



9th February 2015

Dear Honourable Member of the European Parliament,

RE: Motion for a Resolution on Alcohol Strategy

I am writing to you on behalf of the [European Alcohol Policy Alliance](#) (Eurocare), the [European Public Health Alliance](#) (EPHA), the [European Association for the Study of the Liver](#) (EASL), the [European Liver Patients Association](#) (ELPA), [United European Gastroenterology](#) (UEG) the [Association of European Cancer Leagues](#) (ECL) [Standing Committee of European Doctors](#) (CPME) and [Royal College of Physicians](#) (UK) in view of your work in the ENVI Committee on the **EU Alcohol Strategy Resolution**.

The above-mentioned organisations would like to kindly ask ECR Group to **work towards ensuring that the motion for a resolution on the EU Alcohol Strategy is successfully adopted** and also consider improvements to the current text:

- Inclusion of a paragraph regarding the importance of appropriate and well enforced age limits
- Strengthening the call for protection of minors from alcohol advertising

We consider that the resolution must also highlight the need for a policy framework at the EU level and re- invigorate discussions regarding labelling of alcoholic beverages.

Therefore, we would strongly recommend:

- Support for points 3-6 inclusive
- Deletion of point 9- as the European Commission has already produced an Action Plan in October 2014
- Support for point 25.

Public health stakeholders have repeatedly called on the European Commission to **update and renew the EU Alcohol Strategy 2006-2012**, which expired two years ago.

The full scope of future EU actions to curb alcohol-related harm is currently uncertain. The Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Action (CNAPA) in collaboration with DG SANTE

endorsed an EU Action Plan on Alcohol with a narrowed scope limited to measures on 'binge drinking' and 'young people' in October last year.

Undoubtedly these two areas are important to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harm, however evidence has shown that the most effective policy approach is based on a whole population approach, with a set of cost-effective and efficient measures, as reflected in the World Health Organisation's 'Global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol' and WHO European action plan to reduce the harmful use of alcohol 2012–2020¹

In relation to alcohol labelling, we are convinced that the consumer has a right to make informed choices about the products they purchase. Bringing alcohol packaging in line with non- alcoholic beverage packaging would enhance consumer's choice². Energy and other nutritional information would help consumers to make informed choices.

Addressing alcohol-related harm is crucial to **reduce health inequalities**. There is a clear body of evidence to suggest that the burden of disease and deaths related to alcohol are found to disproportionately affect the most deprived.³

We trust that you will agree that it is the role of policy-makers to ensure consumers have access to all relevant consumer information.

Therefore, we would very much appreciate your **support for the rapid adoption of the Resolution calling for a new EU Alcohol Strategy and which addresses the need for better labelling of alcoholic beverages** to ensure better protection of health and consumer rights.

Thank you for your attention, we remain at your disposal if you should have any questions.

With kind regards,

Mariann Skar
Eurocare, Secretary General

¹ WHO European action plan to reduce the harmful use of alcohol 2012–2020
http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/alcstratenglishfinal.pdf

² Alcoholic beverages were exempted from the EU Regulation No 1169/2011, alcoholic beverages unlike all

³ Herttua, K et al (2008) Changes in alcohol-related mortality