



NOTE TO THE HEALTH INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Subject: Commission-WHO cooperation on health information

The European health information strategy discussion paper identified the importance of collaboration with international organisations (in particular the WHO and the OECD) in order to minimise administrative burdens of data collection.

More generally, users of health information expect answers to questions about health at European level to be consistent, regardless of the source of the information. If the Commission, the WHO and other organisations give different answers to the same question, it undermines the credibility of information from all of us.

Working together in providing a common basis of information and evidence for health policy in Europe is therefore vital to ensure both the efficiency of our work and also its effectiveness. The recent appointment of the new Regional Director of the WHO European Region provides an opportunity to review our cooperation, and we have agreed on a shared aim of strengthening our cooperation in the area of health information.

There are several areas of existing cooperation on which we can build, including:

- **shared data collection**, in particular in the area of healthcare together with the OECD;
- **collaborative analysis of health issues**, which we are strengthening through cooperation on the WHO Health Evidence Network, for example, as well as through other cooperative reports and work; and,
- **partnership in generating and disseminating health knowledge in support of policy**, such as the European Observatory on health systems and policies, of which the WHO and the Commission are now both members.

Comments and advice on areas to develop and priorities for cooperation from the Committee would be welcome.

Action for the Committee:

	For comments
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