



# EPHA Newsletter

January 2003

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### THE PARLIAMENT

#### **Parliament votes against cosmetic tests on animals**

The European Parliament in Strasbourg approved a new law on 15 January to ban the sale of virtually all animal-tested cosmetic products in the European Union from 2009. Following ten years of delicate negotiations and strong lobbying from the cosmetics industry, animal testing, currently only forbidden in the UK, Belgium, Germany, Austria and the Netherlands, will be outlawed in all fifteen member states. The new legislation will also close a loophole which allows the sale of beauty and hygiene products that have been tested elsewhere in the world. The new legislation is intended to force the cosmetic industry to find alternative methods of experimentation. While animal rights groups have welcomed the new rules they have also criticised them for not going far enough. The new European legislation, they say, will only apply to 11 out of the 14 animal tests currently in use.

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+TW-20030113-S+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N#SECTION3>

#### **Parliament Committee opposes advertising for breast implants**

The European Parliament's Public Health Committee, in its vote on 22 January, urged EU Member States to ban direct advertising to the public for breast implants and opt for balanced information instead, including potential risks. On 22 January the Parliament's Public Health Committee unanimously adopted a report by rapporteur Catherine Stihler (PSE, UK) on the Commission Communication on Community and national measures in relation to breast implants.

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+NR-20030122-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N#SECTION2>

#### **Parliament discussed health care and care for the elderly**

On 15 January, the Parliament adopted a position on the Commission Communication discussing future trends and costs for health care in light of an ageing EU population.

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+DN-20030115-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=S#SECTION8>

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?L=EN&OBJID=10259&LEVEL=2&MODE=SIP&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N>

#### **Public Hearing on The Quality and Safety of Human Tissues and Cells**

Eucomed, the Medical Technology Industry Association co-sponsored a Public Hearing on the Quality and Safety of Human Tissues and Cells organised by Dr Peter Liese MEP and that took place at the European Parliament in Brussels on Wednesday 29 January. The European Commission DG Sanco published on 19 June 2002 its proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on setting standards of quality and safety for the donation, procurement, testing, processing, storage, and distribution of human tissues and cells. The proposed legislation uses the Community competence in public health policy making which was introduced in Article 152 of the Amsterdam Treaty.

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2002/com2002\\_0319en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2002/com2002_0319en01.pdf)

<http://www.eutop.de/ct/>

#### **Election of the European Ombudsman**

Mr. Nikiforos Diamandouros was elected European Ombudsman by the Members of the European Parliament in plenary session in Strasbourg on 15 January 2003, he will take office on 1 April 2003 after Mr Söderman retires and will serve until the end of the current parliamentary term in 2004. Mr Jacob Söderman was elected the first European Ombudsman in June 1995 and re-elected in 1999. Amongst Mr Söderman's work, his participation in the European Convention on the Future of Europe has been a major contribution.

[http://www.europarl.eu.int/coparl/peti/election/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/coparl/peti/election/default_en.htm)

### **New European Food Safety Authority Executive Director**

Mr Geoffrey Podger has been appointed as Executive Director of the European Food Safety Authority. He will take up the position on 1 February 2003. The Executive Director was appointed by the Management Board, on the basis of a list of candidates proposed by the Commission after an open competition. The Executive Director is responsible for the day to day management of the Authority and is answerable to the Management Board.

[http://www.efsa.eu.int/pdf/headofefsa\\_en.pdf](http://www.efsa.eu.int/pdf/headofefsa_en.pdf)

### **Parliament Prolongs Ecopoint Dispute**

The European Parliament Transport Committee did not accept a deal agreed in the Council on 31 December 2002 on transit of heavy goods vehicles through Austria, the so-called "ecopoints" system. A large majority of members across the political landscape of the European Parliament approved four compromise amendments, which are in conflict with the Council decision in December. The committee wants environmentally-friendly lorries to be promoted and older lorries gradually banned, although it also said transit restrictions should apply only to three environmentally sensitive Alpine regions. Their report will be on the agenda for the February plenary session in Strasbourg.

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/committees/rett/20030120/473137en.pdf>

### **EP Committee votes for a powerful polluter pays principle**

In January 2002, the Commission issued a proposal for a directive on environmental liability. The proposal aims to ensure that future environmental damage is paid by the polluter, and preferably prevented. The proposed directive covers three types of environmental damage: biodiversity, water and damage which causes serious potential or actual harm to public health via soil or sub-soil contamination. On 22 January 2003, the EP Environment Committee adopted its opinion on the draft directive on environmental liability. Despite much opposition from industry, the Committee voted in favour of strict rules and called for a wide financial and legal accountability of polluters.

[http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga\\_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=EN&numdoc=52002PC0017&model=quichett](http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=EN&numdoc=52002PC0017&model=quichett)

## **THE COUNCIL**

### **Council Agreement on Hygiene Rules for Food of Animal Origin**

Following the Commission's proposal, the Council has finally adopted a political agreement to set hygiene rules for food of animal origin. The legislation focuses on setting objectives while leaving business flexibility in deciding which safety measures to take. Mr Byrne welcomed the Council's political agreement as a key aspect of achieving food safety while respecting the diversity of European food. Following the principle of flexibility, exemptions can be made for food produced according to traditional methods, by small business or in remote regions. But exemptions that may compromise food hygiene objectives are not allowed, and the procedures for granting exemptions must be transparent. Food business operators that import food of animal origin must ensure that such food comes from third countries that are approved for that purpose and that the dispatching establishment in the third country concerned appears on a list drawn up in accordance with EU procedures. Following the co-decision procedure, this agreement in the form of a Regulation will go to the European Parliament for a second reading during the first half of 2003.

[http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/02/1890|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/02/1890|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

### **Greek Presidency: Priorities for Environment, Sustainable Development and Health**

Environment and Sustainable Development: Greece has committed to further implement the EU strategy for sustainable development while promoting EU Competitiveness and pushing forward important environment legislative proposals. The implementation by candidate countries of the "acquis communautaire" within the time limits, the package on new chemicals legislation, the directive on Environmental Liability, regulation on labelling of GMOs and a directive on emission trading are the main activities that the Greek Presidency will carry out during next semester.

