



EUROCARE ANNUAL REPORT

2007 - 2008

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EUROCARE (The European Alcohol Policy Alliance) is an alliance of 48 voluntary and non-governmental organizations across 21 European countries working on the prevention of alcohol related harm in Europe. Eurocare was founded in 1990 by 9 member organisations as an alliance of non-governmental organisations representing a diversity of views and cultural attitudes towards alcohol.

Member organisations are involved in research and advocacy, as well as in the provision of information to the public; education and training of voluntary and professional community care workers; the provision of workplace and school based programmes; counselling services, residential support and alcohol-free clubs for problem drinkers.



Eurocare's overall goal is to raise awareness among European, national and regional decision makers of the harms caused by alcohol (social, health and economic burden) by promoting the development and implementation of evidence-based policies aimed at effectively preventing and reducing this burden. Eurocare's objective is to ensure that this knowledge is taken into consideration in all relevant EU policy discussions.

FACTS ABOUT ALCOHOL in EUROPE

Europe is the heaviest drinking region in the world, double of the world average. It is estimated that over 58 million adults (15%) drink at a risky level, while 23 million are dependent on alcohol¹

Alcohol is a key health determinant and is responsible for 7,4% of all ill-health and early death in Europe, which makes it the third leading risk factor after tobacco and high blood pressure. Alcohol mostly affects young people (115 000 deaths per year) and harms others beyond the drinker, accounting for 60.000 underweight births, 5-9 million children living in families adversely affected by alcohol, 10.000 traffic deaths to third parties and 20.000 murders in the EU each year. Furthermore, binge drinking among young people is on the rise, with most countries showing an increase from 1995, especially in the new MS.

Alcohol causes measurable inequalities both between and within MS. Alcohol causes an estimated 90 extra deaths per 100.000 men and 60 extra deaths per 100.000 women in the EU 12 as compared to the EU 15.

¹ Anderson, P and Baumberg, B: Alcohol in Europe, A public health perspective. A report for the European Commission, Institute of Alcohol Studies, UK, June 2006

The EU Health Strategy "Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-2013" and the EU Strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol related harm are two important documents at EU level that Eurocare will follow the implementation of in the coming years.

The European Parliament is currently debating the proposal from the Commission on the "Provision of Food Information to Consumers". We regret that beer, wine and spirits have been exempted from the obligation to list ingredients and provide nutritional information, as is the case with soft drinks and other food stuffs. This happens despite the strategy stating it will "Inform, educate and raise awareness on the impact of harmful and hazardous alcohol consumption" with the rationale that citizens have the right to obtain relevant information on the health impact etc. Eurocare is therefore calling upon European Institutions to place the protection of European citizens' health ahead of the economic interests of the alcohol industry.

The European Alcohol and Health Forum was launched in June 2007; a multi-stakeholder forum, bringing together NGOs and economic operators, pledging to take concrete actions to reduce alcohol related harm in Europe. The Secretariat has invested a lot of time in preparing, coordinating with members and other NGOs as well as attending all meetings. We see both this Forum and the Health Policy Forum as important communication channels between policy makers and stakeholders on EU alcohol policy issues.

Eurocare's new web site is envisaged to become a key tool for the Secretariat; both to improve contact with member organisations and more generally to disseminate information.

Over the past Eurocare has been actively seeking to extend membership, especially within new Member States. Eurocare is delighted to welcome six new members.

- NordAN (Nordic Alcohol and Drug Policy Network) (as associate member)
- Vereniging voor Alcohol-en Andere Drugproblemen vzw (VAD), Belgium
- Agapo, Lithuania
- Active, pan-European
- Foundation Horizonti 21, Bulgaria
- North West Alcohol Forum, Ireland

The membership of these organisations gives extra strength to Eurocare and will consolidate the work on reducing alcohol related harm in Europe.

Eurocare has since 1990 been the only European non-governmental organisation focusing on alcohol policy at EU level. We are pleased to welcome the Alcohol Policy Youth Network (APYN), formally established in March this year. We are looking forward to working together with young people that are active in shaping and defining alcohol policy across Europe.

The World Health Assembly in May 2008 agreed on the need for a Global Strategy on alcohol. Eurocare will closely be following this over the next year.

Mariann Skar

3. Eurocare members meetings

Every year Eurocare holds two meetings for all members. These meetings are important for exchange of knowledge and ideas on matters related to reducing alcohol related harm in Europe.

The Annual General Meeting was held from 14th to 16th September 2007 in Brussels. It was hosted by the Secretariat with 19 member organisations from 14 countries present.

The main guest speaker was Robert Madelin, Director General of DG Sanco who emphasised he was grateful for the opportunity to have an exchange on alcohol policy with privileged interlocuteurs.

The majority of the member organizations delivered country reports to the Secretariat, which were collated, distributed and discussed during the meeting.

The Half yearly meeting was held the 2nd of April 2008 in Barcelona in connection to the Building Capacity for Action, European Alcohol Policy conference. 15 member organisations from 12 countries were present at the meeting.



