

eurocare

European Alcohol Policy Alliance

## **EUROCARE's action on alcohol and pregnancy**

**Prevention of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)**



EU Alcohol and Health Forum, November 2010

**FASD** : appalling example of harm done by alcohol, caused to others and preventable.

A clinical fact obscured by ideology and taboo. High prevalence but lack of awareness.

FASD has been suspected for a long time ; was described for the first time by a French pediatrician in 1968 ; is now well documented by epidemiological studies and animal experimentation.

**FASD** : from scientific data to pragmatic action

Risk begins the first day of pregnancy (or even the day before, if we consider unwanted pregnancy and unwanted sexual intercourse).

As in many alcohol problems, there is no limit which can guarantee an absence of damage. For this reason, science can only recommend abstinence from alcohol during pregnancy.



## **Eurocare's activities**

- **Eurocare's commitment** in EU alcohol and health forum : to raise awareness on FASD
- Section **on web site**
- Preparation of an overview over labelling initiatives world wide and a **labelling library**
- **Meeting** of decision makers, advocating for warning labels
- Organisation of **seminars in the European Parliament** : January 2007; September 2007; September 2008; 9 September 2009; February 2010.
- Organisation of the **4<sup>th</sup> European Alcohol Policy Conference** (June 2010, Brussels) with a workshop on “harm to others”.



## On going and future activities on FASD

- Sponsoring -Participation  
First European Conference on FASD  
3 - 5 November 2010, Netherlands
- Labelling (protect project)
- September 2011: event in the EP – supported by Polish EU presidency and PARPA



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Thank you for your attention!

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EUROCARE is a network of public health organizations. It advocates the prevention and reduction of alcohol-related harm in Europe through effective and evidence based alcohol policy. [www.eurocare.org](http://www.eurocare.org)

**This paper was produced for a meeting organized by Health & Consumers DG and represents the views of its author on the subject. These views have not been adopted or in any way approved by the Commission and should not be relied upon as a statement of the Commission's or Health & Consumers DG's views. The European Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this paper, nor does it accept responsibility for any use made thereof.**