficient common approaches throughout the Community to provide adequate consumer information;
- actions to better enforce age limits for selling and serving alcohol;
- interventions promoting effective behavioural change among children and adolescents;
- cooperation to promote responsibility in and prevent irresponsible commercial communication and sales.

#### ***II. Rationale***

Protecting young people, children and the unborn child is the main priority identified in the Commission's Communication on an EU strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol related harm (COM(2006) 625 final). Young people in the EU are particularly at risk from alcohol. Independent of longer term health burdens, over 10% of female mortality and around 25% of male mortality in the 15–29 age group (road traffic accidents, homicide, violence, suicides...) is related to hazardous alcohol consumption. According to the latest Eurobarometer survey, more than half of the respondents in the 15-24 age group (53%) report binge-drinking (more than 5 drinks on a single occasion) at least once a month.

#### ***III. Composition***

In order to ensure an effective functioning of the Task Force, the Charter of the European Alcohol and Health Forum provides that a maximum of 20 members are to be appointed, with no more than one member from each of the organisations represented on the Forum. A balanced representation of the different stakeholders is to be ensured, with particular emphasis on representatives of youth and family organisations. Task Force and Forum members do not have to be the same persons.

The members of the Task Force were appointed by the Chair of the Forum, following a call for expressions of interest among the Forum members and after consultation of the Forum at its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of 17 October 2007.

The list of Task Force members is attached to the present document. Membership of the Task Force should be flexible to allow members to be replaced by other representatives of the same organisation, should the member be unable to attend. However, it is expected that the

appointed members participate on a regular basis, in order to guarantee a smooth contribution to the Task Force's functioning.

#### ***IV. Organisational aspects***

The working methods of the Task Force will evolve over time, in the light of practical experience.

##### **a) Frequency of meetings**

The Task Force will meet at least two times annually; additional meetings can be convened when the need arises. The Task Force will end its operation upon a decision by the Chair of the European Alcohol and Health Forum, after consultation of the Forum.

##### **b) Convening meetings**

The meetings of the Task Force will be convened by the Chair of the European Alcohol and Health Forum. As a rule, meeting invitations shall be sent out at least four weeks before the date of the meeting, together with a draft agenda and all relevant meeting documents.

Joint meetings of the Task Force with other committees or groups may be convened to discuss issues coming within their respective areas of responsibility.

##### **c) Chair**

The meetings of the Task Force shall be chaired by the Commission services. The Commission services are responsible for presenting reports summarising the conclusions of the discussions in the Task Force to the Forum plenary meetings.

##### **d) Meeting documents**

The agenda, documents tabled and results of the meetings will be available to the public and posted on the Commission's websites<sup>1</sup>. The Commission services will aim at making a summary report of the meetings available within two weeks after the meeting. This summary report shall be drawn up under the auspices of the Chair. With regard to Task Force members, experts and observers, the Chatham House Rule will be applied in the drafting of the summary reports.

##### **e) Working language**

The working language of the meetings of the Task Force is English. All documents established for the meetings, and all communication between the Commission services and the Task Force members, will be in English.

##### **f) Place of meetings**

The meetings of the Task Force will normally take place in Luxembourg or Brussels.

##### **g) Format of meetings**

The meetings will be convened for half days or entire days, depending on the scope of the agenda. The meetings will be organized in a format that allows active participation of all Task Force members, and an open exchange of views. Workshops can be organized on topics that are of particular interest to the Task Force.

##### **h) External participation**

The meetings of the Task Force will normally be attended by the Task Force members and the Commission services only. Membership of the Task Force should however be flexible to

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/alcohol/Forum/alcohol\\_forum\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/alcohol/Forum/alcohol_forum_en.htm)

allow members of the Task Force to be accompanied by experts belonging to the same organisation, depending on the subjects under discussion in the Task Force. Furthermore, external experts may be invited, by Task Force members or by the Commission services, to participate in the meetings of the Task Force on an ad-hoc basis for specific issues, in order to bring additional elements to the discussion. Task Force members cannot be accompanied by more than one expert at a time.

Invitations of accompanying or external experts are subject to the agreement of the Chair of the Task Force. The Chair should be informed at the latest two weeks before the date of the meeting of suggestions for accompanying or external experts.

i) Observers

As agreed at the first meeting of the European Alcohol and Health Forum, observers may participate in the meetings of the Task Force.

j) Communication between members (e-platform etc.)

The Commission services will look into the possibilities to provide a security enabled platform for communication between the Commission services and Task Force members. Until such a system is established, communication will take place via e-mail.

k) Reimbursement of expenses

Subject to budget availability, the usual Commission rules on the reimbursement of expenses will apply for non-industry members of the Task Force, and for observers eligible for reimbursement.

