



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Public Health  
Health Determinants

Brussels,  
EUHPF Secretariat

## **EU HEALTH POLICY FORUM**

**BRUSSELS, 25 OCTOBER 2012**

10:00 – 17:00, CENTRE ALBERT BORSCHETTE

### **MINUTES**

**CHAIR: ANDRZEJ RYS (MORNING), MARTIN SEYCHELL (AFTERNOON)**

#### **MORNING SESSION**

**CHAIR: Andrzej Rys, DG SANCO Director, Health systems and products**

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Documents: Draft agenda;  
Minutes of the EUHPF meeting on 10 May 2012;  
Provisional list of participants  
PowerPoint presentation from Ms. Paola Testori Coggi

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#### **1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OF PREVIOUS EUHPF MEETING MINUTES**

Andrzej Rys welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a brief introduction of the agenda. The agenda was approved with no changes.

The minutes of the EUHPF meeting held on 10 May 2012 were adopted with no modifications.

#### **PRESENTATION BY PAOLA TESTORI COGGI ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENT IN EU HEALTH POLICY**

Ms. Testori Coggi first touched upon Commissioner Dalli's resignation. She informed the Forum members of the future steps: Malta designated a new Commissioner for health, Mr. Tonio Borg, who will undergo a European Parliament hearing on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November. If the hearing concludes positively, Dr. Borg could potentially start as Commissioner for Health early December. At present, DG SANCO is in caretaker mode and there are no new political initiatives to be taken.

Regarding the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD), once the Commissioner is appointed the intention is to launch interservice consultation.

Ms. Testori Coggi presented current DG SANCO dossiers: first the ones “in Legislation”, including medical devices, clinical trials, and tobacco control related directives; secondly “in Cooperation”, including safety report, the health workforce Action Plan, and the Social Investment Package. (see details in PowerPoint presentation).

During the discussion, the EU alcohol strategy, the European Semester, health equity, the platform against poverty, the directive on patients’ rights in cross-border healthcare, the future of the TPD, palliative care, chronic pain and integrated healthcare were debated. Ms. Testori Coggi thanked the members who offered to contribute to and/or support DG SANCO’s initiatives.

## **I. HEALTH STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION**

- **State of play**
  - **Mr. Sylvain Giraud, DG SANCO Head of Unit Strategy and International**
  - **Questions and discussion**

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Document: PowerPoint presentation

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Mr. Sylvain Giraud gave a presentation on the state of play of the EU health strategy, addressing lessons learnt from the mid-term evaluation performed in 2011, and continued by highlighting recent and forthcoming legislative and cooperation measures adopted within the context of the health strategy (see Mr; Giraud’s presentation). He reported on a recent study conducted for DG SANCO looking at the policy process indicators.

Mr Giraud indicated that the Commission considers that the principles and objectives of the health strategy remain valid beyond 2013. Both Europe 2020 and the current health strategy provide a good basis for a coherent approach to health. The MS (in the Senior Level Working Party and /or through Council conclusions) is expected to look back and forward in relation to the strategy and in connection with the finalisation of the reflections processes in 2013. He invited the EUHPF to contribute to this reflection possibly through an opinion and suggested that the next Open Health Forum, to be held in Brussels on 9 April 2013 could also focus on the state of play/future of the strategy.

The evaluation through indicators and impact assessments of the initiatives implemented under the EU health strategy were discussed in the debate that followed the presentation.

A document presenting the strategy and how the different EU level initiatives relate to its principles and objectives was distributed by the Commission.

- **Presentation on the health programme**
  - **Ms. Donata Meroni, Deputy Head, DG SANCO Programme and Knowledge Management Unit**
  - **Questions and discussion**

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Documents: PowerPoint presentation

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Ms. Donata Meroni presented the background of the Health for Growth programme adopted in autumn 2011 and its main objectives. She underlined that it is the only European programme exclusively dedicated to health and will be part of the multi-annual financial framework 2014-2020. She shared with the audience some of the key challenges the EU is facing: an ageing population, the need to reform health systems, the burden of chronic diseases, to name just a few. She then explained the nature of the programme and gave a few points of comparison with the previous and current programmes and highlighted the focus on greater synergy between EU and national efforts. The Programme foresees participation of non-governmental organisations in projects and actions co-financed by Member States, and through operating grants, so this collaboration will be maintained.

