



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Public health  
Health determinants

## COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ALCHOL POLICY AND ACTION (CNAPA)

### 15th Meeting

Luxembourg, 7-8 October 2014

### Summary Report

The meeting was chaired by **Philippe Roux**, Head of the Health Determinants Unit, DG Health and Food Safety.

#### 1. Welcome and introduction

- The Chair welcomed the participants. The agenda was approved without changes.
- The Commission informed about the changes in the DG SANTE portfolio, following the election of the Mr Juncker as President of the College. DG Health and Consumer will become DG Health and Food Safety (SANTE), as the consumer portfolio will be moved to DG Justice.
- The Chair informed CNAPA on the latest developments in the file of alcohol related harm. The European Alcohol and Health Forum established a Working Group on Governance and Commitments. The Working Group has had two meetings so far, discussing e.g. how to better comply with the principles of the Charter.
- A workshop on behaviour change interventions will be organised together with DG Joint Research Centre (JRC) for the Member States on 9-10 December. An official invitation was sent out mid-October. The Chair highlighted that in the future DG SANTE will involve DG JRC more in the work on alcohol related harm including e.g. in CNAPA meetings by giving updates on scientific issues, etc.
- The Commission presented the concept of an upcoming pilot project on health inequalities, covering different policy areas such as harmful alcohol consumption and healthy diet and physical activity as a horizontal concern. Concerning alcohol related harm, the project would interact with the Joint Action to Reduce Alcohol Related Harm.
- The Member States welcomed the initiative and underlined the need for further information. They also recalled that health inequalities are already included in the Joint Action.

- The Commission also suggested including the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) in the list of CNAPA observers, which the CNAPA agreed on.

## **2. CNAPA Scoping Paper**

- The Chair appreciated the work of the writing group and recalled that the paper organises Member States' recommendations for the future of the EU alcohol policy.
- The writing group introduced their work and the several comments and suggestions received from Member States. The writing group recalled that the text needs to be short and comprehensive.
- CNAPA discussed several issues:
  - The structure of the scoping paper;
  - The role of CNAPA;
  - The need for clear EU added value especially on cross-border issues;
  - Possible structural approaches of a new strategy;
  - The relation to the work done under WHO, including the European action plan to reduce the harmful use of alcohol 2012–2020.
- A time line was agreed upon, leaving CNAPA members 14 days to comment on the executive summary of the paper and envisaging the approval of the scoping paper by 8 December.

## **3. The Joint Action on Reducing Alcohol Related Harm**

- The coordinator informed about the coming steps, including an expert meeting on the coordination of the Joint Action on 4 November, the Management Group meeting on 5 November and a Joint Action roundtable during the 6<sup>th</sup> European Alcohol Policy Conference on 27-28 November.
- The launch of a RARHA website (<http://www.rarha.eu/Pages/default.aspx>) as well as a newsletter has been announced.

## **4. The Action Plan on Youth Drinking and on Heavy Episodic Drinking**

- The Chair congratulated the Committee on the endorsement of the Action Plan on Youth Drinking and on Heavy Episodic drinking.
- The main topic for discussion was monitoring/reporting on the Action Plan. The Commission will facilitate the monitoring/reporting in cooperation with WHO to use already existing indicators and reporting mechanisms as far as possible to avoid unnecessary additional reporting burden.
- The Commission will present a suggestion for monitoring/reporting to the CNAPA members at the next meeting.

#### **4. CNAPA Work Plan**

- To facilitate meeting organisation and preparation and ensure a proper follow up of the implementation of the Action Plan, the Commission presented a draft two-year CNAPA Work Plan.
- The Chair stressed that such a plan will not be considered as a strictly set agenda. On the contrary, it can and will be adapted to recent developments and topics that need to be addressed based on the input from the Commission and Member States. At the same time it will provide predictability and an overall view in advance of CNAPA's planned work.
- Information from the Commission, developments in Member States and updates on EU projects will be on the agenda for all meetings.
- CNAPA supported the idea of a work plan. Members were invited to send comments to the Work Plan by 30 November. The Commission will present an updated version of the Work Plan in the next meeting based on the input from the members.

#### **5. Control of On-Premises sale**

- Björn Trolldal from the Swedish Council for Information on Alcohol and Other Drugs presented the community action Responsibility Beverage Service program in Swedish municipalities.
- The purpose of the programme is to reduce violence and alcohol related injuries by reducing the serving of alcohol to persons who are noticeably under the influence of alcohol or under-aged.
- There are three main components to the programme; education of restaurant employees, co-operation (steering group consisting of representatives from the municipality, the police department and owners of license premises) and structured supervision of licensed premises.

#### **6. OECD work on alcohol policies; Results and future developments**

- Franco Sassi from the OECD presented some key findings of their work, co-funded by the Commission, aimed at assessing different alcohol policy options, their impact on health expenditure and their cost-effectiveness in two EU countries. The report will be published in the first half of 2015.
- OECD also informed about a new OECD project started in May 2014 - in cooperation with WHO and RAND, and funded by the US National Institutes of Health, which involves the development of an international alcohol policy decision support platform.

#### **7. Final results of the project European Workplace and Alcohol (EWA)**

- Lidia Segura from the Department of Health of the Government of Catalonia, Associated Partner of the project, presented the final results of the project.
- The project has resulted in a good practice review report, an analysis report of pilot interventions, a cross-cultural toolkit to support workplace-based interventions and policy recommendations for European, national and company's policy-makers.

- Among the conclusions, the project found that alcohol consumption has a very negative impact on work, that there is a huge variation across Europe both in relation to content and level of development of alcohol preventive interventions and that these interventions are generally well received and valued by both employers and employees.

## **8. Developments in Member States**

- Manuel Cardoso from Portugal informed about the Portuguese Plan for the Reduction of Addictive Behaviours and Dependences 2013-2020.
- For alcohol, the goals of the plan includes to increase the risk perception for health, to decrease the prevalence of binge drinking patterns, to reduce the standardized mortality rate for diseases attributed to alcohol and to decrease the number of casualties in road accidents related with alcohol consumption.
- Leda Christodoulou from Cyprus informed about the National Strategy on illicit substance dependence and the harmful use of alcohol 2013-2020 and the Action Plan 2013-2016.
- The Action Plan consists of a harm reduction pillar with the goal to reduce drink driving incidents and a supply controls and a regulations pillar among other aiming at reducing accessibility and availability of alcohol among vulnerable groups.

## **9. Conclusions and ways forward**

- The Commission welcomes suggestions for the pilot project on health inequalities as a horizontal concern with a focus on healthy lifestyles, and will keep the Member States informed if and when the project will start.
- For the Scoping paper, members were invited by the writing group to send comments on the summary by 17 October. By 10 November a new version will be sent to CNAPA members, with deadline for comments 21 November. The document should be approved by silent procedure by the end of the year.
- The implementation of the Action Plan will have to start in the Member States. The Commission will present a suggestion for monitoring in cooperation with WHO in the next meeting.
- Members are invited to send comments to the draft CNAPA Work Plan by 30 November. An updated version will be presented at the next CNAPA meeting.
- For the next CNAPA meeting the Commission will give a presentation on the procedures for cooperation with the Member States and the Council, including the Working Group on Public Health.
- EMCDDA will be invited to be observers of the CNAPA.
- The date of the next CNAPA meeting will be set at a later stage.

Luxembourg, 30 October 2014