



GOVERNO DE
PORTUGAL

MINISTRY FOR HEALTH



Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis
Commissioner for Health and Food
Safety
European Commission
1049 - Brussels

Lisbon, 25 February 2015

Dear Commissioner Andriukaitis,

In 2006, the adoption of the EU Strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol related harm, through a Communication from the Commission, was a response to the growing recognition of the health impact of harmful and hazardous alcohol consumption in the EU.

Indeed, the current strategy has been an important step to address alcohol related harm in the EU. But despite all the progress achieved since 2006, the financial crisis has brought some changes to the wider social and economic environment in the EU that argues for a greater policy focus on specific aspects of alcohol policy over the next few years.

After these years since its adoption, Portugal firmly believes that issues which inspired the launch of the EU strategy in 2006 are still highly relevant. There is a continuing need to have efforts at EU level in health protection through prevention and reduction of harmful use of alcohol, by fostering collaboration across and within Member States.

That's why we believe that in order to address this major public health concern, it is crucial to have an updated comprehensive EU alcohol strategy with clear and targeted measures, which should be relevant in all Member



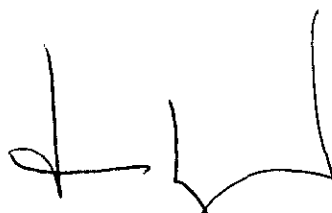
States and for which EU action in complement to national policies and coordination of national actions has an added value. Concerted action at EU level has proven to be crucial to coordinate measures between national policies, to increase exchange of information and to identify and disseminate best practices.

Portugal strongly supports the continuation of efforts at EU level to address alcohol related harm and we would welcome the inclusion of a new EU alcohol strategy in the Commission's political agenda.

The EU Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Action (CNAPA) has prepared and adopted a scoping paper entitled "Member States call on the European Commission for a new and comprehensive strategy to tackle harmful use of alcohol and alcohol related harm", which is meant to provide a common baseline for a future EU alcohol strategy.

Therefore I would like to express our clear wish to the Commission to continue its work on alcohol and health and propose, in coordination with Member States, a new and comprehensive EU Alcohol Strategy.

Yours sincerely



Paulo Macedo
Minister of Health, Portugal