

EU Health Highlights

News about health in the EU from EuroHealthNet Brussels Office

December 2005, Issue # 17

1. Main Stories

- **EU budget for 2007-2013 agreed by Member States**

European Heads of States and Governments reached an agreement on the EU budget for 2007-2013 on 15-16 December in Brussels.

They agreed on a budget of 862.5 billion euros, corresponding to 1.045% of the gross national income of the EU.

This agreement falls 110 million euro short of the European Parliament proposal and differs greatly from the first Commission proposal of a budget of 1001.7 billion euros representing 1.14 % of the GNI. This cut in the Commission proposal will affect the proposed budget for Health and Consumer Protection (the proposed amount was 1.203 billion euros 2007 -13).

So far it has been agreed that internal policies (culture, youth, audiovisual matters and health and consumer protection altogether would get 3.64 billion euros over the seven years period (520 million euros per year), while structural funds and the cohesion fund get 307.620 billion euros.

The Summit has also given the Commission the mandate to review the budget in 2008-2009.

The Council proposal will now be discussed in the European Parliament (co-decision procedure applies for budget matters)

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/misc/87677.pdf

- **Austria takes over the presidency of the EU in January 2006**



The UK will hand over the EU Presidency to Austria on 1 January 2006. Finland will follow for the second semester 2006.

Austria has announced modest priorities in the follow up of the UK Presidency: they will not press for an EU Constitution and will be cautious concerning enlargement.

The Austrians will take over growth and jobs as well as sustainable development and climate change as key points from the UK presidency.

In the field of health, the Austrian Presidency has announced diabetes type II and women's health as their health priorities. They will also follow up on the pending regulations being currently discussed at the Council:

- health and consumer protection programme
- medicinal products for paediatric use

The Austrian Presidency will also look into the contribution of sports in the EU economy.

A High- level conference entitled 'the sound of Europe' will take place on 26-28 January exploring European identity and the "European life model" of high quality of life and social cohesion.

The events and meetings organised by the Austrian Ministry of Health are available at:

<http://www.bmgf.gv.at/cms/site/veranstaltungen.htm>

2. News from the European Council

- **Health Council: Ministers approve draft regulation on health claims on food products**

EU health ministers unanimously adopted on 8-9 December 2005 a common position on the draft regulation on nutrition and health claims such as 'low fat' and 'sugar-free', used in the labelling, presentation and advertising of foods. The aim is to ensure the proper use of health claims as a marketing tool. Once the regulation is approved, the health claims need to be backed by scientific evidence before they are given marketing authorisation.

Health Ministers also adopted a common position on the draft regulation on the addition of vitamins, minerals and certain other substances to food. The aim of the regulation is to harmonise the rules on the issue at EU level and to ensure that foodstuffs on sale are safe and clearly labelled for consumers to make informed choices.

Health Ministers reached a political agreement on a draft regulation on medicinal products for paediatric use which will constitute the Council common position and be sent to the European Parliament for a second reading.

The Health Council reached a partial agreement on PROGRESS, the Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity, but excluded the budgetary aspects from their talk waiting for the outcome of the discussion on the future Community financial framework.

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/lsa/87464.pdf

2. News from the European Commission

- **Open consultation on nutrition and physical activity**

The Commission has adopted a Green Paper on the promotion of healthy diets and physical activity to begin an extensive public consultation on how to reduce obesity levels and the prevalence of associated chronic diseases in the EU. The Green Paper invites contributions on a broad range of issues related to obesity, with a view to gathering information for a European dimension to reducing obesity levels which could complement, support and coordinate existing national measures.

The public consultation will run until 15 March 2006, and a report summarising the contributions will be published on the Commission's website by June 2006.

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1550&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

- **Communication “combating HIV/AIDS within the European Union and in the neighbouring countries 2006-2009”**

The Commission has released a communication on the fight against HIV/Aids. The Communication focuses on key issues such as the involvement of civil society: fostering dialogue with stakeholders such as patients, NGOs and the private sector is central to boosting the impact of any HIV/AIDS strategy. A stronger focus on prevention is also necessary, as contrary to some perceptions the epidemic is on the increase in Europe and basic messages on prevention need to be restated, especially among high-risk groups and young people. The Communication also addresses issues including surveillance, treatment and research and details concrete projects in an Action Plan for the period 2006-09.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_threats/com/aids/docs/com_2005_654_en.pdf

- **Consultation on cohesion policy and cities, the urban contribution to growth and jobs in the regions’**

During the informal meeting of ministers responsible for regional policy on 6 December in Bristol, United Kingdom, Commissioner Danuta Hübner presented a paper on “*Cohesion Policy and cities: the urban contribution to growth and jobs in the regions*”.

The paper sets out an agenda for the promotion of a more integrated and strategic approach to urban development that can deliver more growth, jobs, social inclusion and improved environmental quality. The proposals are part of the Commission’s reform of cohesion policy for the 2007-2013 period.

The Commission invites all relevant stakeholders to participate in this consultation exercise and would welcome comments before 17 February 2006.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/consultation/urban/index_en.htm

3. News from the European Parliament

- **European Parliament wants to separate the joint Health and Consumer Protection Programme**

The Health and Consumer Intergroup of the European Parliament met on 30 November to discuss the joint Health and Consumer Protection Programme.

It appeared at that meeting that the Parliament committees ENVI ‘*Environment, Public health and Food safety*’ and IMCO ‘*Internal Market and Consumer protection*’ both want a separate programme for their field.

