



annual review

march 1999 - march 2000



European Public Health Alliance

33 rue de Pascale, 1040 Brussels, Belgium
Tel 32 2 2303056 fax 32 2 2333880 e-mail epha@epha.org
Website: <http://www.epha.org>



The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) is a network of local, national and international non-governmental organisations and other not-for-profit-organisations active in the field of public health in Europe. The alliance brings together organisations which represent a diverse range of European citizens with an active interest in creating a healthier Europe — professionals, health advocacy groups, carers, patients and consumers, and organisations committed to social justice and sustainable development.

EPHA promotes the process of consultation and co-operation between health related NGOs and the European Commission and Parliament and acts as a significant resource in the process of developing civil dialogue. EPHA operates on democratic principles and therefore facilitates communication and participation between and among member organisations and those EU institutions engaged in policy development and programme implementation.

Strengthening the NGO voice for health in Europe

Since its inception in 1993, EPHA has worked to raise the profile of public health, health promotion and health-related issues in the broadest sense within the EU, and a wider Europe.

In 1999, EPHA monitored public health developments in the EU and focused on several important determinants of health — environment, nutrition, mental health and food to name a few.

It also highlighted the growing importance of health promotion in enabling people to make healthy choices and showcased the work of many health promotion organisations among its membership, and within the wider health community.

Throughout the year, EPHA also facilitated many member NGOs in their advocacy work and information dissemination.

MISSION

The mission of EPHA is to promote and protect the health of all people living in Europe as well as to ensure the participation of citizens in health related policy making at a European level.

GOALS of the Alliance

1. Promote the introduction and implementation of policies that support and promote health in all areas of EU policy, such as environmental and consumer protection policy, in order to improve the health status of all people living in Europe.
2. Promote the rights of all citizens to participate in decisions concerning their own health and, in particular, to strengthen the position and the voice of patients and health care consumers in support of health and human rights in Europe.
3. Ensure co-operation among existing European public health, health promoting, patients, consumers and citizens organisations in order to encourage mutual support, and when necessary, initiate the formation of coalitions on specific issues.
4. Monitor developments within the European Union in the field of public health and provide a regular flow of information to members.
5. Influence the institutions of the European Union and other relevant bodies in Europe and internationally to promote and evaluate healthy public policies.
6. Seek greater systematic consultation of public health and health promoting

associations by the Commission and other institutions of the European Union.

STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK: MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

An important component of the secretariat's work is providing ongoing support to member organisations in developing their capacity to understand and contribute to policy development and programme implementation within the European Union. (See page 10 for EPHA membership list).

- awareness raising on the EU's budgetary process in the Parliament, particularly on health budget lines;
-

HEALTH INFORMATION SEMINARS

The two planned Health Information Seminars took place in June and November. Each seminar attracted between thirty and forty participants, facilitating open dialogue and information exchange between NGOs and the European Commission, members of Parliament, representatives of the Health Council and the World Health Organization.

CREATION OF A POLICY CO-ORDINATING WORKING GROUP

In addition to the statutory meetings of the membership, five additional meetings were organised in order to inform and consult with members about key issues emerging within public health and health-related policy within the EU. This group which is now called the **Policy Co-ordinating Working Group** with a membership of some 12 organisations who meet every two months in Brussels. The group also operates in a wider context through an email list for information and action and includes an additional 25 member organisations.

Some of this groups valuable outputs include:

- regular co-ordination and information sharing on health policy developments in the EU institutions between a broad alliance of NGOs, health promotion agencies and networks, health professionals and health authorities;
- support of members' policy initiatives, conferences, publications and advocacy efforts throughout Europe;

- advocacy effort to highlight the funding gap problems associated with the start of the future Community health framework and the expiration of some of the current eight public health programmes;
- discussion of the proposed European Health Forum and its structures, consultation processes, etc.

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

The compilation of the bi-monthly Membership Newsletter, introduced in June, provides an interesting opportunity for member organisations to communicate more directly with each other on policy developments and campaign strategies. It also enables members to support each other's activities. Members also receive timely and more direct information about the planned activities of the Executive Members and the EPHA secretariat. This, in turn, encourages more direct contributions from the member organisations in the work of the Alliance.

