



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from: Presidency
to: Council

Subject: **Environment and Health**
– Information from the Presidency

Delegations will find in the Annex a note from the Presidency on the above-mentioned subject, which will be dealt with under "any other business" at the Council meeting (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs) on 5 and 6 December 2007.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENCY
Environment and Health

The European Union is particularly committed to the protection of the environment, as well as to the promotion of health and well-being for all its citizens. In view of the interaction between environment and health, it is crucial to strengthen research and to address emerging issues, filling knowledge gaps in order to better understand the relationship between environment and health and to allow for more scientifically-sound planning and timely decision-making.

With this in mind, the Presidency has been preparing *Conclusions on Environment and Health*, which it intends to present for adoption at the Environment Council meeting on 20 December 2007. The aim of the conclusions is to put more emphasis on environment and health concerns in all relevant EU policies.

In this way, the Presidency is seeking to express the commitment of the Council to fulfil the goals established in the European Environment and Health Action Plan 2004-2010. It also stresses the need to develop adequate tools to anticipate, prevent and respond to potential threats, thus minimising health impacts associated with environmental determinants. The need to strengthen the engagement of all relevant stakeholders, improving environment and health awareness, and promoting civic participation is also highlighted.

Furthermore, emphasis is put on the importance of continuing to develop a comprehensive environment and health information system as well as a European environment and health network.

Finally, the Council Conclusions currently discussed are intended to help establish the priorities and resources to be assigned to a second cycle of the EU Strategy on Environment and Health and to pave the way for the EU's participation in the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health at WHO level in 2009.

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