

**EUROPEAN PACT FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING THEMATIC CONFERENCE
"PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING AT THE WORKPLACE "**

Berlin, 3-4 March 2011

On 3-4 March 2011, the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers and the German Federal Ministry of Health will organise, in cooperation with the Commission's Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, in Berlin the EU-conference "**Promoting Mental Health and Well-being at the Workplace**". The support of the Hungarian EU-Presidency to the conference will be requested.

THE ISSUE

Mental health and well-being is now being considered as the top health priority at workplaces: Mental health problems have been identified as a leading cause of lack of well-being at workplaces, of reduced work performance, work absence, work disability and early retirement. At the same time, the relevance of healthy work for public health and the potential of mental well-being as a driver of sustainable high work performance are increasingly recognised

PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

In line with the overall purpose of the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being established in June 2008¹, the conference will create an opportunity to raise awareness about the relevance of mental health and well-being for workplaces and exchange and improve cooperation on challenges and opportunities in workplace mental health and wellbeing.

The conference will contribute to a wider dissemination of good mental health practices in various workplace settings. It will present state-of –the-art research findings, highlight leadership examples and good practices in mental health promotion at workplaces, and it will discuss the role of policymakers, and healthcare and social security systems in this context.

The conference is expected to develop recommendations for action.

SCOPE OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference will focus in particular on three fields:

- The development of mental health, well-being and mental capital in the context of the changes in the world of work (both public and private sectors) – current status and future developments;

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/health/mental_health/policy/index_en.htm

- Examples of corporate leadership initiatives, strategies and programmes to promote mental health, to prevent mental ill health-related strain and disorders as well as programmes to retain or reintegrate people with mental health problems into work;
- The role and contribution of policies and of stakeholders, and possibilities for collaboration across the health and social sectors.

BACKGROUND PAPER AND CONFERENCE DOCUMENTATION

A background paper supporting the conference will be prepared. A conference report will be established and published, together with the conclusions from the event.

PARTICIPANTS

German Federal Minister of Health Philipp Rösler and European Commissioner for Health John Dalli have been invited to open the conference.

About 350 participants are expected, representing Ministries of Health and Employment in Member States, social partners, business networks, occupational health specialist and public health organisations, together with leading research experts.

Participation will be upon invitation only.

TIME AND VENUE

The conference will begin at midday on 3 March 2011 and it will end at midday, 4 March 2011.

The conference will take place in the BCC Congress Center, Alexandeplatz, Berlin.