Many EPHA members that represent European networks re-distribute this information to their own membership to help build Community knowledge at a national and local level.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

A membership directory provides an overview of contact details and member organisations activities and publications to increase networking and information sharing. It is available to the public on the EPHA website.

MEMBERSHIP WEB SITE

www.ephaprogram.org

Members have access via the web site to members only information. The website contains minutes from EPHA policy-coordinating group responses, links to strategic Community documents related to health policy and resources to help facilitate EPHA members advocacy efforts (contact details for key health officials in the Commission, national ministries, European Parliament, etc).

NEW MEMBERS ORGANISATIONS

Between March 1999 — May 2000, 27 organisations have become members of the European Public Health Alliance.

INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTH INFORMATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Commission officials and other EU policy makers.

The information services provided to EU officials, MEPs and others concerned about public health in Europe continue to grow on a daily basis. In order to ensure delivery of accurate and timely information on EU public health developments, EPHA secretariat staff monitor the work of a number of key institutions. These include the European Commission, the Council of Health Ministers; European Parliament Committees (in particular the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection Committee and the Social Affairs Committee); the Economic and Social Committee; the Committee of the Regions; the Council of Europe; the World Health Organization; OECD; Codex and the World Trade Organization.

EPHA information services are available to members, policy makers and the general public through several communication vehicles.

The EPHA website contains a NEWS section with relevant EU and national health policy developments. This service is updated frequently and accessible to the general public and health community at large.

To highlight the valuable work of NGOs in creating a healthier Europe, the website also contains a CAMPAIGN section that includes information on national and European NGOs activities and views on different policy development and legislation.

EPHA's journal, the *European Public Health Update*, is distributed to approximately 400 MEPs, the Health, Social, Environment, Agriculture and Trade Ministries within the EU and the accession countries as well as to over 500

Members of the secretariat and the executive contribute to conferences and seminars organised by a range of other organisations, including the EU institutions and European NGOs, in order to promote greater awareness and understanding of public health and how other policies have an impact on health.

EPHA made an active contribution to the following meetings:

- **EU Dietary Guidelines**, Steering Committee Meetings, October and January
- **European Anti Poverty Network: Mainstreaming social inclusion into all policies to promote social cohesion**, 17-18 March 2000, Lisbon

- **2nd meeting of the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue**, 22-24 April, Brussels
- **International Workshop on “Health Targets, Health Care and Health Policy in the European Union”**, 28-29 April, Hanover
- **People's Europe (German EU Presidency's NGO conference)**, 28-29 May, Bonn
- **EP informal public hearing on dioxin**, 9 June, Brussels
- **European Workshop Health and Enlargement**, 14-16 July, Barcelona
- **International conference on the resistance to antimicrobial substances**, 20 July, Brussels
- **Pesticides Action Network Meeting 1999: “Pesticide Reduction – time for action!”**, September 30 - 1 October, Hamburg
- **WTO: Agriculture and Trade Informal public hearing with Commissioner Fischler and Commissioner Byrne**, 22 October, 1999, Brussels
- **Citizen's Agenda 2000 (Finnish Presidency's NGO conference)** 3-5 December 1999, Tampere

PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

The publication of the *European Public Health Update* continues to be one of the most highly valued activities of EPHA. Since June 1999, the Update has been distributed in English, French and German. The *Update* provides a very valuable information service to our members, policy makers, health professionals and the health community at large. Its purpose is to:

- ❖ raise awareness and debate on EU public health policy development in general and health promotion in particular. Each issue of *Update* has provided timely commentary and viewpoints from various EU institutions, organisations and politicians on different aspects of public health and health promotion activity.
- ❖ focus on other areas of EU policy that have an impact on health such as environment and health, food and agriculture, enlargement, air quality and transport.
- ❖ highlight the interests of new members as well as new areas of activity of existing members in order to facilitate greater communication and working partnerships amongst the membership and showcase the valuable contribution of NGOs to public health and health promotion policy development and implementation.
- ❖ provide a platform for leading health governmental and non-governmental agencies and organises to highlight

their projects, raise awareness of political health priorities and share policy developments and strategies on an array of public health and health promotion issues.