Health: Food, Drugs, Mental Health, Patients Mobility and the broadening of Health EU Competences were the 5 priorities that the Greek Minister for Health announced to the Members of the European Parliamentary Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy last 27 January.

[http://www.eu2003.gr/multimedia/pdf/2002\\_12/267.pdf](http://www.eu2003.gr/multimedia/pdf/2002_12/267.pdf)

<http://www.eu2003.gr/en/cat/83/>

[http://www.eu2003.gr/multimedia/pdf/2003\\_1/433.pdf](http://www.eu2003.gr/multimedia/pdf/2003_1/433.pdf)

## THE COMMISSION

### Salmon Food Colouring Cut Down

The EU has cut the allowed levels of Canthaxanthin, a pigment used to colour the feed of farmed salmon and chickens following an EU scientific committee which established a link between the colorant and retinal problems in 1997. The pigment gives farmed salmon a more pinkish colour and makes egg yolks more golden. Under the new EU rule, the maximum levels of the colourant will be cut by at least two thirds. This Directive was agreed recently by the Member States in a vote in the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health.

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/dat/2003/l\\_022/l\\_02220030125en00280030.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/dat/2003/l_022/l_02220030125en00280030.pdf)

### Controversial CAP reform

The Commission proposed on the 22 January the new reforms to its contentious CAP, characterised by the single payments based on the size of their farm - not their production levels. Subsidies will also be linked to farms meeting standards for food safety, environmental protection and animal welfare. Direct payments to big farms will be gradually scaled down from 2007, with the aim of freeing up more money for rural development in the EU's poorest farming regions. Cuts will also be made in the fixed prices which the EU guarantees for products including cereals, milk and rice.

WWF, BirdLife International and Friends of the Earth Europe disagree with the Commission's proposal and have urged EU Agriculture Ministers to reject the Commission's package in favour of a real reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. The three environmental organisations strongly criticise the proposals stating they "are a major climb-down from the Commission's earlier suggestions of a sustainable agricultural policy. Rural development, a policy which most Member States have been publicly supporting over the past three years, has been abandoned".

[http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/03/99|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/03/99|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

[http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=qt&doc=MEMO/03/10|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=MEMO/03/10|0|RAPID&lg=EN)

[http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=qt&doc=MEMO/03/11|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=MEMO/03/11|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

[http://www.foeeurope.org/press/2003/JD\\_22\\_Jan\\_CAPreview.htm](http://www.foeeurope.org/press/2003/JD_22_Jan_CAPreview.htm)

<http://www.sustdev.org/industry.news/2002/18.12.02-3.shtml>

### Implementation of EU Environmental Laws by Candidate Countries

On 21 January, Margot Wallström, Environment Commissioner, Günther Verheugen, Enlargement Commissioner and Vasso Papandreou, Greek Environment Minister met environment ministers from the 13 candidate countries to discuss the implementation challenges of the 149 EU environmental laws. According to the Commission, 80% of transposition of the environmental acquis has been completed. Candidate countries must now make efforts to implement this acquis within the deadlines agreed for the transitional periods. The challenge is significant both financially and institutionally as the cost of compliance with the environmental acquis for the candidate countries is estimated at 80-110 billion Euros (Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive: over 25 billion Euros; Landfill Directive: 10-12 billion Euros.) According to Margot Wallström, EU funding will be increased but the countries will have to find much of the money themselves.

[http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/03/81|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/03/81|0|RAPID&lg=EN)

[http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=qt&doc=SPEECH/03/14|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=SPEECH/03/14|0|RAPID&lg=EN)

### Call for Proposals published for FP6

Parliament and Council are now finalising discussions on the Rules for Participation and Specific Programmes. The European Council in Seville (21-22 June 2002) called for the "earliest possible adoption of the decisions implementing the Sixth Framework Programme for Research (participation rules and specific programmes)". The first call for tender was issued 17 December 2002, these legal texts define the necessary specifications to prepare and submit a proposal. Calls have been published in the Official Journal of the EU and also on CORDIS, together with detailed guidelines,

submission forms and an electronic proposal submission tool (EPSS). Amongst the more than 50 call for proposals, there are a few worth mentioning: "Life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health", "Food quality and safety", "sustainable energy systems", "Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems: Sustainable energy systems and research activities having an impact in the medium and longer term" and "Global change and ecosystems".

<http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/calls.cfm>

### **The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work 2003 work programme**

The new annual work programme of the European Safety Agency has been published. The first objective stated in their programme is to promote a global network partnership optimising and extending the Agency and network resources and co-operation. The Agency will also focus on their communication strategy by improving their Web-facilities and promoting complementary communication services. The last point of the programme explains the information project activities commonly based on the goal of prevention. Finally, the Bilbao-based European Agency for Safety and Health at Work has published an on-line guide for researchers. It provides information about important funding opportunities for occupational safety and health research in the recently launched sixth EU Research Framework Programme (FP6) (See "Calls for the FP6" in this section for more info).

[http://agency.osha.eu.int/index\\_en.htm](http://agency.osha.eu.int/index_en.htm)

[http://agency.osha.eu.int/publications/work\\_programmes/2003/en/WP2003.pdf](http://agency.osha.eu.int/publications/work_programmes/2003/en/WP2003.pdf)

### **Commission criticised for position on worldwide medicine agreement**

US and Europe have still not reached an agreement on the access to cheap medicines for the world's poorest nations. During the negotiations, the US, home to the world's largest pharma industry, insisted that any deal must be limited both in scope and duration. On this basis, the US has been acting unilaterally and using temporary and non-binding measures, while Europe has criticised this move and has issued an alternative proposal: multilateral and permanent. As with the original DOHA document, the EU proposal would allow poor countries lacking their own production capacities to import 'unauthorised' generic drugs for a limited list of diseases, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. But EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy says that poor countries should also be able to import generic drugs for other diseases, on a case-by-case basis, where they are judged to constitute a "public health crisis" by the World Health Organization (WHO). Developing nations, including Kenya, and NGOs have attacked Lamy's approach, calling it 'ambiguous'. They claim that the EU proposal does not go far enough and panders to big pharmaceutical companies in the United States. Commissioner Lamy's response to a letter from EPHA President Andrew Hayes states that "the situation now is that the US are not in the position to join the consensus around this text because it disagrees on the scope of diseases to be covered", but that "a permanent and secure solution must be found as soon as possible in the WTO" (See "EPHA Secretariat News").

