



NOTE TO HEALTH INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Subject: Health “Scoreboard”

The Consumer Affairs department of SANCO released in 2009 the second edition of the Consumer Market Scoreboard¹: a detailed report to identify where the internal market is not functioning well for consumers and where intervention may be needed.

The success of the initiative raises the opportunity to develop something similar also in the health area. Of course, given the deep structural difference between the two policy areas, the format and the content should be tailored for the health sector.

Namely, a health “scoreboard” should have two main goals. On one hand it should keep citizens and stakeholders updated on the trends of most meaningful health topics at European level. On the other hand it should provide policy makers – at European, national and regional level – with sound evidence, feeding the political debate.

Practically, the health “scoreboard” may take the form of a report articulated in two main parts:

- a. policy oriented – narrative (text and graphs), with a specific topic to focus on, to be changed in each edition (e.g. cancer, health inequalities, etc.). The report should present the topic in details and from different perspectives, and propose actions and interventions to tackle it.
- b. data – presenting a set of indicators on health status and health systems. The set of indicators should in principle be invariable, to allow analysis of trends. ECHI is currently the best candidate for such a role.

Given the relative slowness of health process, the report – or at least its data component – may be produced and released every two/three years.

Eventually, the name of the report should be rethought: “scoreboard” fits well in the consumer affairs policy area, but is unsuitable in the health area. Possible options are: ‘Health in the European Union’, ‘European Community Health Indicators’, ‘Health Bulletin’, etc.

Action for the Committee:

	For information
X	For comments
	For agreement

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/strategy/docs/2nd_edition_scoreboard_en.pdf