## ***V. Priority areas and sub-themes***

As outlined in Annex 4 of the Charter of the European Alcohol and Health Forum, the broad objectives of the Task Force are

- to examine trends and drivers in drinking habits of young people and of the alcohol-related harm they suffer;
- to examine approaches that have a potential to reduce the alcohol-related harm suffered by young people, and in particular strategies aimed at curbing under-age drinking and drink-driving by young people, actions aimed at promoting responsible selling and serving, and interventions aimed at educating and empowering young people;
- to make any appropriate recommendations to the Forum.

The experience of young people themselves should be duly considered by the Task Force when carrying out these tasks.

In order to advance towards the formulation of recommendations to the Forum as outlined above, it is suggested that the Task Force focuses on identifying actions which have a potential for

- curbing under-age drinking;
- curbing drink-driving by young people;
- educating and empowering young people on alcohol issues;
- promoting responsible selling and serving of alcohol for young people;
- protecting young people from the consequences of alcohol abuse by others.

## ***VI. Initial planning of activities***

In line with the above objectives, it is suggested that the Task Force organises after its initial meeting a workshop which could present examples of good practice in the above areas, preceded by presentations of studies on trends and drivers in the drinking habits of young people.

It is also suggested that either at this workshop, or at subsequent meeting of the Task Force, representatives of young people should be consulted on the good practice identified, and on recommendations made.

The conclusions of the workshop should be translated into practical recommendations for action by Forum members at the second meeting of the Task Force, so that a first set of draft recommendations can be presented to the Forum plenary meeting after the second meeting of the Task Force.

Subsequent meetings of the Task Force would then be dedicated to either refining the first set of recommendations (in the light of comments received from the Forum, or from the Science Group), or to broaden these recommendations to areas within the Task Force's mandate that were not covered by the first set of recommendations.

This initial planning of activities may evolve over time, in the light of practical experience.

**Annex:** list of Task Force members

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**EUROPEAN ALCOHOL and HEALTH FORUM**

**TASK FORCE YOUTH-SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF ALCOHOL**

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)	
▪ <i>Ulster Cancer Foundation</i>	Mr. <a href="#">Gerry MC ELWEE</a>
Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins (CEEV)	Ms. <a href="#">Aurora ABAD</a>
EUROCARE	Ms. <a href="#">Nathalie Rodriguez MC CULLOUGH</a>
	Mr. <a href="#">João SALVIANO CARMO</a>
▪ <i>Alcohol Action Ireland</i>	Ms. <a href="#">Mary CUNNINGHAM</a>
▪ <i>Estonian Temperance Union</i>	Mr. <a href="#">Lauri BEEKMANN</a>
▪ <i>IOGT-NTO</i>	Mr. <a href="#">Robert DAMBERG</a>
EUROCOMMERCE	
▪ <i>British Retail Consortium</i>	Mr. <a href="#">Nick GRANT</a>
European Forum for Responsible Drinking (EFRD)	Mrs. <a href="#">Gaye PEDLOW</a>
European Mutual Help Network for individuals and families with Alcohol Related Problems (EMNA)	Mr. <a href="#">Adri HULSHOFF</a>
European Public Health Alliance	Prof. <a href="#">Mark BELLIS</a>
European Transport Safety Council (ETSC)	Mr. <a href="#">Timmo JANITZEK</a>
European Youth Forum	Ms. <a href="#">Ines PRAINSACK</a>
Institut de Recherches Scientifiques sur les boissons alcoolisées (IREB)	Mrs. <a href="#">Nicole LEYMARIE</a>
ReLeaf (European Young Person's Network for Drug and Alcohol Health promotion)	Ms. <a href="#">Mia MYLLYMAKI</a>
Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)	Dr. <a href="#">Michael WILKS</a>
The Brewers of Europe	Mrs. <a href="#">Anett WIINGAARD</a>
The European Spirits Organisation (CEPS)	Mr. <a href="#">Jamie FORTESCUE</a>
▪ <i>Bacardi Martin</i>	Mr. <a href="#">Chris SEARLE</a>
▪ <i>Brown-Forman</i>	Ms. <a href="#">Elizabeth CROSSICK</a>

OBSERVERS	MEMBER
Bulgaria - Ministry of Health	Mrs. <a href="#">Vilia VELIKOVA</a>
Czech Republic - Ministry of Health	Ms. <a href="#">Hana SOVINOVA</a>
The International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV)	Dr. <a href="#">Jean Claude RUF</a>
The World Health Organization (Headquarters and the Regional Office for Europe)	Ms. <a href="#">Maria RENSTROM</a>