MAIN UPDATE FEATURES

Next Generation of EU health Programmes: European Parliament supports integrated approach

No. 45 March/April 1999

Environment & Health: forging closer links across Europe

No. 46 June/July 1999

Health Promotion – making Europeans healthier and Europe a healthier place to be

No. 47 September/October 1999

Mental Health for the next millennium

No. 48 November/December 1999

World Trade Organization — Trade policies and their impact on health

No. 49 January/February 2000

The EPHA Web Site

The development of the EPHA web site has been a priority focus during the last twelve months. The website serves as an easily accessible “one stop shop” for access to health-related policy information from within the institutions of the EU (e.g. the Commission, the Parliament, the Council and the presidency) as well as providing a link to a very wide range of other health related organisations. A special section provides news flashes, which are updated weekly with the latest EU developments in health and health-related policies.

In addition the web site serves as an information site for:

- ❖ Health campaigns and activities undertaken by EPHA and its members
- ❖ Internal mailings and specific information for member organisations. (through a MEMBERS ONLY closed website)
- ❖ Policy discussions for the formulation of briefing papers and policy statements.

ADVOCACY FOR HEALTH

EPHA aims to actively promote the health interests of European citizens in all aspects of its work and in particular by forging strong working partnerships with other European and international health organisations.

EPHA has organised and participated in many multi-stakeholder consultations on a wide variety of health related issues throughout the years. Some of the major commitments EPHA undertook in 1999 are highlighted below.

WHO Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health

EPHA was involved in the outreach and preparatory work for health NGOs in Europe leading up to this conference and in the accompanying Healthy Planet Forum. The General Secretary delivered a keynote speech on behalf of health NGOs in the plenary session of the Ministerial Conference and the President addressed the Healthy Planet Forum.

Following the conference, the General Secretary of EPHA was elected as the Chairperson of the European Advisory Group to the WHO Environment and Health process. This is a pan European group which brings together representatives of the different "stakeholder" groups concerned about environment and health in the European Region and includes NGOs, trade unions, local authorities and professional groups.

This group will play an active role in contributing to and monitoring the process of implementation of the agreements reached during the Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health which was held in London in June this year. It will also be instrumental in setting the agenda for the Fourth Ministerial Conference, which will be held in Budapest in 2003.

Healthy CAP campaign

To raise awareness of the many dimensions of food and agricultural policy and its implications for health, EPHA organised a conference on Finding Common Ground for future CAP reform in May 1999 and has acted

as a co-ordinator for the NGO campaign on food, health, social justice and environmental sustainability in relation to CAP.

The statement is available in English, French, Spanish and can be viewed on EPHA's website.

European Health Forum Gastein

The European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) is a major European conference, which brings together health policy experts and researchers, representatives from industry and NGOs to discuss the future developments of European health policy. It is organised on an annual basis by the International Forum Gastein and took place 9-12 October in Salzburg, Austria.

EPHA worked with the organisers to contribute to the planning of the programme in order to ensure greater participation by NGOs in the Forum as wider representation of NGOs among the invited speakers.

The General Secretary of EPHA presented the role of health NGOs in public health policy during the opening plenary session, and served as rapporteur for working group on public health and health promotion. Three of EPHA member organisations participated as speakers or rapporteurs during this conference in the following areas: health promotion and patients and healthcare.

EPHA has continued to support the EHFG in the run-up to its 2000 conference and has served on the Advisory Committee of Experts.

WTO and Health

Members of the EPHA secretariat have actively participated in the Commission's Trade DG consultation with NGOs since it began the process in spring 1999, attending the general meeting and the informal hearing with Commissioner Byrne and Commissioner Fischler.

EPHA was also an official NGO delegate in the World Trade Organization Seattle meeting in November and participated in the daily Commission briefings during the negotiations. To increase public health participation in the process, information was in turn widely disseminated among the health community through a special issue of the European Public Health Update and live health briefings

provided via the website of Solidar (www.solidar.org) and EPHA.

To continue to raise awareness of how health can be affected by global trade policies, EPHA began preparations in November 1999 for a seminar which was due to take place in April 2000. Working with other NGOs active in health policy in Europe, EPHA is co-ordinating this event to explore strategies for effectively monitoring and disseminating information about the impact that trade policies are having on health in Europe.

