



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 30 May 2008

9810/08

**SAN 101
DENLEG 57**

NOTE

from: Presidency
to: Council

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

Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity related health issues
- Information from the Presidency
(Other business item)

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 Presidency on the above-mentioned subject.

REPORT

Conference – Cross-sectoral Policies for Nutrition and Physical Activity - Implementation and Evaluation

Slovenia hosted an international conference on the topic of encouraging healthy nutrition and regular physical activity from 10 to 11 March 2008. The conference was a conclusion of a baton project, started by the Republic of Germany during its Presidency.

Due to increasing health problems caused by unhealthy lifestyle, Slovenia decided, taking into consideration the Badenweiler Memorandum adopted in February 2007 and the conclusions of the German and Portuguese Presidency of the EU Council, to support the baton project and place it high on the Presidency policy agenda. Slovenia is aware of the problems caused to the health of the citizens by an unhealthy lifestyle, and therefore passed the baton to France at the conference, as the first country in the next trio holding the Presidency.

Several strategic documents were adopted at the level of the Member States, the EU and the WHO in the recent years, which contain sets of objectives, measures and expression of political will to encourage healthy lifestyles and better monitoring of occurrence of risk factors for chronic diseases. With the conference, Slovenia wished to stimulate the next step and dedicate more attention to the implementation and monitoring of the existing policies and to cross-sectoral collaboration, which is a prerequisite and an added value in achieving efficient results in practice. Prompt monitoring and evaluation are key tools for measuring the efficiency of policy implementation. There is a growing need for development of precise monitoring indicators, which will enable development of good practices. That was also the purpose to take into consideration the key messages of the previous Presidencies (United Kingdom, Finland, Germany and Portugal), which also included key messages to reduce inequality in health, and the inclusion of health in all policies.

As a summary at the conference in Radenci, Slovenia presented an example of Slovenian good practice which includes the concept of investing in health and development. In Pomurje, the region in the last place in Slovenia according to health and social-economic development indicators, the MURA project has been undergoing for almost a decade, which represents an example of efficient collaboration of various partners (agriculture, public health, education, tourism, economy and regional development).

The conference in Slovenia hosted over 100 participants from the EU Member States, the Republic of Croatia and the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). The event was conducted at the level of Directors General for public health, while also numerous representatives from other sectors (agriculture, education, sport, regional development) responded to the invitation. As part of the conference, also a presentation was organised of national and European good practices in encouraging healthy nutrition and physical activity.

