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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate C - Public Health and Risk
Assessment

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
OFFICE AT THE EUROPEAN UNION

ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE
BUREAU AUPRES DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE



**SIXTH SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING OF
THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC) AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)
BRUSSELS, 18 OCTOBER 2007
SUMMARY REPORT**

The sixth EC-WHO Senior Officials Meeting was held on October 18 in Brussels.

The meeting reviewed the EC/WHO cooperation worldwide, in the European Region and in selected countries (related to the EC-WHO Strategic Partnership on MDGs and ENP). See Annex 1 (2007 tables of EC/WHO priorities and emerging issues).

The discussions at the High Level Meeting on 12 June were noted, including the priority given to the following topics for the next phase of EC-WHO cooperation:

- 1) Health security, especially International Health Regulations implementation worldwide;
- 2) Accelerating progress on the health MDGs in Africa, including within the EU-AU Joint Strategy and through increased cooperation with African institutions in the area of research for health;
- 3) Tackling the health implications of climate change;
- 4) Increasing access to medicines in the framework of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property;
- 5) Strengthening EC-WHO cooperation in countries.

The day's technical discussions focused on four selected topics:

- social determinants of health
- health research and data collection
- climate change and public health
- increasing access to medicines with reference to the IGWG process

It was agreed that the cooperation between the two organizations is substantive on a wide range of technical issues. Participants referred to the following areas as examples of especially fruitful cooperation: The Framework Convention of Tobacco Control (FCTC), The International Health Regulations (IHR) and pandemic preparedness and response, Accelerated action to achieve the health Millennium Development Goals and to improve access to medicines, particularly in African Caribbean and Pacific countries, The European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials partnership and health research for Africa, The South East European Health Network, Nutrition, obesity and physical activity, including the Istanbul conference, Road safety (including collaboration in UN Road Safety week), The June 2007 workshop on health in all policies in EU neighbouring countries, and WHO, ILO and EC collaboration in the field of occupational health, with the timely preparation and adoption of EU strategies on health and on

safety and health at work, an ILO Convention on occupational health, and a WHO Global Plan of Action for workers' health

The added value of EC/WHO partnerships was discussed. EC participants acknowledged the benefit of WHO participation in the various EU platforms and forums, some of which also include private sector actors. They also acknowledged that it is in the EC's interest to build on WHO resolutions and analyses, such as those in the fields of nutrition and environment and health. From WHO's perspective the EC has developed an impressive record of contribution to meetings of the WHO governing bodies and dedicated intergovernmental forums. The FCTC, IHR and current IGWG processes are prime examples. It was acknowledged that more efforts should now be made to improve collaboration at the country level, between EC delegations and WHO country offices.