HEALTH FORUM INTERGROUP

With the advent of the new European Parliament in July 1999, the Health Forum Intergroup was re-launched in early 2000.

Intergroups are informal discussion groups established by Members of the European Parliament to foster cross-party debate on important policy issues.

The Health Forum Intergroup enables NGOs, public health authorities and health professionals to share their expertise with Members of the European Parliament, Commission officials and other stakeholders in public health. The secretariat of the Health Forum Intergroup has provided by the European Public Health Alliance since 1995.

Intergroup President:

Catherine Stihler

Members of Intergroup Bureau:

Jan Andersson, Mary Banotti, John Bowis, Raffaele Costa, Heidi Hautala, Liz Lynne, Eryl McNally, Giuseppe Nistico, Béatrice Patrie, Mel Read, Didier-Claude Rod, Peter Skinner, Johann van Hecke

The 2000 calendar includes:

Tobacco Product Regulation

17 May

The new EU health action programme and the new broad health strategy for the European Community with Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner David Byrne

5 July

The minutes of previous intergroup meetings and an updated calendar are available on EPHA's website.

NGOs AND CIVIL DIALOGUE

PLATFORM OF EUROPEAN SOCIAL NGOs

EPHA is a member of the Platform of European Social NGOs which brings together some 30 European non-governmental organisations, federations and networks who are working together to build an inclusive society. The role of NGOs in contributing to the social dimension of the European Union is central to the overall mission of EPHA. NGOs are key in identifying threats to public health. NGOs also contribute to generating innovative, multi-sectoral partnerships which protect, promote and integrate public health concerns at all levels of society and across the many different policy areas that have an impact on the health of people in Europe.

The Platform of European Social NGOs provides EPHA with valuable opportunity to actively promote public health concerns within the social policy arena and, in particular, to interact with other NGOs on issues of social exclusion, poverty and health. As a member of both the College and the Steering Group, EPHA is playing an active role of supporting the ongoing process of developing civil dialogue within the European Union, participating in the bi-annual consultation meetings between DGV and the NGOs and contributing to the Platform documents on the Bill of Fundamental Rights and Funding for NGOs.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES

The European Public Health Alliance is an international not-for-profit association registered in Belgium. The formal statutes of the organisations were declared in March 1993 and they provide for a meeting of the General Assembly of the membership once a year to discuss the broad policy of the organisation. In addition, the statutes provide for the election of an Executive Committee by the membership to oversee the work of the organisation. Consultation meetings and seminars are also organised with membership organisations during the year as appropriate.

During the EAGM in November 1999, EPHA members voted in a revised set of statutes, which will come into effect when they are published in the Belgian legal publication, *Moniteur Belge*. (Foreseen for April 2000).

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The membership elected seven members to the Executive Committee at the Annual General Meeting held in June 1999. The role of the Executive is to set out the annual work programme of the organisation, to set priorities and targets and to appoint the appropriate staff and volunteers. Executive members also provide public health expertise, policy and management advice to the secretariat on an ongoing basis.

EPHA President

Andrew J Hayes

International Union against Cancer/Association of European Cancer Leagues, Belgium

EPHA Executive Board Members

Fons Dekkers, Vice President
Dutch Federation of Patients and Consumers, The Netherlands

Henning Bech-Larsen, Treasurer
Blue Cross European Community Group, Denmark

Katerina Sokou
Greek Network of Health Promoting Schools Association, Greece

Prof Franz Baro
Alzheimer Europe, Luxembourg

Janice Cave
Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, United Kingdom

Claude Rivière
Association Nationale de Prévention de l'Alcoolisme, France

EPHA Secretariat

The secretariat is responsible for implementing the work plan and developing policy responses.

