



**COUNCIL OF  
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Subject : Council conclusions on a Community Mental Health Action  
– Outcome of proceedings

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The Council conclusions annexed hereto were adopted at the EPSCO Council on 3 June 2005.

**COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS**  
**on a Community Mental Health Action**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

1. RECALLING the Council Resolution of 18 November 1999 on the promotion of mental health <sup>1</sup>, which, *inter alia*, invited the Commission to consider incorporating activities on the theme of mental health in future action programmes for public health,
2. RECALLING the Council Resolution of 29 June 2000 on action on health determinants <sup>2</sup>,
3. RECALLING the Council Conclusions of 5 June 2001 on a Community strategy to reduce alcohol-related harm <sup>3</sup> which, *inter alia*, underlined the close link between alcohol abuse, social exclusion and mental illness,
4. RECALLING the Council Conclusions of 15 November 2001 on combating stress and depression-related problems <sup>4</sup>, which, *inter alia*, invited Member States to take actions to improve knowledge on the promotion of mental health in primary care and other health services as well as in social services,
5. RECALLING the Council Conclusions of 2 June 2003 on combating stigma and discrimination in relation to mental illness <sup>5</sup> which, *inter alia*, invited the Member States to give specific attention to the impact of stigma and discrimination related problems due to mental illness in all age groups, and ensure that these problems are recognised, giving special attention to the reduction of risks of social exclusion,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 86, 24.3.2000, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 218, 31.7.2000, p. 8.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 175, 20.6.2001, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 6, 9.1.2002, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> OJ C 141, 17.6.2003, p. 1.

6. RECALLING the Council Conclusions of 2 June 2004 on alcohol harm reduction and young people which underlined that the burden of alcohol related avoidable death and suffering, in particular among young people, has become a common concern and that cooperation and coordination at Community level is needed,
7. RECALLING that the programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008) <sup>1</sup> is intended to contribute, *inter alia*, to ensuring a high level of human health protection in the definition and implementation of all Community policies and activities, through the promotion of an integrated and intersectoral health strategy, and to tackling inequalities in health and in mental health,
8. WELCOMES the outcome of the World Health Organisation European Ministerial Conference on Mental health Facing the Challenges, Building Solutions' held in Helsinki from 12 to 15 January 2005, which highlighted the importance of setting up an agenda and implementing an action plan for the Member States for the next five to ten years in the field of mental health, with a specific view on enhancing people's well-being and functioning by focusing on their strengths and resources, reinforcing resilience and enhancing protective external factors,
9. WELCOMES the declaration and the Action Plan of the Conference endorsed by ministers of health of the Member States of the World Health Organisation European Region in response to the challenges of the next five to ten years to develop, implement and evaluate policies and legislation that will deliver mental health activities capable of improving the well-being of the whole population,
10. RECOGNISES the important links between actions on mental health and the Communication of the Commission on the social agenda <sup>2</sup> especially in the direction of promoting a strategic approach to combating discrimination as well as on promoting equality between men and women,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 271, 9.10.2002, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> COM (2005) 33 final, 9.2.2005.

11. UNDERLINES the necessity of a wider recognition of the far-reaching social, economic and structural elements embedded in mental health, contributing significantly to the social capital of nations, as well as the need for searching for synergies between the Action plan and the results of the projects funded from the present and future Public Health Programmes of the Community,
12. REITERATES that there is a need to enhance the visibility and public awareness of, on the one hand, the importance of mental health to everybody and, on the other hand, the specific role and benefits to be gained by designing and implementing valid and comprehensive mental health policies,
13. CONSIDERS that mental health needs to be further developed as an integral element of the present and the next health strategy of the Community,
14. WELCOMES the Commission's intention to present in summer 2005 a Green paper on mental health, proposing options for action at Community level and in Member States in the fields of mental health information, mental health promotion and mental disorder prevention with a view to establishing an agreed framework for action and monitoring.

INVITES the Member States to:

- give due attention, according to their respective needs, to the implementation of the Declaration and Action Plan endorsed by the World Health Organisation European Ministerial Conference on Mental Health, while recognising the necessary long-term perspective of implementing appropriate actions;
- undertake action to collect good quality and comparable data on mental health, and on the economic and social consequences of common mental health problems, using the Community Public Health programme as appropriate;

- undertake action to design and implement comprehensive, integrated and efficient mental health systems that cover promotion and prevention together with treatment and rehabilitation, care and recovery, as emphasised in the Declaration adopted by the World Health Organisation European Ministerial Conference on Mental Health;
- further develop appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms which allow for reasonable and reliable comparisons of the mental health status and of promotion and prevention practices within and between Member States;
- consider the optimal use of relevant funding instruments, such as Structural Funds, PHARE, and Twinning programmes, which can cover specific needs and challenges in the field of mental health.

INVITES the Commission to:

- support the implementation of the Declaration and Action plan endorsed by the World Health Organisation European Ministerial Conference on Mental Health, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation and other relevant international organisations;
- ensure that integrated impact assessment of future relevant Community legislation takes account of mental health aspects;
- emphasise the strong links between mental and physical health and drug and alcohol abuse;
- pay particular attention to vulnerable life stages, with a special focus on infants, children and young people as well as on the elderly, in its activities on mental health.

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