

CALL FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ALCOHOL POLICY STRATEGY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION 2013 - 2020

Alcohol is the world's number one risk factor for ill-health and premature death amongst the 25-59 year old age group, a core of the working age population. Europe is the heaviest drinking region of the world. Consumption levels in some countries are around 2.5 times higher than the global average (WHO 2009). Alarming 43% among 15-16 year old European students reported heavy binge drinking during the past 30 days (ESPAD 2007) and alcohol is the single biggest cause of death among young men of age 16 to 24.

The World Economic Forum's 2010 Global Risks Report identifies non-communicable diseases (NCDs) as the second most severe threat to the global economy in terms of likelihood and potential economic loss. NCDs are a global risk equal in cost to the current global financial crisis. NCDs account for 86% of deaths globally, cardio-vascular diseases alone cost the EU economy €192 billion a year; similarly diabetes type II affects nearly 10% of entire adult population and costs €166 billion annually. The World Economic Forum and Harvard School of Public Health estimate that NCDs will cause a €25 trillion global economic output loss over the period 2005-2030.

Alcohol abuse is one of the 4 risk factors for developing NCDs such as cancer (1 in 3 European will get cancer in the coming years) and cardiovascular disease. It is important to address alcohol in this context and give it the attention needed.

Addressing the issue of alcohol abuse through effective policies will offer measurable health system savings and enhance the growth and productivity agenda for Europe 2020.

By decreasing the level of alcohol consumption, as well as being physically active and having a healthy diet:

- 75% of deaths from cardiovascular disease could be avoided
- 30-40% of cancers could be avoided

Due to the size of the problem and the universal impact, alcohol abuse is too big for governments to solve alone. It requires a comprehensive, coordinated response from policy and decisions makers at the European and national levels as well as all stakeholders concerned.

With this in mind, we the signatories would like to call on the Ministers of Health in Europe to acknowledge the need for a comprehensive alcohol policy framework. The Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Action are meeting on 17th November and we urge you to put forward a request to the European Commission for a future European Alcohol Strategy 2013 – 2020.

Signatories

European organizations

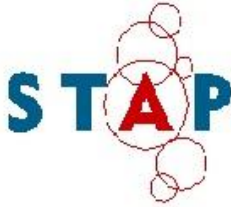


International organizations



National organizations





NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH



SOCIDROGALCOHOL

Sociedad Científica Española de Estudios sobre el Alcohol, el Alcoholismo y las otras Toxicomanías



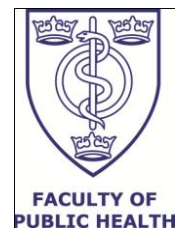
Royal College of Physicians



Institute of Alcohol Studies



Alcohol Concern Making Sense of Alcohol



List of Signatories

European organisations

1. Active- sobriety, friendship and peace (Active)
2. Alcohol Policy Youth Network (APYN)
3. Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE)
4. Europe Against Drugs (EURAD)
5. Eurochild
6. European Alcohol Policy Alliance (Eurocare)
7. European Association for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion (Eurosafte)
8. European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL)
9. European Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Alliance (EUFASD)
10. Mental Health Europe (MHE)
11. European Heart Network (EHN)
12. EuroHealthNet
13. European Midwives Association (EMA)
14. European Mutual Help Network for Alcohol Related Problems (EMNA)
15. European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)
16. International Council on Social Welfare- European region
17. Nordic Alcohol and Drug Policy Network (NorDan, International)
18. The Associations of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)
19. The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts- European region

International organisations

20. International Blue Cross (International)
21. IOGT International (International)

National umbrella organisations

22. Vereniging voor Alcohol-en Andere Drugproblemen (VAD, Belgium)

23. Centre de Recherche et d'Information des Organisations de Consommateurs (Belgium)
24. Foundation Horizonti 21 (Bulgaria)
25. Alkoholpolitisk Landsråd (Danish Alcohol Policy Network, Denmark)
26. NGO Fontana (Denmark)
27. Estonian Temperance Union (AVE, Estonia)
28. Estonian Medical Association (Estonia)
29. Estonian Lung Association (Estonia)
30. Finish Health Association (Finland)
31. Association Nationale de Prevention en Alcoologie et Addictologie (France)
32. Le Mouvement Vie Libre (France)
33. Deutsche Hauptstelle für Suchtfragen (DHS, Germany)
34. Oasis (Greece)
35. Società Italiana di Alcologia (Italy)
36. Associazione Italiana Dei Club Alcologici Territoriali (Italy)
37. Veneto Orientale (Italy)
38. Alcohol Action Ireland (Ireland)
39. National Youth Council of Ireland (Ireland)
40. Alcohol Forum (Ireland)
41. Agapao (Lithuania)
42. Lithuanian National Tobacco and Alcohol Control Coalition (Lithuania)
43. STAP (Dutch Institute for Alcohol Policy, the Netherlands)
44. Foetaal Alcohol Syndroom Stichting (the Netherlands)
45. ACTIS- Policy Network on Alcohol and Drugs (Norway)
46. Panstwowa Agencja Rozwazywania Problemow Alkoholowych (PARPA, Poland)
47. The National Centre for Workplace Health Promotion (Poland)
48. Sociedade Anti-Alcoólica Portuguesa (Portugal)

49. National Institute of Public Health (Slovenia)
50. Institute for Research and Development (UTRIP, Slovenia)
51. Asociacion de Ex-Alcoholicos Españoles (Spain)
52. Socidrogalcohol (Spain)
53. Fundación Salud y Comunidad (Spain)
54. La Associació Rauxa (Spain)
55. IOGT-NTO (Sweden)
56. Swedish Academic Temperance Society (Sweden)
57. Sveriges Landsråd för alkohol- och narkotikafrågor (Swedish Council on Alcohol and Drugs, Seden)
58. Royal College of Physicians (United Kingdom)
59. Royal College of Nursing (United Kingdom)
60. Institute of Alcohol Studies (United Kingdom)
61. Alcohol Concern (United Kingdom)
62. Alcohol Focus Scotland (United Kingdom)
63. Action on Addiction (United Kingdom)
64. Faculty of Public Health (United Kingdom)
65. British Society of Gastroenterology (United Kingdom)
66. National Hear Forum (United Kingdom)
67. Greater Manchester Public Health Unit (United Kingdom)
68. Cheshire and Merseyside Directors of Public Health (United Kingdom)

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