

From: RYAN John-F (SANTE)
Sent: mercredi 27 janvier 2021 16:13
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] (SANTE); [REDACTED] (SANTE); [REDACTED];
[REDACTED] (SANTE); [REDACTED] (SANTE); [REDACTED]
(SANTE); RYAN John-F (SANTE); [REDACTED] (SANTE); [REDACTED]
(SANTE); [REDACTED] (SANTE); [REDACTED]
(SANTE); SANTE DIRECTOR C
Subject: RE: Cancer plan – incorrect alcohol statistics
Categories: Registered

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your mail. I have seen the report in Politico. I would not like to comment on a leaked document. I can confirm however that the report does not reflect the current version of the cancer plan. Your helpful information on alcohol data is very helpful nevertheless, and I have copied my colleagues in the cancer team.

With best regards

John

John F. Ryan
Director



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Health and Food Safety Directorate General
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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@brewersofeurope.eu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 4:09 PM
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Subject: Cancer plan – incorrect alcohol statistics

Dear John,

As I am sure you are aware, Politico published yesterday a draft of the Europe Beating Cancer plan.

Whilst The Brewers of Europe would typically refrain from commenting publicly on leaked drafts, I felt I must draw your attention to the inaccurate statistics that appeared in Politico and then Euractiv, quoting the scene-setting opening line of the alcohol section of the draft, stating that **alcohol accounts for more than 15% of cancer-attributable deaths in men and 30% in women. These numbers are an exaggeration as they have been attributed to the wrong statistic.**

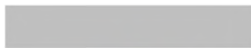
For the credibility of the Plan I hope that these numbers have already been corrected in the draft that will be published or that there is still an **opportunity for the European Commission to amend them.** The numbers come from the 2012 assessment of the EU alcohol strategy, itself quoting a WHO Euro report on alcohol in the European Union, but are then mis-translated.

According to the data (page 190) in the [2012 assessment of the alcohol strategy](#):

- **15% does not refer to the percentage of cancer deaths in men attributable to alcohol** (as opposed to other causes) but to the percentage of alcohol-attributable deaths amongst men aged 15-64 that are cancer deaths
- **30% does not refer to the percentage of cancer deaths attributable to alcohol** but to the percentage of alcohol-attributable deaths amongst women aged 15-64 that are cancer deaths.

Whilst I hope this mistake has already been amended, in view of the fundamental error in the context setting and the advanced state of the dossier, which must already be at College level in order to be ready for next week, I have also taken the step of writing directly to the Cabinet to draw its attention to the erroneous statistics currently circulating.

Your sincerely,



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