[http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=qt&doc=MEMO/03/4|0|RAPID&lg=EN;](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=MEMO/03/4|0|RAPID&lg=EN;)

### **Pharmaceutical Direct-to-Consumer Advertising**

Pharmaceutical companies in the European Union are currently prohibited from advertising prescription drugs directly to the public, despite the polemic raised after Commission's proposal for a more relaxed ban. Opponents of the proposal argue that direct-to-consumer advertising (DTCA) leads to unsustainable health care spending and may have other negative effects for patients. In contrast, its proponents argue that individuals have a fundamental right to information and it is a breach of human rights to censor information on prescription drugs, regardless of the source.

[http://pharmacos.eudra.org/F2/review/doc/DGentr-PH-COM\\_2002\\_735-F2%20PH%20311%20medicaments%20EN.pdf](http://pharmacos.eudra.org/F2/review/doc/DGentr-PH-COM_2002_735-F2%20PH%20311%20medicaments%20EN.pdf)

### **EU loan for Chernobyl type reactor considered**

A Chernobyl-style nuclear reactor could be financed by European Union funds, environmental groups warn. A non-paper from the EU-Commission, leaked to EU Enlargement Watch and Greenpeace reveals that the Commission's plans to raise loans are not so much about security, but in fact about more nuclear power in Russia and Eastern Europe.

<http://www.eu-energy.com/pdfs/euratomloanfin.pdf>

## THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION

### More Involvement of Member States in the Convention

The Slovenian foreign Minister, Dimitrij Rupel, will join the Convention on the Future of Europe. He will replace the current government representative for Slovenia, Matjaz Nahtigal. He is the latest in a series of Foreign Ministers who have been nominated as Convention Members to ensure that national interests are being upheld. France and Germany have appointed their foreign ministers to the Convention, Dominique de Villepin and Joschka Fischer, respectively. The Greek Foreign Minister, Mr Giorgios Papandreou, is also due to join the Convention in February 2003. He will be a member of the Convention's influential steering committee, the Praesidium, where he will replace the current Greek representative, Mr Giorgios Katiforis. This decision illustrates the importance which governments are attributing to the Convention process. However, Giscard d'Estaing has expressed his fear that a draft European Constitution will be undermined by Member States. The Convention Chairman has in the past welcomed the moves as a positive sign that the Convention is being taken seriously. However, following the most recent decision, he has changed his position. This could be a response to the news of a bilateral Franco-German deal on a future EU president.

<http://european-convention.eu.int/bienvenue.asp?lang=EN&Content=v>

### Health finally appears in the Convention Agenda

The Social Europe Working Group has changed its position regarding Health. While in the Preliminary Draft Report of the Working Group (dated 17 January) there was no consensus on the role of Health in the Future of Europe, the Revised Draft Final Report (dated 24 January) reflects the change of mind of the Working Group, supporting Health as one of the basic objectives of the Union. EU level competencies should be broadened specifically because of communicable diseases, bio-terrorism, quality and safety for blood, tissues and organs, and International Health Regulations.

<http://european-convention.eu.int/docs/wd11/6873.pdf>

<http://european-convention.eu.int/docs/wd11/6818.pdf>

<http://european-convention.eu.int/dynadoc.asp?lang=EN&Content=WGXI>

## EUROPEAN COURT RULINGS

### EU insists on day in court for Tobacco industry

On the 15 January, the Court of First Instance rejected initiatives brought against the European Commission's decision to take cigarette producers to court in the United States. The Court's decision comes after tobacco producers Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds and Japan Tobacco had earlier questioned the European Commission's right to take them to court in the United States.

See "EPHA Member News" for more info

<http://curia.eu.int/jurisp/cgi-bin/form.pl?lang=en&Submit=Submit&docrequire=alldocs&numaff=&datefs=2003-01-15&datefe=2003-01-20&nomusuel=Commission&domaine=&mots=Tobacco&resmax=100>

## EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS CALENDAR

### The Parliament

Committee on Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy    21-22 May 2003  
10-11 June 2003  
16-17 June 2003  
8-9 July 2003

[http://wwwdb.europarl.eu.int/ep/owa/p\\_calag.meet\\_details?ipid=0&ilg=EN&idate=30-01-03&iqen=&iorg=C09&isorg=&iloc=\\*\\*\\*&iclass=2&iorig=committees](http://wwwdb.europarl.eu.int/ep/owa/p_calag.meet_details?ipid=0&ilg=EN&idate=30-01-03&iqen=&iorg=C09&isorg=&iloc=***&iclass=2&iorig=committees)

### Plenary Sessions

1-4 September 2003,  
22-25 September 2003,  
8-9 October 2003,  
20-23 October 2003,  
5-6 November 2003,  
17-20 November 2003,  
3-4 December 2003,  
15-18 December 2003,

[http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/cal2003\\_en.pdf](http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/cal2003_en.pdf)

