



FLASH REPORT
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ALCOHOL POLICY AND ACTION (CNAPA)
PLENARY MEETING, 4-5 MARCH 2014

The 13th meeting of the Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Action (CNAPA) was chaired by Philippe Roux, Head of the Health Determinants Unit, Directorate General for Health and Consumers.

Draft Action Plan on youth and on heavy episodic drinking (binge drinking)

The Chair summarised the ongoing drafting process of the Action Plan and highlighted the progress made by the CNAPA drafting group in a very short period of time.

After a lively discussion on the nature of the paper, CNAPA Members agreed that, such an action plan in the form of an informal paper will provide a reference for implementing, on a voluntary basis by all actors concerned, actions targeting “youth” and “heavy episodic drinking”.

Members recalled that it cannot be considered as a substitute to a new consolidated EU strategy to prevent and reduce alcohol related harm and reaffirmed the latter being in their view a priority initiative to be considered when the new Commission is in place.

The Members also underlined that the action plan covers only a part of the areas for actions as defined in the 2006 alcohol strategy and that activities should continue on all fronts at the same time.

The Chair confirmed that, based on the evaluation report, all objectives of the 2006 strategy remain valid and that CNAPA will be instrumental in gathering Member

States views for the development of future EU action to support Member States in preventing and reducing alcohol related harm.

The members examined in detail the draft action plan as prepared with the drafting group and agreed on the final wording for six areas for actions:

- Reduce heavy episodic drinking (binge drinking)
- Ensure enforcement of restrictions on availability for youth
- Limit exposure of youth to alcohol marketing and advertising
- Protect the unborn child
- Ensure a healthy and safe environment for children and young people
- Monitoring and increased research

Members also agreed that the consolidated structure of the Action Plan will be circulated to Forum Members on 21 March and Forum Members will be encouraged to make proposals for their own commitments related to specific areas highlighted in the action plan.

The CNAPA will review a consolidated draft of the action plan between mid-March and mid-June with a validation foreseen for 17-18 June 2014.

Joint Action on Reducing Alcohol Related Harm (RARHA)

The Joint Action coordinator updated the participants on the first steps taken on the recently launched Joint Action. The responsibilities and roles of the RARHA

Advisory Group were presented and the deliverables of the three horizontal (coordination, evaluation, dissemination) and three core work packages (monitoring of drinking patterns and alcohol related harm, good practice principles in the use of drinking guidelines as a public health measure, good practice tool kit) planned were listed.

Reflection on the future development of EU alcohol policy

A first *tour de table* was held to gather CNAPA Members' views on elements they consider of crucial importance for added value from a renewed EU strategy on alcohol harm.

Members unanimously considered that a comprehensive approach should be envisaged and that all relevant policy sectors including health, consumers, agriculture, finances, etc... should be involved both at national and EU level to engage. The actions envisaged should also provide support to the implementation of the Global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol through the WHO European

Action Plan 2012-2020 already endorsed by all EU Member States.

UK, EE and BE volunteered to be members of a discussion paper drafting group. A draft paper will be further discussed on 17-18 June 2014. The final version would be discussed at a High Level CNAPA meeting and serve as a CNAPA contribution to the elements which will be examined by the Commission in view of its reflexion on the follow-up to the 2006 Strategy.

Developments in Member States

Ireland presented a comprehensive update of their new policy initiative on tackling alcohol misuse, which includes: minimum unit pricing, regulation of marketing and advertising, enforcement, structural separation, regulation of sports sponsorship, health labelling of alcohol products, among other measures agreed by government.

The date of the **next meeting** of CNAPA will be 17-18 June.