Ms. Meroni continued with explaining the legislative process, its challenges and by providing a summary of the time line for the adoption of the programme. She concluded her presentation by stating that the EUHPF provided useful input for the Programme. She also asked stakeholders to help with further implementation and dissemination of Programme results to their respective members and targeted audiences.

- **Presidency report – Cypriot Presidency and SLWG on Health**
  - **Ms. Charitini Frenaritou, Health Attaché, Permanent delegation of Cyprus in the EU**
  - **Ms. Monika Kosinska, the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), EUHPF secretariat**
  - **Questions and discussion**

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Documents: PowerPoint presentation

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Feedback on the Senior Level Working Party (SLWP) on Health meeting on 28 September 2012 was provided by Monika Kosinska, who participated on behalf of the EUHPF secretariat. She also presented the discussions from the previous meeting of the EUHPF from 10 May and the developments over the summer period.

Ms. Charitini Frenaritou opened her presentation by briefly stating the presidency priorities, and presenting the main presidency events and preliminary outcomes. She then

also gave details about the SLWP meeting on 28 September (see PowerPoint presentation).

Ms. Frenaritou also informed the audience that the Member states support the plan to set up a joint action on chronic diseases after Member States were asked to input to the reflection process on the subject.

After highlighting the Member States' agreement on the importance of the Public Health SLWP' role in WHO, she informed the EUHPF members of the adoption of a rolling calendar for the future planning of the SLWP in relation to international health fora.

Members took up the idea of a rolling calendar and suggested that such a tool could be made available also to stakeholders.

- **Information from the Irish Presidency**
  - **Mr. Eugene Lennon, Health Counsellor of the Permanent Representation of Ireland**
  - **Questions and discussion**

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Document: PowerPoint presentation

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Eugene Lennon opened his presentation by highlighting that Ireland will take the rotation presidency on the occasion of its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EU accession being the first presidency of a new trio. He then presented the main items on the provisional programme of the trio and the overall theme of the Irish presidency: jobs and growth. Health priorities will be:

- Health and wellbeing
- Research and innovation (see PowerPoint presentation for more details)

He underlined that the new Tobacco Products Directive is a priority of the Irish presidency and of the Irish prime minister in particular.

The presidency will advance current EU legislation, and is particularly keen to progress work on the Clinical Trials proposal and the two new proposals on Medical Devices. In addition to this it will continue work on Serious Cross-Border Threats to Health, and hopes to begin work on psychoactive substances and novel foods once the proposals are published. Meetings in Council will include discussions on the Reflection Processes on Modern, Responsive & Sustainable Healthcare Systems and Chronic Diseases, and the Informal Ministerial meeting in 2013 is likely to focus on issues including patient safety, childhood obesity, children with developmental and communication disabilities/autism and the impact of the crisis on EU health systems. A conference on the Future of Brain Research in Europe, co-organised by Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn, will take place in May, as will a conference on eHealth.

During the discussion that followed, the Irish Presidency was invited to link childhood obesity to the subject of the impact of the economic crisis on health and to seek the support of stakeholders in its work. It was also suggested to enhance the cooperation with ministers of finance as the European semester concludes with an ECOFIN meeting that

could influence the state of health systems. It was noted that there may be a discussion about the impact of the economic situation on health systems during the Health Ministers Informal meeting in Dublin in March 2013.

## **II. HEALTH INFORMATION – ECHI INDICATORS AND NEXT STEPS**

- **Ms. Sigurlaug Hauksdottir, DG SANCO Health Information unit**
- **Questions and discussion**

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Document: PowerPoint presentation

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Ms. Sigurlaug Hauksdottir presented the latest news regarding ECHI (European Community Health Indicators) which provide information on the health status of the EU citizens, to serve as a basis for policy monitoring and setting. Its 88 indicators are the result of fourteen years of cooperation between the Commission and Member States and cover all aspects of health.

This set of indicators was the outcome of the ECHIM Joint Action that ended in the summer 2012. DG SANCO carries out an evaluation of the implementation of the shortlist in the Member States and to assess if they have been useful for policy setting. The results will be available end 2012 or beginning 2013. Although various indicators are now available systematic data collection by Member States has not been achieved and Member States need to indicate which data they would find useful for their policy monitoring to collect.

