



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Plenary sitting

23.1.2014

B7-0000/2014

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Question for Oral Answer B7-0000/2014

pursuant to Rule 115(5) of the Rules of Procedure

on EU Alcohol strategy
(2014/2505(RSP))

Romana Jordan

on behalf of the PPE Group

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on behalf of the S&D Group

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on behalf of the ALDE Group

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on behalf of the ECR Group

B7-0000/2014

**European Parliament resolution on EU Alcohol strategy
(2014/2505(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the question to the Commission on EU Alcohol strategy (O-000000/2014 – B7 0000/2014),
 - having regard to Article 168 of the Treaty of Lisbon,
 - having regard to the REGULATION (EU) No .../2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the establishment of a third Programme of the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020) and repealing Decision No 1350/2007/ECHealth Programme
 - having regard to its resolutions of 11 November 2010 on the demographic challenge and solidarity between generations and of 6 May 2010 on reducing health inequalities in the EU,
 - having regard to the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health adopted on 21 October 2011 at the World Conference on social determinants of health held in Rio de Janeiro;
 - having regard to the 2011 Annual report of the EU Platform for action on diet, physical activity and health¹;
 - having regard to its resolution of 5 September 2007 on an European Union strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol-related harm;
 - having regard to the conclusions of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council meeting on 1-2 December 2011 on closing health gaps within the EU through concerted action to promote healthy lifestyle behaviours;
 - having regard to Rule 110(2) and Rule 115 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the harmful use of alcohol is the second largest lifestyle related cause of disease in Europe and a risk factor for alcohol addiction for over 60 chronic diseases, including for instance alcoholic liver disease (ALD), alcoholic chronic pancreatitis and almost all other digestive diseases, cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, obesity, Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and neuropsychiatric disorders such as alcohol dependence;
- B. whereas the social costs directly and indirectly attributable to alcohol are estimated at €155.8 billion in Europe in 2010, of which a majority (€82.9 billion) lie outside the healthcare system;

¹ 28 July 2011

- C. whereas approximately 5 to 9 million children live in families which are adversely affected by alcohol;
- D. whereas addressing alcohol-related harm with effective policies will offer considerable savings in healthcare considering that a reduction in harmful alcohol consumption would result in a decrease in alcohol addiction, involving chronic conditions, alcohol-related mortality and alcohol-related costs;
- E. whereas the protection of the physical, mental and moral development of children and minors in audio-visual media services is not properly guaranteed;
- F. Whereas many EU citizens are insufficiently informed about the health dangers of excessive alcohol consumption and addiction, including for instance diseases of the liver, the pancreas, and the digestive tract, as well as cancer, cardiovascular disease and mental health problems.
- G. Whereas Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers excluded alcoholic beverages from its provisions;
1. Considers that on 22 October 2013, during the meeting of the Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Action (CNAPA), the Commission announced its intention to work towards a European Action Plan to Reduce Alcohol Related Harm to be launched between May and September 2014;
 2. Calls on the Commission to present the European Action Plan to provide a better support for national governments to fight against alcohol related harm, to encourage prevention and health promotion and education, early diagnosis, improved access to treatment, continuous support to affected people and their families and alcohol-related traffic accidents;
 3. Urges the Commission to produce the report on the application of the requirements to provide information on ingredients and nutritional content on alcoholic beverages by December 2014;
 4. Stresses that self-regulatory initiatives and codes of conducts could be more effective at protecting minors from the negative impact of hazardous alcohol consumption if accompanied by legally binding requirements that are necessary to ensure the effective protection of minors;
 5. Calls on the Member States to increase their efforts to inform the general public, particularly minors, on the effects of alcohol and when required to legislate accordingly;
 6. Calls on the European Commission to reform the organisation of the European Alcohol and Health Forum, to evaluate if the NGOs are properly represented and to work on encouraging their free participation to the Forum in order to give more weight to them;
 7. Urge the Commission to present the European Action Plan to Reduce Alcohol Related Harm no later than September 2014;

8. Is concerned that the Action Plan could be unduly influenced by any interests, directly or via European Alcohol and Health Forum, and therefore not focus on reduction of consumption of alcohol but rather on limiting its scope to a narrower interest;
9. Reiterates the importance of a strong political commitment from the European Commission, the Council and EU Member States to increase efforts to prevent alcohol related harm and provide an adequate evidence based policy response which reflects the severe and diverse health, and socio-economic impacts of alcohol-related harm;
10. Reminds the importance of measurable, time-restricted policy goals and adequate mechanisms to monitor progress to ensure effective implementation of the Action Plan across Member States;
11. Calls on the Commission and Member States to actively support the improvement of data collection and analysis on alcohol consumption, its burden and the direct and indirect costs to society, and to promote the effective integration of relevant data into EU and national alcohol policies;
12. Calls on the European Commission and Member States to review and strengthen the implementation of measures to restrict alcohol sales to those under the legal age for alcohol purchase, take actions to properly regulate the cross border sale of alcohol on the internet, as well as campaigns to raise awareness of the dangers of binge drinking for under-age people who are more likely to engage in this activity and to reduce alcohol related traffic accidents;
13. Calls on Member States and the Commission to review and strengthen awareness campaigns targeted at alcohol consumption by pregnant women;
14. Calls on Member States to implement targeted awareness and education measures from an early age as part of prevention strategies;
15. Calls on Member States to build on the WHO Alcohol Strategy and improve early detection of harmful alcohol consumption in primary care by promoting screening and ensuring adequate support services for the treatment of alcohol use disorders and related chronic conditions;
16. Calls on Member States to continue, intensify and/or develop policies and actions promoting healthy lifestyle behaviours;
17. Urge the Member States to examine their legislative proposals as to improve alcohol labelling and health warnings;
18. Calls on the European Commission and Member States to make appropriate strategies in order to tackle the problem of illegal and black market sales of alcohol.
19. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to commission.