



28.3.2013

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

(0002/2013)

Question for Question Time in committee 0002/2013  
under Rule 197 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Antonyia Parvanova and Rebecca Taylor on behalf of the ALDE group

Subject: **Future EU actions in supporting Member States to combat alcohol related harm**

Following its answer to the written question E-007092/2012, the Commission has since announced that it will not be updating the EU Alcohol Strategy, despite the fact that alcohol consumption is a contributing factor for over 60 diseases and disorders, and Europe has the highest rates of consumption of alcohol in the world (12.5 litres per capita). In addition, it is estimated that €155 billion of the social costs attributable to alcohol in Europe, including traffic accidents, absenteeism and lost productivity in the workplace, are associated with alcohol dependence. Alcohol is the world's number one risk for ill-health and premature death amongst the 25-59 year old age group, a core of the working age population.

The 'EU strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol related harm' (COM(2006) 625 final) has been crucial in sharing best practices in this area, and has worked to stabilise alcohol consumption in many EU countries. However, since the drafting of the original Strategy, new and increasing societal challenges have emerged, such as the impact of alcohol use disorders (AUDs) on the workplace, new marketing and promotional strategies, the use of Internet and social media for alcohol advertising, the increasing purchase of alcohol online and changes in patterns of alcohol consumption. Evidence also shows that an integrated evidence-based alcohol strategy, from prevention to treatment and support systems, will ultimately be the most effective in addressing alcohol related harm in Europe.

In the interests of public health and society at large, will the Commission review its decision to not update the Strategy, particularly given the overwhelming societal and economical burden alcohol related diseases have upon Europe, and the ever increasing new challenges posed by alcohol related harm?

Would the Commission be willing to present a renewed and updated EU strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol related harm, encompassing both internal market and public health protection requirements, and addressing newly identified priorities?"