Antonio Trakatellis, rapporteur on the joint health and consumer protection programme of the ENVI committee called for a separate programme for health with a higher budget than the one proposed by the Commission to enable full completion of all the actions lines included in the draft programme.

Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, Markos Kyprianou, defended the idea of a joint programme for the synergies and administrative economies of

scale/savings it permits. He mentioned that in case of a reduced budget following the decision on the financial perspective for 2007-2013, there would be insufficient financial resources for two separate programmes.

http://intergroup.epha.org/article.php3?id_article=10

4. Events and Publications

- **2006 World Health Day: ‘Working together for Health’**



In 2006, World Health Day (celebrated annually on 7 April), will be devoted to the health workforce crisis. On this day around the globe, hundreds of organizations will host events to draw attention to the global health workforce crisis and celebrate the dignity and value of working for health.

<http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2006/en/index.html>

- **List of health related thematic days in 2006**

The EuroHealthNet liaison office in Brussels has gathered a non-exhaustive list of days celebrating a theme directly or indirectly related to health:

4 February	World Cancer day
8 March	Women's Day
7 April	Health Day
28 April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work
16-22 September	European Mobility Week
1 October	International Day of Older People
3 October	World Habitat Day
10 October	Mental Health Day
10-16 October	European Week Against Cancer
14 October	European Social Housing Week
16 October	World Food Aid Day
17 October	Poverty day
17-23 October	European Immigration Week
24 October	UN Day
24 October	World development Information Day
25 October	European Day of Civil Justice
7 November	World Chronic Obstruction Pulmonary Disease Day
14 November	World Diabetes Day
16 November	International Day of Tolerance
20 November	Children's day
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
1 December	International Aids Day
2 December	European Handicap Day
3 December	European day of People with Disabilities

- **2006: European Year for Worker's Mobility**

The Commission has chosen the theme of worker's mobility for 2006. The theme of mobility is important in the context of the Lisbon strategy and will set the tone for discussions and pilot actions throughout the Year.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/workersmobility2006/launch_en.htm

- **WHO makes the link between human rights violation and the treatment of mental health conditions**

People with mental disorders are some of the most neglected people in the world. In many communities, mental illness is not considered a real medical condition, but viewed as a weakness of character or as a punishment for immoral behaviour. Even when people with mental disorders are recognized as having a medical condition, the treatment they receive is often less than humane.

The WHO aims to draw attention to the phenomenon and published a series of photos illustrating the problem of Human Rights violation of mentally disordered people.

http://www.who.int/features/2005/mental_health/en/index.html

5. News from Member States / Organisations

- **Switzerland: Economic assessment of health promotion interventions**

Financial restrictions in public health impose rigorous evaluation in terms of effectiveness, usefulness and profitability. In Switzerland, economic analysis in the field of prevention and health promotion is insufficient, particularly when compared to the USA and England. In order to respond to this, Health Promotion Switzerland asked the Winterthur Institute for Health Management (WIG) to investigate prevalent and recognized methods of economic assessment to document and assess economic evaluations for particular fields of interest and, on that base, to draw conclusions regarding the potentiality of economic assessments for Health Promotion Switzerland.

The first report is available online www.healthpromotion.ch

- **France: national campaign against the risk of intoxication by Carbon Monoxide**



INPES, the Ministry of health and other statutory institutions have launched a prevention and information campaign in France to inform people about the dangers of carbon monoxide released by old and inadequate water boilers, heating systems.

<http://www.inpes.sante.fr/>

EU Health Highlights
News about health in the EU from EuroHealthNet Brussels Office
 December 2005, Issue # 17

6. Calendar of international events

19-20.01.2006	Prague , European Seminar on healthy Ageing http://www.healthyageing.nu/templates/page.aspx?id=1100
26.01.2006	Brussels , 2 nd European Voice conference on healthcare in Europe. http://www.europeanvoice.com/ev/info.asp?id=1280
26-28.01.2006	Salzburg , 'The sound of Europe' Austrian presidency conference http://www.eu2006.at/info/en/
30.01-1.02.2006	Strasbourg , Conference 'Integrated Children and Youth Policies in Europe – Needs for disadvantaged neighborhoods' Contact: nelke-mayenknecht@knowbodies.de
4.02.2006	World Cancer Day: 'My child matters' http://www.uicc.org/index.php?id=1170
7.04.2005	World Health Day, 'Working together for Health' http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2006/en/index.html
25-26.04.2006	Brussels , EuroHealthNet General Assembly
22-27.05.2007	Geneva , WHO General Assembly http://www.who.int/en/
15-17.06.2005	Ejsberg , 5 th Nordic Health Promotion Research Conference http://www.5nhprc.sdu.dk/
28-30.06.2006	Budapest , European Health Management Association annual conference http://www.ehma.org
4-8.10.2006	Gastein , European Health Forum http://www.ehfg.org
18-21.10.2006	Budapest , 7 th IUHPE conference 'Globalisation and Equity, Inequalities in Health' http://www.Equityinhealth2006.hu
16-18.11.2006	Montreux , EUPHA 2006 annual conference http://www.eupha.org/html/menu3_3.html

Please note that EuroHealthNet is not responsible for the content of other sites or publications mentioned in this publication.

EU Health Highlights is produced for the internal use of organisations, institutions, authorities and departments interested in health promotion, disease prevention and public health in the EU. It is funded only by fees paid to us. If any reader knows of people or bodies who might find it useful to receive Health Highlights, please do not copy it without our authorisation, but do send details to us at: l.coulet@eurohealthnet.org. We will be pleased to make contact and offer our services, including a trial period. Your comments and suggestions will also be welcome. Thank you for your help.