### **The Council**

Agriculture & Fisheries Council, 10 - 11 February 2003  
Economic & Financial Affairs Council, 18 February 2003  
Education, Youth & Culture Council, 20 February 2003  
Agriculture & Fisheries Council, 24 - 25 February 2003  
General Affairs and External Relations Council, 24 - 25 February 2003  
Justice & Home Affairs Council, 27 - 28 February 2003  
Employment, Social Affairs, Health & Consumer Policy Council, 28 February 2003  
Internal Market, Industry and Research Council, 3 March 2003  
Environment Council, 4 March 2003  
Employment, Social Affairs, Health & Consumer Policy Council, 6 March 2003  
Economic & Financial Affairs Council, 7 March 2003  
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council, 7 March 2003  
Agriculture & Fisheries Council, 17 - 18 March 2003  
General Affairs and External Relations Council, 18 - 19 March 2003  
European Council, 21 March 2003  
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council, 27 - 28 March 2003  
Informal Justice & Home Affairs Council, 28 - 29 March 2003  
Agriculture & Fisheries Council, 31 March 2003

<http://ue.eu.int/en/summ.htm>

### **The Commission**

Conference on Application of the Precautionary Principle to EMF.  
24-26 February 2003. European Commission, Jean Monnet Building, rue Alcide de Gasperi L-2920 Luxembourg. Preliminary registration is mandatory and should be done by 15 February 2003. Contact person: Caroline de La Chavignerie, European Commission, Euroforum building, 10 rue Robert Stümper, L-2557 Luxembourg. Tel: + 352 4301 38047 Fax: + 352 4301 34975.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph/programmes/health/phevents.htm>

Mid-term Review of the Social Policy Agenda: Achievements and Perspectives  
19 to 20 March 2003. Charlemagne building.

Tobacco Control and Development Policy

3-4 February, Brussels. Organised by the European Commission in collaboration with the World Health Organisation and the World Bank.

Food Legislation: The Commission will held a meeting on February 24 to discuss the Preliminary Draft Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on the addition of vitamins, minerals and certain other substances to foods. EPHA has been invited to send up to three experts/representatives.

More info: [anne-cecile.daudigier-junger@cec.eu.int](mailto:anne-cecile.daudigier-junger@cec.eu.int) (Ref. SANCO/329/03)

2003 edition of Green Week: 2-5 June. The main aim of Green Week is to encourage people to "think aloud" about how we can really change our environmental behaviour and make the world a more environmentally friendly and healthy place to live in.

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/index_en.htm)

## EPHA SECRETARIAT NEWS

### **Concerns on the transparency of GATS negotiations**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> January EPHA sent a letter to Commissioner Lamy and Commissioner Byrne, DG Trade contacts, Health attaches in permanent representative offices (COREPER) and DG SANCO contacts expressing its concerns on the GATS and market access consultation process. EPHA has been involved in its consultation process for several years, and is currently drafting a position paper on Trade and Health. EPHA's letter, based on text received from the World Development Movement (WDM), identifies critical flaws on the GATS public consultation document on the Commission dated 12<sup>th</sup> November 2002. The document fails to provide critical information about which countries have made requests to the EU. The huge scope of the current GATS negotiations, reaching into areas such as education, social services, broadcasting and cultural services, requires a complete parliamentary and public scrutiny. Consequently, EPHA proposed a thorough and independent assessment of these negotiations as mandated by the GATS itself. On 12 January a first reply from the Cabinet of Mr David Byrne was received, saying that they will examine EPHA's concerns and will give a response as soon as possible. Regarding EPHA members: Royal College of Nurses and PGEU (Pharmacists) have prepared or are in the process of preparing their respective contributions.

EPHA letter: <http://www.cptech.org/ip/wto/p6/callforactionTRIPS-AH.rtf>

Commission's document: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/services/imas.pdf>

### **DG Trade reacts to EPHA's letter on TRIPs and Access to Medicines**

In a signed letter addressed to EPHA President, Commissioner Lamy states that the EU has fully endorsed the draft agreement which was proposed on 16 December 2002 by TRIPs Council's Chairman Ambassador Eduardo Perez Motta. The problem now is the actual disagreement between the US and the EU both on the nature of the agreement (temporary/permanent) and on the list of diseases affected. Lamy proposes that the WHO, with globally recognised expertise in public health matters, could act as an advisory organisation on all public health problems and not just those on which all WTO members agree. EPHA's Policy Assistant on Trade and Health, Francesco Longu welcomed the Commissioner's approach. EPHA's letter: <http://www.cptech.org/ip/wto/p6/callforactionTRIPS-AH.rtf>

### **East meets West in Brussels**

On 30-31 January, EPHA organised in Brussels the First Opening Conference for the IBPP Support to Civil Society and Local Initiatives Programme. This programme funds East and Western European NGOs and local and regional authorities to cooperate on a range of social, health and environment issues. The conference, attended by 250 participants from the EU and the New Independent States examined issues of partnership, sustainability and networking as well as briefing on EU reporting and contracting procedures. EPHA had been requested to organise the logistics of the conference by EuropeAid Cooperation Office. EPHA Secretary General, Tamsin Rose, made a presentation to the conference on 'making partnerships work'.

### **Health Intergroup**

EPHA organised a meeting of the Public Health Working Party of the Health Forum Intergroup on 29 January, attended by more than 60 participants. The working group president, MEP Heidi Hautala, chaired the meeting and EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection David Byrne spoke about the future of Public Health in Europe and answered the questions from other MEPs and civil society representatives. Tamsin Rose participated in the dialogue outlining views from the health sector on how to ensure a 'high level of human health protection'. MEP Caroline Jackson, Chair of the Environment Committee, also provided her views on how health might be strengthened at an EU level. A report of the meeting will soon be available from the EPHA website.

### **NGO CAP Reform**

On 29 January, EPHA participated in the European NGO Working Group on CAP reform which centred on the new proposal of the Commission to reform CAP. See "The European Institutions News – The Commission" for more info.