General Secretary:

Mary Mc Phail

Communications Manager:

Génon K. Jensen

Information Officer: part time

Robert Nitsche

Administration Officer:

Carole Défossé

Finance Officer: part time

Danielle Limonnier

EPHA membership organisations

As of 1 June 2000

Local, regional and national organisations

- **AIDES Fédération Nationale, France*
- **Albanian Association of Patients, Albania*
- Alcohol Concern, United Kingdom
- Association Départementale d'Education pour La Santé du Rhône (ADESR), France
- Associação De Defesa Dos Utentes Do Sangue (ADUS), Portugal
- Association Nationale de Prévention de l'Alcoolisme (ANPA), France
- Avalon Foundation, The Netherlands
- Birmingham Health Authority, United Kingdom
- British Fluoridation Society, United Kingdom
- British Medical Association - European Office (BMA), Belgium
- Broadcasting Support Services (BSS), United Kingdom
- Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Authority, United Kingdom
- Center for Environmental Studies, Hungary
- Chain Federation of Organisations for People with Chronic Illness (CHAIN), Hungary
- Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH), United Kingdom
- Danish Cystic Fibrosis Association, Denmark
- DES Action, The Netherlands
- Deutsche Tinnitus-Liga e.V., Germany
- **Dutch Association for Acupuncture, The Netherlands*
- Dutch Federation of Patients and Consumers, The Netherlands
- Ecole de Santé Publique -Health Promotion and Education Unit- ULB, Belgium
- Faculty of Health of the University of Brighton, United Kingdom
- Fédération Nationale d'Agriculture Biologique des Régions de France (FNAB), France
- Fédération Nationale d'Associations d'Hygiène et de Médecines Complémentaires Naturelles (FENAHMAN), France
- Finnish Diabetes Federation (FDF), Finland
- Glasgow Healthy City Partnership, United Kingdom
- Greek Network of Health Promoting Schools Association (DESPY), Greece
- Green Doctors – Isde Ukraine, Ukraine
- Health Development Authority, United Kingdom
- Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland (HPANI), United Kingdom
- Health Services Management Centre (HSMC), University of Birmingham, United Kingdom
- Faculty of Public Health Medicine of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom, United Kingdom
- Inter Disciplinary Nutrition Study Group, Belgium
- Marie Curie Cancer Care, United Kingdom
- Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, School of Public Health, Poland
- **Northumberland Health Authority, United Kingdom*
- **Norwegian Peoples Aid, Norway*
- Norwegian Temperance Alliance, Norway

- Polish Association of People Suffering from Epilepsy, Poland
- **Polish Ecological Club City of Gliwice Chapter, Poland*
- Royal College of Nursing (RCN), United Kingdom
- Royal Society for the Promotion of Health, United Kingdom
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA), United Kingdom
- Rural Parliament of Hungary, Hungary
- Self Help Information Center, Hungary
- Sandwell Health Authority, United Kingdom
- Sokoro Ecological Park Foundation, Hungary
- **SOS Health, Bulgaria*
- Sustainable World Foundation, Bulgaria
- Swedish Save the Children - Rädna Barnen, Belgium
- Terveys ry - Finnish Health Association, Finland
- The Institute of Public Health in Ireland, Ireland
- UK Public Health Association (UKPHA), United Kingdom
- United Kingdom Thalassaemia Society, United Kingdom
- Welsh Food Alliance, United Kingdom
- **WEMOS Foundation, The Netherlands*

European networks

- Alzheimer Europe
- Association Européenne d'Organisations d'Aides et de Soins à Domicile (AEOSAD)
- Blue Cross in the European Union
- Endometriosis Association, European office
- Eurocare – Advocacy for the prevention of alcohol-related harm in Europe
- **Europa Donna - the European Breast Cancer Coalition*
- European Citizens Association (ECAS)
- European Council for Classical Homeopathy (ECCH)
- European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG)
- **European Federation of Natural Medicine Users (EFNMU)*
- **European Forum on HIV/AIDS Children and Families*
- European Heart Network (EHN)
- European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH)
- European Malignant Hyperthermia Group
- European Network for Smoking Prevention (ENSP)
- European Network for Health Promotion Agencies (ENHPA)
- ** European Shiatsu Federation*
- Federation of European Cancer Societies (FECS)
- Health Action International (HAI Europe)
- Mental Health Europe – Santé Mentale Europe (MHE-SME)
- Pesticide Action Network –Europe
- Standing Committee of Nurses of the EU
- **Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF)*

International networks

- International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF)

- International Planned Parenthood Federation, European Network (IPPF)
- International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA)
- International Union Against Cancer (UICC)

**** Organisations to be approved by the Annual General Meeting in June 2000***