## AFTERNOON SESSION

**CHAIR:** Martin Seychell, Deputy Director General, DG SANCO

### III. HEALTH RESEARCH

- **Presentation by Monika Kosinska, the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), EUHPF secretariat**
- **Questions and discussion**

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Documents: PowerPoint presentation  
EUHPF position paper: “Public Health in the EU upcoming Research Programme, Horizon 2020”

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Mr. Seychell reminded EUHPF members that this point was a follow up on the October 2011 and May 2012 meetings on public health research. It had been agreed to develop a EUHPF position on health and public health research in the new research programme, Horizon 2020.

Ms. Kosinska briefly captured how the position paper had been developed by the EUHPF working group on public health and research, which met in June 2012. It had been circulated during the summer for approval by the Forum and was subsequently adopted.

She shared with the audience the main points of the position paper (see PowerPoint presentation and the position paper).

Ms. Barbara Kerstiens, from DG RTD, Head of Sector - Public Health and Health Services Research then explained that the discussion on the Horizon 2020 had started at the European Parliament and Council levels. She also mentioned that the last FP7 call was just closed and that there will not be any call in 2013, the next one should be early 2014.

During the discussion, members thanked the Commission and the Secretariat for the position paper and asked how to proceed from there and how it would be followed up. It was also underlined that the EU needs a good balance between public health and biomedical research and members hoped that DG RTD took this into account. Others insisted on the need to transfer good evidence and translate it into good practices. It was suggested to enhance the coordination between the different awardees of programmes and projects, to breakout to other sectors, for the best multi-sectorial, multi stakeholders' outcomes and to offer more programmes for research on the elderly.

Martin Seychell underlined that since it is negotiation mode, all means to push good arguments should be used. He mentioned that innovation is also about processes not only new technology and the importance of coordination to maximise synergies, for instance to use the results of the research programmes to be transplanted into the Health programme.

Martin Seychell asked the Secretariat to draft an executive summary of the position paper. On this basis, the document is considered to be adopted and will be disseminated by the Secretariat in its final form.

Following this discussion, Mr Tapani Piha Head of Unit Risk Assessment, made a brief intervention to invite members to consider participating in a call for expressions of interest in membership of an Expert Panel which will provide advice on effective ways of health reform. This Panel will work on issues such as: health planning and budget prioritisation, health services research, hospital and health care management, health care provision, and health education and promotion. He explained that DG SANCO will nominate 17 experts.

#### **IV. HEALTH AND THE CRISIS**

- **Presentation by Monika Kosinska, the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), EUHPF secretariat**
- **Questions and discussion**

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Documents: PowerPoint presentation  
EUHPF health & the crisis working group minutes

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Mr. Martin Seychell explained that following a request of some EUHPF members, a working group on health and the financial crisis had been formed. The working group met in September 2012 and suggested the EUHPF should consider giving a mandate to develop a position on the matter.

Mr. Seychell underlined that the impact of the economic crisis on health is an important and much debated topic, but the role of the Forum and its added value of the EUHPF must be define clearly prior to involving it in the debate.

Monika Kosinska reported on the working group discussion and conclusions. She provided information on the context of the reflection and reminded the audience of previous work undertaken by the Forum on this topic. She explained the European economic governance and its link to health policies in the EU. Ms. Kosinska then presented the subjects discussed by the working group (see PowerPoint presentation and working group minutes) and concluded with open questions for the next steps.

Many members participated in the discussion and agreed that the issue is of great importance and gave evidence of some of the impacts of the crisis in their fields. It was suggested that EUHPF should not only gather evidence, but also try to advise on reform measures by i.e. identifying best practice. In particular the importance of prevention, but also the role of health as a public good and economic driver should be stressed. This should help health ministers in their discussion with finance ministers, but should also feed into discussion on European level, i.e. the “Oslo II” meeting of WHO, the European Semester and EU Council formations.

Martin Seychell concluded the discussion by raising questions about the format, target group, and timeframe with the recommendation to focus on the European level. He underlined the need to collect and present evidence to take decisions and the impact of

decisions will have to be monitored. He invited the Forum to prepare a paper that would outline its positions, based on robust evidence that can be easily used.

There would be indeed three work streams. First gather and present evidence on the impact of the financial crisis. Secondly to share and exchange information amongst members, and thirdly produce targeted outputs at certain points of time, which should feed into the various decision-making processes on European level. – This would be permanent work streams for the secretariat, operating with the help of the working group for which more resources could be made available by the Commission. All opportunities should be identified and used for the Forum.