## EPHA receives input from members on children's health and environment

Following a request by email, over ten member organisations have sent information concerning their activities on children's health and environment. EPHA is preparing a brochure and postcard on children's environment and health to coincide with WORLD HEALTH DAY on 7 April. The brochure, which is funded by WHO, will focus on the priority issues of asthma, allergies and respiratory infections; injuries; cancer; water and food-borne diseases; and obesity. *For more information, send an email to [genon@epha.org](mailto:genon@epha.org).*

## EPHA WORKING GROUPS NEWS

### Environment & Health Working Group

The group received the invitation letter and the programme of a conference "Environmental Governance and Civil Society: Challenges and Opportunities for Europeans", organised by the European Commission and held in Brussels on 27-28 January 2003.

### Food & Nutrition Working Group

1. The group was informed about the publication of **Commission proposals on CAP reform** on 22 January. The Commission proposals are severely criticised by several European NGOs, including Friends of the Earth, WWF and BirdLife International. EPHA also outlined its policy priorities to ensure that health is put in the forefront of the debate on CAP reform. These priorities will include:
  - Presenting the health perspective and individual EPHA member responses to the European NGO CAP Reform Working Group meeting to be held on January 29 in Brussels (attended by Genon Jensen)
  - Draft a letter to Commissioner Fischler outlining EPHA's major concerns with regard to the proposal in the next month
  - Participate in any joint European NGO action in the coming months

Please send EPHA (Genon Jensen, Policy Director at [genon@epha.org](mailto:genon@epha.org)) any reactions you have to the Commission proposal, or any future policy work your organisation may be undertaking in this area.

2. The working group received the programme and an invitation to attend a **stakeholder meeting on novel food legislation**, organised by the European Commission, in Brussels on 13 January. The aim was to provide the Commission with comments on issues raised in the discussion paper on novel foods (can be downloaded from [http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/novel\\_food/nf\\_index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/novel_food/nf_index_en.html))
3. The group was also informed about a **report called "Look to the Local - A Better Agriculture is possible"** and published by MEP Caroline Lucas on 3 December 2002. Co-authored by Small and Family Farmers Alliance Chair Michael Hart and leading localisation advocate Colin Hines, the paper calls for the EU to replace the CAP with a commitment to promoting self-reliance, fair trade and rural economies - both within and outside its borders. It can be downloaded from <http://www.carolinelucasmep.org.uk>.
4. The Health & Consumer Protection Directorate-General has issued a request for information in view of the revision of **Council Directive 90/496/EEC on Nutrition Labelling**. This consultation opportunity offers an excellent opportunity for EPHA and its members to respond to many of the questions outlined in the paper. The aim of the revision, according to the attached paper, is "to bring the provisions on nutritional labelling in line with consumer needs and expectations." It also mentions the need to consider the impact of such revisions on public health strategies. As EPHA's membership includes expertise in many of these areas, the EPHA secretariat will prepare a short response from EPHA. Individual members are encouraged to send responses directly to the Commission. The deadline for the input from appropriate experts within membership organisations on the above questions will be the 21<sup>st</sup> February so that a draft response can be circulated to the entire membership for comments and approval by the Commission's deadline of 7 March.

*For members who would like to become a member of the food and nutrition working group but are not yet in the email list, please send an email to Carole Défossé, our Office Manager at [carole@epha.org](mailto:carole@epha.org).*

### **EPHA Policy Coordination Group**

The **Policy Coordination Group meeting** took place on **15 January 2003 at IPPF offices**. The main item of the agenda were an update on campaign and advocacy work undertaken by health NGOs in relation to the Convention on the Future of Europe (see "Convention" and "Members' News" section for further info). Other items included the Greek Presidency (see "European Institutions News – The Council" for further info), Health Intergroup (see "EPHA secretariat news" for further info) and EPHA policy priorities for 2003. The draft minutes will be sent to the members of the policy coordination group for comments during the first week of February.

**The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 5 March from 12.30 to 14.00 at IPPF offices, 146 Rue Royale, 1000 Brussels.**

For members who would like to become a member of this working group but are not yet in the email list, please send an email to Carole Défossé, our Office Manager at [carole@epha.org](mailto:carole@epha.org).

## **MEMBER NEWS**

### **Letter on tobacco to David Byrne**

Four EPHA member organisations UICC/ECL, European Heart Network (EHN), European Network for Smoking Prevention (ENSP) and European Respiratory Society (ERS) wrote jointly to David Byrne just before Christmas, to congratulate him on two recent developments in EU tobacco control: adoption of the Directive on Tobacco Advertising and successful defense of the Tobacco Products Directive – the validity of which had been challenged in the European Court of Justice (see "European Institutions News – European Court Rulings" for more info). At the same time, the four organisations asked for clarification of the EU's mandate for the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, currently being negotiated under the auspices of the World Health Organization. The next round of discussions is due to open in Geneva on 17th February, and will last for two weeks. Several European NGO's will be attending the negotiations; where they will continue to lobby for the strongest possible text, and effective measures to reduce the worldwide burden of disease and premature mortality caused by tobacco.

### **European Year of People with Disabilities**

In December 2002, Anna Diamantopoulou, the European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, announced the Commission's action plan for the European Year of People with Disabilities in 2003. Thousands of events will be carried out throughout Europe in order to promote the rights of more than 37 million people with disabilities and to raise awareness on the barriers faced daily by people with disabilities in society. The main objective to be achieved during the Year will be to increase the systematic integration of the priorities and needs of disabled people in all policies and general measures, with a view to promoting their equal opportunities. At the European level, the European Disability Forum will strengthen its efforts to ensure a proper implementation of the European Directive on equal treatment in the workplace, and most significant, to obtain a new comprehensive EU anti-discrimination legislation, covering all fields of EU competence: transport, education, telecommunications, housing, information society, health... This campaign is organised in collaboration with the European Disability Forum (an EPHA member), an umbrella body representing the 37 million disabled people across Europe. EDF wishes that the Year will be the trigger to long term alliances and cooperation with all other organisations, decision makers, companies and other stakeholders on the development of concrete actions favouring equal opportunities of people with disabilities.

