



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 29 November 2007

15788/07

SAN 239

NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Council

Subject: **Strategy for Europe on mental health**
– Information from the Commission

Delegations will find in the annex a note from the Commission 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.

STRATEGY FOR EUROPE ON MENTAL HEALTH

INFORMATION BY THE COMMISSION

On 14 October 2005, the Commission adopted a Green Paper on "Improving the mental health of the population. Towards a strategy on mental health for the EU". During the consultation that followed, the Commission services received 237 written contributions and they organised a high-level event and three thematic expert meetings to discuss all contributions received.

The consultation confirmed that strong support exists for an enhanced integration of mental health into Community policies and for more actions so as to improve and promote the exchanges between Member States.

Since the Green Paper presentation and consultation, several major policy documents have addressed mental health at Community level. This includes the Commission White Paper on the EU Health Strategy "Together for Health. A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-13", the new Commission Strategy on Health and Safety at the Workplace and a European Parliament and Council Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning.

As a conclusion from the Green Paper consultation and in order to further strengthen the cooperation across policy fields and Member States, the Commission proposes to organise a high level Conference on Mental Health in June 2008.

The conference is expected to involve Ministers of Health from Member States and high-level representatives from the health and other relevant sectors. The objective of the conference will be to establish a "Mental Health Pact".

The Pact will mainly focus on four key aspects: suicide, school education, workplace environment, young and elderly people. It will be implemented through a series of thematic conferences.

Further details about the conference and the "Mental Health Pact" will be provided to Government representatives at an expert meeting early in 2008. A Commission Staff Working document will be provided for the conference.

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