



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Public health  
Health determinants

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

### 14th Meeting

Luxembourg 17-18 June 2014

### Summary Report

The meeting was chaired by **Philippe Roux**, Head of the Health Determinants Unit, DG Health & Consumers.

#### 1. Welcome and introduction

- The Chair welcomed the participants. The agenda was approved.
- CNAPA members pointed out that it has not been customary to present Forum commitments in CNAPA. It was considered useful to invite in particular other DGs to give presentations in CNAPA meetings in the future and, as regards commitments under the EAHF, to give appropriate attention also to the work by NGOs.
- Following the Chair's proposal, CNAPA agreed for the future to have one-and-half day meetings: they will normally start afternoon of the first day and continue with a full day session on the second day.
- The Chair informed CNAPA on the latest developments in the alcohol file. The upcoming launch of the study on the exposure of minors to alcohol advertising on linear and non-linear audio-visual media services and other online services, the publication of the new Health Programme on 26 May and the deadline for application for funding by late September.
- The Chair also highlighted that the study report on “State of play in the use of alcoholic beverage labels to inform consumers about health aspects” is about to be published. The report will be informative in terms of best practices and recommendations for the alcohol related work at national level.

#### 2. The Action Plan on Youth Drinking and on Heavy Episodic Drinking

- The Chair acknowledged MS contribution to further develop the Action Plan and reminded that the Action Plan is a non-paper providing reference for implementing actions by Member States on a voluntary basis.

- Options for completing the Action Plan on Youth Drinking and on Heavy Episodic Drinking were presented, discussed and agreed. DK and SE proposed to send jointly a limited number of actions to be added referring to children in families with alcohol problems, otherwise the text was stabilised.
- CNAPA agreed to refer matters such as the functioning of the Forum to the scoping paper and to focus on the concrete actions in the Action Plan.
- CNAPA unanimously agreed to address the role of the Forum in a specific paragraph in providing guidance in particular on the type of actions that could be helpful in support to the Action Plan.
- The Chair concluded that the consolidated version taking into account the last comments made in the meeting and the DK/SE contribution will be sent to CNAPA by 24 June. The endorsement of the final version is foreseen by 15 September 2014 in written (silent) procedure or - if still open issues would be - in the next CNAPA meeting (planned for 7-8 October).

### **3. Scoping paper**

- The Chair appreciated the work of the drafting group and recognised that the paper focuses on MS recommendations for the future of the EU alcohol policy in the form of a new alcohol strategy. He suggested that it should include realistic and tangible goals.
- He also reminded that a possible impact assessment of the future EU alcohol policy would have to take all possibilities into account, including at least the options of having no strategy, keeping the 2006 strategy, to revitalise the 2006 strategy or to choose a completely new approach. This should be kept in mind when writing the scoping paper.
- The methodology, general considerations, objectives and priorities were presented by the drafting group. The significant majority of Members showed satisfaction with the work done and the way how the MS contributions were incorporated.
- Members discussed the viability of the document. Main issues discussed were:
  - the wanted objectives and goals that need to be realistic and compatible with the EU framework;
  - the strategy should be comprehensive and address areas where there is an EU added value;
  - work needs to be done on defining the role of the implementation structures of the possible new strategy, e.g. the role of CNAPA and if the Member States want the strategy followed by action plan(s);
  - the possible interest of MS (e.g. PT) for joining the drafting group.
- A timeline for the validation of the scoping paper was also discussed by the participants. It was agreed that Members will send by 2 July their immediate written comments on the version of the scoping paper presented at the meeting. The drafting group will send the revised version of the document to Members by 15 July. Members can comment on the revised version until 5 September. The scoping paper will be

further discussed and if appropriate validated in the next CNAPA meeting on 7-8 October.

#### **4. New Developments from Member States**

- UK informed of the recent developments on the minimum unit pricing on alcohol in Scotland. Most importantly, the decision of the Scottish Appeal Court to refer the case to the European Court of Justice was mentioned.

#### **5. Agenda of the High Level Meeting (originally planned for 6 October 2014)**

- The Chair informed participants that the Deputy Director General of DG SANCO had already expressed his availability to chair the meeting, in case the High Level meeting is confirmed.
- Given that the scoping paper is not likely to be ready by the planned time of the next CNAPA meeting and that the endorsement of the Action Plan is foreseen by silent procedure by 15 September, Members agreed to postpone the possible High Level Meeting for end of January next year.
- The Chair concluded that on 7-8 October a regular CNAPA meeting will be held focussing on the consolidated version of the Scoping paper and (if needed) the endorsement of the Action Plan.

#### **6. Example of a European campaign from the European Alcohol of Health Forum**

- Pernod Ricard together with Erasmus Student Network gave a presentation on their Responsible Party programme.
- Responsible Party is a programme encouraging event organisers to be “responsible drinking ambassadors”. Its main objective is to promote events where students can have fun while drinking responsibly.
- This was presented as the first Europe-wide campaign of its scale underlining its positive preliminary results. An independent organisation will evaluate the programme.

#### **7. Conclusions and ways forward**

- The Member States worked jointly on an Action Plan on Youth and on Heavy Episodic Drinking, in the frame of the 2006 EU alcohol strategy the priority themes and objectives of which are still valid.
- DK and SE will suggest actions to address children in families with alcohol problems to be added to area for action 5 of the Action Plan.
- The Commission will send the Action Plan - consolidated on the basis of discussions in the meeting and of the DK/SE contribution - to CNAPA for endorsement via

written (silent) procedure on 24 June. If no comments received until 15 September, the Action Plan is considered as endorsed by CNAPA.

- CNAPA members are invited to send their comments for the Scoping Paper to the writing group by 2 July. Based on the comments the drafting group will provide CNAPA with a revised draft by 15 July.
- The deadline to submit comments on the new draft of the Scoping Paper is 5 September.
- Next CNAPA meeting is planned for 7-8 October 2014. The meeting will focus on the discussions and possible validation of the scoping paper.

Luxembourg, 11 July 2014