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/news/2002/dec/212\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/news/2002/dec/212_en.html)

[www.eypd2003.org](http://www.eypd2003.org)

<http://www.edf-feeph.org/en/events/year/year.htm>

[www.madriddeclaration.org](http://www.madriddeclaration.org)

### **Letter to the Convention**

The ENSP (European Network for Smoking Prevention) in collaboration with Eurocare (against alcohol harm), have written a letter to individuals within the Social Europe Working Group of the Convention for the Future of Europe, on behalf of ENSP members. The letter outlines:

- The need for a firm legal base for tobacco legislation in the new EU
- Constitutional Treaty
- Requests that health be included as a fundamental right in the Values and Objectives of the Union
- Demands that health remain a 'shared' competence
- Stresses the importance of creating a base for a Treaty revision that would allow for EU legislation on public health grounds

Please find a copy of the letter on ENSP website. ENSP members will be sending a similar letter to their national delegates to the EU Convention on the last week of January. Any support that you can give to this letter will be welcomed. You can use and adapt the text as necessary should you wish to work further on the EU Convention campaign. [www.ensp.org](http://www.ensp.org)

### **Polish nursing training lower than EU standards**

The Standing Committee of Nurses of the EU (PCN) is concerned about the directives on Recognition of Professional Qualifications in the EU and more specifically the Polish situation. In a letter sent to DG Internal Market - Commissioner Bolkestein, to DG Enlargement - Commissioner Verheugen and to DG Sanco - Commissioner Byrne, the PCN expressed its concerns about nursing qualifications in Poland and their potential recognition under the accession arrangements. The expert "peer review" of the European Commission reported that in the case of Poland, which has the largest nursing workforce of the candidate countries, there were serious deficiencies in relation to training and education in comparison with EU standards. The PCN suggests in its letter the introduction of bridging courses to enable nurses trained in previous years to obtain EU recognition.

### **Manifesto on regulation of reprocessing of single use medical devices**

Eucomed, the European medical technology industry association, the UK Patients' Association (PA), has formally adopted the final text of a joint Manifesto, together with the International Alliance of Patients Organization (IAPO), The European Medical Association (EMA) and two EPHA Members: the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) and the Standing Committee of Nurses of the EU (PCN). This manifesto calls for EU action to regulate all reprocessing of medical devices intended for single use by hospitals, reprocessors and original manufacturers, in order to protect the health and safety of patients and healthcare workers in the European Union. With the increasing prevalence of hospital-acquired infections, antibiotic resistance, and life-threatening transmissible diseases such as hepatitis and variant Creutzfeld-Jakob disease [v-CJD], the invaluable role of single-use instruments in ensuring sterility and preventing cross infection is undisputed. However, many hospitals reuse single-use medical devices, in the belief that this practice reduces healthcare budgets and benefits the environment. Some Member States have taken binding measures to stop that, but it is a widespread practice in Europe.

<http://www.eucomed.be/docs/Press%20release%2003.03%20Reuse%20manifesto.pdf>

### **More than 12 Years of Activity of the Estonian Association Anti-AIDS**

Since its creation by volunteers in September 1990, the Estonian Association Anti-AIDS has been involved in the prevention of HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases and the promotion of the healthy lifestyle. During its last 5 years the Association has carried out 9 projects, 2 run now on HIV/STD prevention and promotion of safer sexual behaviour among adolescent students, schoolteachers and army recruits. These projects were financed by PHARE programs of the European Commission, Soros Foundation, Family Health International (USA), Tallinn City Government and others. The Association has developed innovative training material in Estonian and Russian based on WHO and UNESCO manuals and the folder of The Netherlands Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. Their own monitoring of the execution of the programs have shown a positive involvement of young people and a particular interest of teachers. The Association works in close collaboration with many State organisations and NGOs in Estonia and has recently joined EPHA. <http://www.hot.ee/antiaids>

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### ***Improving School Lunch Standards***

27 February 2003, 5:30-7:00 pm, The Regeneration Institute, Cardiff University.

Organised by Welsh Food Alliance.

To reserve a free place contact: (0845) 3304926 or (01633) 66311444, [j.sullivan@ntlworld.com](mailto:j.sullivan@ntlworld.com)

Details from: David Smith, Food Policy Adviser, Welsh Food Alliance WFA, 216 Stow Hill, Newport, NP20 4HA, Wales

### ***Public Service Deregulation and GATS: A Global Perspective***

Seminar by Professor Jane Kelsey from the University of Auckland, New Zealand

5 February 2003, 2:00pm, School of Public Policy, 29-30 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9QU

Info: James Lancaster, tel 020 7679 4985, [j.lancaster@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:j.lancaster@ucl.ac.uk)

### ***Preparation for the Kyoto 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum (Japan)***

Meeting-debate to discuss a document to be presented by WACLAC at the "Water and Cities" Session. 8 February 2003, Turin. Organised by UTO.

Additional information (programme, venue of the meeting, information on accommodation, etc.) will be sent to you when you inform UTO of your wish to participate (you can confirm your participation by fax : 33 1 55 84 23 51 or by e-mail : [mohamed.boussraoui@fmcu-uto.org](mailto:mohamed.boussraoui@fmcu-uto.org)).

### ***World Life Sciences Forum***

8 - 11 April 2003, Lyon, France.

Organised by the Scientific Foundation BioVision in association with French Region Rhône-Alpes.

Contact: Scientific Foundation Bio-Vision, Lyon, France

Tel:+ 33 4 78 92 70 00 Fax: +33 4 78 92 70 15

Email: [biovision@biovision.org](mailto:biovision@biovision.org) Internet: <http://www.biovision.org>

### ***Debate on Trade Policy***

5 February, European Parliament, Eastman Building, Room 300, Rue Belliard 135 (Park Leopold)

Organised by the European Policy Center.

Pascal Lamy, European Commissioner for Trade, and Nick Clegg MEP, Member of the European Parliament Trade Committee, will speak at an EPC Dialogue

### ***6th European Health Forum Gastein***

October 1 - 4, 2003.

