



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 30 May 2008

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NOTE

from : General Secretariat

to: Council

Subject : EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
COUNCIL MEETING ON 9 AND 10 JUNE 2008

Mental health for Europe

- Information from the Commission
(Other business item)
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With a view to the Council meeting (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer affairs) on 9 and 10 June 2008, Delegations will find in the annex a note from the Commission on the above-mentioned subject.

MENTAL HEALTH**INFORMATION FROM THE COMMISSION**

Subject: Update on the EU High level Conference "*Together for Mental Health and Wellbeing*", Brussels, 13 June 2008

The Commission is organising a EU High Level Conference on Mental Health, which will take place in Brussels (Charlemagne Building) hosted by European Commissioner for Health, Ms Androulla Vassiliou, with the support of the President of the Commission, Mr Barroso. The event has been organised in cooperation with Mr Vladimír Špidla, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and with the Slovenian Presidency and the WHO's Regional Office for Europe. The conference will be a follow-up to the consultation on the Commission's 2005 Green Paper on Improving the Mental Health of the Population.

The objective of the conference will be to launch a "European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being". The Pact will demonstrate the political commitment of participants -including European institutions, Member States and relevant non-governmental actors - to engage into a process of exchange and cooperation on key mental health issues, to identify good practice and to develop action plans.

The Pact will address four main themes:

- Prevention of Suicide and Depression;
- Mental health in Youth and Education;
- Mental health in Workplace Settings;
- Mental health in Older People.

"Combating stigma and social exclusion" will be considered as a fifth cross-cutting priority.

Commission President Mr José Manuel Barroso, a representative of the European Parliament, Minister Zofija Mazej-Kukovič on behalf of the Slovenian Presidency, several Ministers for Health, some Ministers for Education and Labour and Mr Marc Danzon, Regional Director of the WHO's Regional Office for Europe, confirmed participation, together with leaders, organisations and experts from the health, education and civil society sectors.

The conference will launch a longer-term process of exchange and cooperation on the identified mental health priorities, which will include the organisation of thematic conferences during 2009 and 2010. These events could be organised in cooperation with Presidencies or Member States.