It was agreed to proceed along these lines, keeping the agenda sufficiently flexible, and to organise the next working party in the first half of 2013.

## **V. HEALTH SERVICE STANDARDS**

- **Presentation by Charles Shaw, from the European Society for Quality in Healthcare (ESQH), member of the Forum**
- **Questions and discussion**

During the May 2012 EUHPF meeting, Charles Shaw, from the European Society for Quality in Healthcare (ESQH) suggested a subject for reflection by the Forum members: developing a framework for common requirements for quality and safety of healthcare services in Europe, based on a document that had been circulated among members of the Forum.

Mr Shaw made a short presentation explaining the basis of the initiative, the points to be raised, standards such as ISO, and its objectives prior to asking Forum members if they think this subject could be taken up by the EUHPF.

During the discussions, several members expressed their concern or opposition to having European standards, such as that developed by CED for the provision of health services, in particular in relation with the respect of Member States competency.

It was therefore decided that the Forum would not take up this subject at this point in time. Forum members with an interest in developing a position on health standards are of course free to do so in other frameworks.

## **VI. EU POLICY UPDATES**

- **Proposal for a regulation on General Data Protection**
  - **Presentation by Mr Thomas Zerdick, DG JUSTICE, Data Protection Unit**
  - **Questions and discussion**

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Document: PowerPoint presentation

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Mr Thomas Zerdick, informed the audience that DG JUST is currently leading the revision process of the Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC. In January 2012 the Commission issued a proposal for a new General Data Protection Regulation. Mr. Zerdick first presented the challenges related to health data, the rationale for amending the rules, and the objectives of the policy (see PowerPoint presentation). He then mentioned the main elements of the proposed regulation.

The proposed Regulation contains among others specific articles related to the processing of health data and processing of data for research purposes (articles 81 and 83). Mr. Zerdick underlined the importance of protecting health data and information which is sensitive in nature. The regulation will be directly applicable in all Member States; however Member States' legislation will still be required in particular in the health sector. The aim is to have the regulation agreed between the European Parliament and the Council in June 2013.

During the discussion, several members sought explanations on key articles in the regulation, and in particular on the need to obtain consent when using data for health research or on the risk-assessment performed for the regulation.

- **“Ex-smokers are unstoppable” campaign**
  - **Presentation by Mr Gerhard Steffes, DG SANCO, Programme and Knowledge Management Unit**
  - **Questions and discussion**

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Document: PowerPoint presentation and film

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Gerhard Steffes opened his presentation with reminding the audience of the several tobacco campaigns run by the European Commission over the years and by underlining the scope of the challenge. He then explained the Ex-Smokers campaign, its target group (25-35 year old people), the objectives and aims, namely to encourage people to stop smoking, the means and media developed to reach these aims, and the achievements made so far (see PowerPoint presentation).

In the discussion that followed, it was mentioned that women should be a stronger focus in the anti-tobacco campaign. It will also be important to address social determinants of health and health inequality.

- **European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP on AHA)**
  - **Presentation by Ms. Maria Iglesia Gomez, DG SANCO, Innovation for Health and Consumers Unit**
  - **Questions and discussion**

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Document: PowerPoint presentation

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Ms. Iglesia Gomez opened her presentation with informing the Forum members of the present status of the EIP on AHA: the launch, in May, of Action Groups has entered its implementation phase. The process of call for commitments resulted in the EIP receiving 261 commitments from a wide variety of stakeholders willing and ready to work together to implement 6 specific actions of the EIP. The EIP has also gathered candidate Reference Sites (regions, cities, integrated hospitals or care organisations) that implement a comprehensive, innovation-based approach to active and healthy ageing. Up to now, committed partners have been working in Action Groups on developing concrete activities and deliverables.

She then presented the focus and scope of the commitments with providing some examples of activities to be undertaken. She showed a map displaying the geographic spread of the selected commitments and candidate reference sites, prior to explaining the process put in place with action groups and reference centre, to select and implement commitments. Ms. Iglesia Gomez shared with Forum members the 2012 and 2013 milestones and the plan for the future of the EIP on AHA. Activities and progress will be presented during the Conference of Interested partners scheduled on 6th of November in Brussels.