<http://www.ehfg.org/website03/>

<http://www.ehfg.org/>

### ***International Conference on Poverty, Food and Health***

July 2003. Lisbon, Portugal

This conference aims to encourage a wide range of papers, which will contribute to persuade the agenda and setting priorities of international agencies and policy makers to fight poverty, food insecurity and disease.

<http://www.pfh2003.org>

## OTHER ITEMS

### ***Online letter against Smoking to German Chancellor Schröder***

The German Coalition against Smoking has taken the lead in organising an on-line petition against the German government's attempt to block EU advocacy of a ban on tobacco advertising, during the

next round of negotiations (17-28 Feb, Geneva) for the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Please join the German Coalition against Smoking in signing an online letter to Chancellor Gerhard Schröder at: <http://petition.globalink.org/view.php?code=de-eng>

### ***Fears Over Salt In Food***

The amount of salt contained in processed food is higher than ever - despite food industry claims that it has been working to bring levels down. A new report says salt levels in some foods have doubled since 1978. The Food Commission survey, published in Food Magazine, compared levels of salt in white bread, crisps, baked beans and tinned tomato soup 25 years ago with the levels in the same products today.

### ***Grant to Accelerate Research in Global Health***

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced a \$200 million grant to establish the Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative, a major new effort and partnership with the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The initiative will identify critical scientific challenges in global health and increase research on diseases that cause millions of deaths in the developing world. Today only 10 percent of medical research is devoted to the diseases that cause 90 percent of the health burden in the world, according to the Global Forum on Health Research. Mr. Gates announced the initiative today at the World Economic Forum's 2003 Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland, where he participated in a panel discussion on "Science for the Global Good."

<http://www.weforum.org/site/homepublic.nsf/Content/Bill+%26+Melinda+Gates+Foundation+announces+%24200+million+grant+to+accelerate+research+on+%E2%80%9Cgrand+challenges%E2%80%9D+in+global+health>

### ***Study Identifies Industries and Occupations Prone to Chronic Pulmonary Diseases***

A new study by the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) identifies industries and occupations with an increased risk for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The study validated earlier research that showed workers in the rubber, plastics, leather manufacturing, textile, food products, agriculture and construction industries had an increased risk of chronic lung disease. Workers in the utilities industry and in office building services have also been identified as having an increased risk. COPD includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema and is the fourth leading cause of death in the general U.S. population. NIOSH, a part of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, undertook the study to help advance research in this critical area of public health. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/lungdisprev.html>

### ***Judge throws out obesity case against McDonald's***

A federal judge in New York has thrown out a lawsuit blaming McDonald's for obesity, diabetes and other health problems in children. District Judge Robert Sweet said the plaintiffs failed to show the fast-food chain's products "involve a danger that is not within the common knowledge of consumers". The lawsuit was filed last summer and sought unspecified damages. McDonald's responded to the ruling by saying common sense had prevailed. Spokesman Walt Riker said: "We said from the beginning that this was a frivolous lawsuit. The ruling confirms that fact." However Plaintiffs' attorney Samuel Hirsch said the lawsuit will be amended and re-filed within a month. He had argued the high fat, sugar and cholesterol content of McDonald's food is a "toxic kind of thing" when eaten regularly by children. He said consumers may generally understand fast-food burgers and fries are not health food, but do not realise just how bad it can be. Mr Riker said McDonald's has been providing nutrition information about its food for 30 years and insisted its offering "can fit into a healthy, well-balanced diet, based upon the choice and variety available on our menu."

### ***AIDS in Africa can be beaten, says UN envoy***

A concerted effort between the people of Africa and the international community can eradicate AIDS from the continent, according to the top UN envoy for HIV/AIDS.

<http://www.sustdev.org/industry.news/2002/09.01.03-1.shtml>

### ***Australia promotes solar power with world's largest tower***

An Australian power company is to build a new solar tower in the middle of the country's outback, creating the world's tallest structure. It is thought that the structure could provide enough electricity

for 200,000 homes and will save more than 700,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases, which would have been emitted by coal and oil fired power stations.

<http://www.sustdev.org/industry.news/2002/06.02.03-3.shtml>

### **Industry research shows inadequate distribution of innovative medicines in Europe**

A study by Prof. Dr. Oliver Schöffski, published in December 2002, on "Diffusion of Medicines in Europe" examines the differences in the access to innovative medicines between EU Member States for 20 selected diseases, including Alzheimer's disease, depression, cardiovascular disease, HIV / AIDS and asthma. The survey finds that although many innovative medicines are available on the market, not every patient receives adequate treatment. The research points out the inadequate diffusion of high-tech medicines in Europe and offers recommendations to enable more patients to receive optimal treatment.

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2001/com2001\\_0723en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2001/com2001_0723en01.pdf)

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A5-2002-0452+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=1&NAV=S&LSTDOC=Y>

<http://www.gm.wiso.uni-erlangen.de/>

### **UN business "partnerships" criticised**

Critical reflections on UN-business partnerships was launched the 20 January at the World Health Organisation Executive Board meeting in Geneva by IBFAN (the International Baby Food Action Network). The report: "We the Peoples or We the Corporations?" Critical reflections on UN-business partnerships was launched yesterday at the World Health Organisation Executive Board meeting in Geneva by IBFAN. Author, Judith Richter, concludes that UN agencies are at risk of trading away public interests in the hope of receiving large-scale funding from corporations and private foundations under the rubric of "public-private partnerships". Indeed, the UN is at risk of selling itself off. The report could not be more topical. The current issue of the British Medical Journal reports on the continuing failure of baby food companies to abide by UN standards. Earlier this month research was leaked citing the infiltration of the UN by the food industry Candidates for post of WHO Director General are appearing at the Executive Board meeting this week.

