



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from : General Secretariat of the Council
to: Council

Subject : EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
COUNCIL MEETING ON 8 AND 9 JUNE 2009

Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health
– Information from the Commission
(Other business item)

Delegations will find in the Annex an information note from the Commission on the above-mentioned subject.

Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health

Information from the Commission

The Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health was launched on 10 December 2008. The consultation period closed on 10 April. This exercise attracted a great deal of interest among stakeholders, with over 200 responses.

These responses to the Green Paper come from a wide range of stakeholder organisations in the field of health and beyond. More than 2 out of 3 express the opinions of carers and health professionals' organisations. Doctors are the most represented, accounting for half of these.

The most commonly suggested topics for action are:

- the need for an increase in public health capacity;
- the emphasis on ethical recruitment practices;
- the importance of robust human resource strategies in retaining health workers in their home countries;
- the need to look at social care as well as health care;
- issues related to the integration of mobile health professionals.

The diffusion of good practices, the sharing of experiences and gathering comparable data at EU level were suggested by many, as well as more coordinated policy approaches.

The Commission's full analysis of the responses should be complete by the end of the summer.