- **Public consultation on European Reference Networks (ERN)**
  - **Presentation by Mr. Enrique Terol, DG SANCO, Healthcare Systems Unit**
  - **Questions and discussion**

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Document: PowerPoint presentation

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Enrique Terol introduced the plans to hold a public consultation on European Reference Networks, in relation to the directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare. He recalled the main objective of this directive and explained the article 12 of the legislation requesting that the EU support Member States in the development of European Reference Networks, who will facilitate improvements in the diagnosis and treatment across the EU (see PowerPoint presentation). Mr. Terol then explained the role of ERN and the added-value of the EU in them, prior to explaining the milestones and timeline for deployment and implementation.

Mr Terol presented the consultation in relation to the preparation of the delegated act and listed the categories of people (including healthcare professionals, patients, etc.) which are invited to participate to the consultation. He showed where to find the online

consultation and concluded his presentation by inviting Forum members to participate when it opens, in the coming weeks.

## **VII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The next EUHPF meeting, pending confirmation should be held on 8 April 2013 in Brussels, followed on 9 April 2013 by the EU Open Health Forum conference. As mentioned during the presentation on EU Health Strategy, the main theme of the conference could be the future of EU health policy. EUHPF members are invited to volunteer via the Secretariat to be part of the programme steering committee.

**END**

## List of participants

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Stakeholder full name</b>	<b>Participant</b>
<b>AAE</b>	Aids Action Europe	Maria Luisa (Lella) COSMARO
<b>AESGP</b>	Association of the European Self-Medication Industry	Miranda MOUSSA
<b>ASPHER</b>	Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region	Christopher BIRT, Lidra BALLHYSA, Robert OTOK
<b>CED</b>	European Council of Dentists	Nina BERNOT, Sara RODA
<b>COCIR</b>	European Coordination Committee of the Radiological, Electromedical and healthcare IT Industry	Marie-Astrid LIBERT
<b>CPME</b>	Standing Committee of European Doctors	Birgit BEGER
<b>ECHO</b>	European Confederation of Care Home Organisation	Piero CALANDRIELLO
<b>EDMA</b>	European Diagnostic Manufacturers Association	Vanessa POTT
<b>EFCAM</b>	European Federation for Complementary and Alternative Medicine	Seamus CONNELLY
<b>EFPA</b>	European Federation of Psychologists' Associations	Stan MAES
<b>EGA</b>	European Generic medicines Association	Maarten VAN BAELEN
<b>EHMA</b>	European Health Management Association	Jeni BREMMER, Paul GIEPMANS
<b>EHN</b>	European Heart Network	Laurent LOUETTE
<b>EHTEL</b>	European Health Telematics Association	David GARWOOD
<b>EPF</b>	European Patients Forum	Laurène SOUCHET
<b>EPHA</b>	European Public Health Alliance	Monika KOSINSKA, Matthias SCHUPPE
<b>ER-WCPT</b>	European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy	David GORRIA

<b>ESQH</b>	European Society for Quality of Healthcare	Charles SHAW
<b>EUFAMI</b>	European Federation of Associations of Families of People with Mental Illness	Martine FRAGER BERLET
<b>EUPHA</b>	European Public Health Association	Floris BARNHOORN
<b>EUROCARE</b>	Eurocare	Mariann SKAR
<b>EUROHEALTHNET</b>	EuroHealthNet	Clive NEEDLE, Stecy YGHEMONOS, Giulia REICHMANN
<b>EUROPABIO</b>	Europabio	Thomas BOLS
<b>IAPO</b>	International Alliance of Patients' Organisations	Jeremiah MWANGI
<b>IDF Europe</b>	International Diabetes Federation - Europe	Sophie PERESSON
<b>IFMSA</b>		Miguel CABRAL
<b>IUHPE</b>	International Union for Health Promotion and Education	Edina GABOR
<b>MHE</b>	Mental Health Europe	Yves BRAND
<b>PGEU</b>	The Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union	Patricia MUNOZ
<b>SFP</b>	Smoke Free Partnership	Brian WARD
<b>UEHP</b>	Union Européenne de l'Hospitalisation Privée	Paolo GIORDANO
<b>UEMS</b>	European Union of Medical Specialists	Frédéric DESTREBECQ
	EU Health Policy Forum Secretariat	Catherine HARTMANN
	EU Health Policy Forum Secretariat	Tereska VAN DEN ABEELE