<http://www.babymilkaction.org/>

<http://www.ibfan.org/english/news/press/press20jan03.html>

<http://www.babymilkaction.org/press/press18jan03.html>

[http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk\\_news/story/0,3604,871228,00.html](http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,871228,00.html)

### **'Margarine' boost for diesel cars**

A UK supermarket chain is to begin selling a new fuel for cars which uses the same ingredient as some salad dressings and margarines, this diesel is less harmful to the environment and can improve a car's fuel economy and will be sold at the same price as ordinary diesel. GlobalDiesel is made from a blend of ultra low sulphur diesel and processed rapeseed oil - which can be found in margarine, salad dressing and some soap products. GlobalDiesel can be used in all diesel vehicles without any modification, and does not affect the manufacturer's warranty. The supermarket is selling GlobalDiesel through a deal with Greenergy, which has pioneered a range of low emission fuels.

[http://www.ananova.com/news/story/sm\\_744119.html?menu=news.lifestyle](http://www.ananova.com/news/story/sm_744119.html?menu=news.lifestyle)

### **Books & Publications**

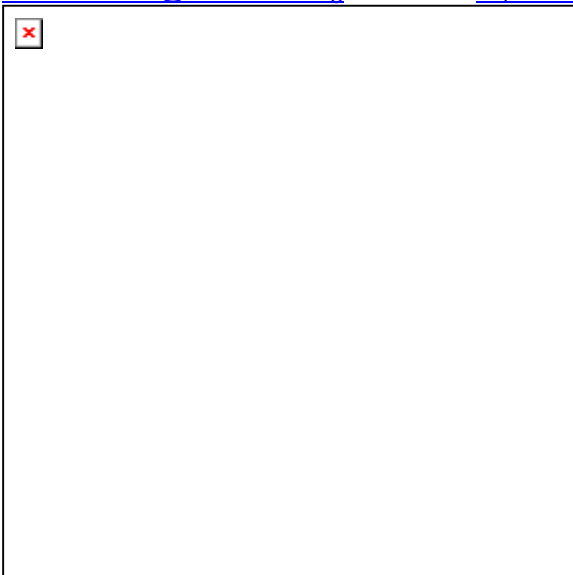
"Patient Charges and Decision Making Behaviours of Consumers and Physicians" 2003, 282 pages. Published by IOS Press. Christine Huttin (ed.) Info: [www.eiasm.be/internationalprojects/endepe](http://www.eiasm.be/internationalprojects/endepe)

"Challenges for Pharmaceutical Policies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Pharmaceuticals Policy and Law", 2002, 216 pages. Published by IOS Press. Christine Huttin (ed.). Info: [www.eiasm.be/internationalprojects/endepe](http://www.eiasm.be/internationalprojects/endepe)



**"AIM activity report 1999-2002"**

2002, 27 pages. AIM (Association Internationale de la Mutualité) is an international association of mutual health funds. Info: AIM Brussels, Belgium Tel:+32 2 234 57 00 Fax: +32 2 234 57 08 Email: [aim.secretariat@aim-mutual.org](mailto:aim.secretariat@aim-mutual.org) Internet: <http://www.aim-mutual.org>



**"Turning words into action"**

2002, 17 pages. Alcohol Concern Annual Report 2002 Info Alcohol Concern London, United Kingdom Email: [contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk](mailto:contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk) Internet: <http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk>

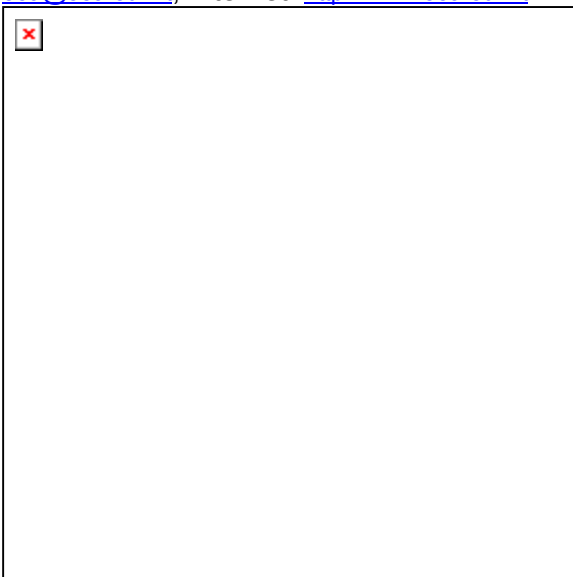


**"Paving the way for EU enlargement - indicators of transport and environmental integration TERM 2002"**

2002, 64 pages. Environment Issue Report N°32 prepared and published by the European Environment Agency. Info: EEA, E-mail: [eea@eea.eu.int](mailto:eea@eea.eu.int), Internet: <http://www.eea.eu.int>

**"Greenhouse gas emission trends and projections in Europe - Are the EU and the candidate countries on track to achieve the Kyoto Protocol targets?"**

2002, 76 pages. Environment Issue Report N°33 prepared by the European Topic Centre on Air and Climate Change and published by the European Environment Agency. Info: EEA, E-mail: [eea@eea.eu.int](mailto:eea@eea.eu.int), Internet: <http://www.eea.eu.int>



**"Guide to United Nations and Resources and Activities for the Prevention of Interpersonal Violence"**

2002, 51 pages. Report published by the World Health Organization. It describes the UN programmes, publications and databases aimed at prevention partners at global, regional and national levels. It also provides contact details for focal points within each UN agency. Info WHO Marketing and Dissemination Department Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 791 24 76 Fax: +41 22 791 48 57 Email: [bookorders@who.int](mailto:bookorders@who.int)

**"Terrorism and Public Health"**

2002, 368 pages. Published by Oxford University Press in cooperation with American Public Health Association.

**Job Ads**

After four and a half years as executive director of ISDE (International Society of Doctors for the Environment) Dr. Gaudenz Silberschmidt will leave his position to start working at the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health as Head of the Division of International Affairs. If you are interested by this challenging task or require further information see the website [www.isde.org](http://www.isde.org), e-mail a letter of interest and c.v. to [info@isde.org](mailto:info@isde.org) or call +41-21-802 65 53.