Brussels meeting



Michel Craplet and Andrew McNeil

EU Health Strategy: “Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-2013

The European Commission adopted on the 23 October 2007 a Health Strategy setting out the direction for Community Health action in the years to come. 'Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-2013'. The Strategy aims to provide an overarching strategic framework spanning core issues in health as well as health in all policies and global health issues. The Strategy aims to set clear objectives to guide future work on health at the European level, and to put in place an implementation mechanism to achieve those objectives, working in partnership with Member States.

The Strategy focuses on four principles and three strategic themes for improving health in the EU. The principles include taking a value-driven approach, recognizing the links between health and economic prosperity, integrating health in all policies, and strengthening the EU's voice in global health. The strategic themes include Fostering Good Health in an Ageing Europe, Protecting Citizens from Health Threats, and Dynamic Health Systems and New Technologies.

Labelling

On 30 January 2008, the European Commission adopted a proposal on the provision of food information to consumers¹. According to the proposal, foodstuffs are required to list the ingredients and to display key nutritional information on the front of the package (e.g. energy value, fat, saturates, carbohydrates with specific references to sugars and salt). General requirements on how nutrition information should be displayed on food labels are also set out.

Eurocare welcomes that mixed alcoholic beverages (alcopops), will have to provide information on their ingredients and nutrient content on the front of the bottle. However, the proposal exempts beer, wine and spirits from the obligation to list the ingredients and to provide for a nutrition declaration.

The Secretariat, with the assistance of Andrew McNeil and Claude Riviere and in consultation with the members, drafted a position paper. The final paper has been widely distributed among Parliamentarians, other networks of health NGOs and other interested parties. The views of Eurocare have also been integrated in EPHA's position paper. Several Eurocare members have also contacted their national MEPs and Permanent Health representatives in Brussels. There has been two Public Hearings organised in the European Parliament by the ALDE group (11 June) and the EPP (28 August). The Secretariat has fed its concern into the debate.

Health warnings

Eurocare regrets that the European Commission proposal on the provision of information to consumers¹ does not contain an obligation to mention any health warning messages. This is a missed opportunity for a more comprehensive approach to the reduction of alcohol related harm in Europe.

¹ 2008/0028 (COD) Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the provision of food information to consumers

Eurocare believes labelling should be part of an integrated strategy to provide information and educate consumers about alcohol and should be part of integrated policies and programmes to reduce the harm done by alcohol.

The Secretariat, with the assistance of Andrew McNeil and Claude Riviere and in consultation with the members, drafted a position paper.

Alcohol and pregnancy

One of Eurocare's commitments in the framework of the Alcohol and Health Forum is to raise awareness of the dangers of drinking alcohol during pregnancy.

The Secretariat organized an Evening Reception in the European Parliament on the 9 September 2008 in order to mark International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FAS) Day (9th day of the 9th month of the year to symbolise the nine months of pregnancy). This has become a recurrent activity for the Secretariat. On 4th September 2007, a Lunch Meeting, hosted by MEPs Jules Maaten (ALDE) and Dorette Corbey (PSE) was held in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, and considered a great success.

This year's event was hosted by MEPs Ms Mairead McGuinness (EPP, IE) and Ms Catherine Stihler (PSE, UK), the reception was attended by 50 delegates, of which a number of MEPs including Jules Maaten (ALDE, NL), Glenis Willmott (PSE, UK), Mary Lou McDonald (GUE, IE) among others. The reception was also attended by a number of Eurocare member organisations as well as representatives of NGOs supporting the Eurocare "Alcohol and Pregnancy" campaign (European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), Confederation of Family Organisations (COFACE), Mental Health Europe, and the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME).

Eurocare foresees an ambitious campaign on the same theme for next year on the **09/09/2009!**

Minimum excise duties

The European Commission adopted a proposal to review the "Directive on the general arrangements for products subject to excise duty (i.e. alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and mineral oils)" dating from 1992. The aim of the proposal is to liberalize existing rules for alcoholic beverages bought in one Member State and transported to another and to simplify rules on the commercial movement of excise goods. One of the most important and controversial changes is in Chapter V, which deals with the movement and taxation of excise goods after release for consumption, because it allows private individuals to have goods transported on their behalf and pay only excise duties in the country where the goods were purchased.

If this proposal is finally adopted this would mean that private individuals from countries with high excise duties could via internet or telephone buy cheap alcoholic beverages in other EU states and have them delivered to their door while only the duty levied in the country of purchase is paid (Article 30).

Social Marketing

Social marketing and its implications has been on the EU agenda this year, especially in the taskforce meetings on marketing under the EU Alcohol and Health Forum. Social Marketing can be seen as a useful tool in a more comprehensive approach in combination with other policy tools. Social Marketing can increase the quality of educational programmes and can create awareness and

political support for other policy measures. One criteria for effective social marketing is a clear and strong perspective of the desired policy. However, there is a great concern that the evidence base is simply not strong enough to advocate for social marketing campaigns. That social marketing would be a waste of time and resources if implemented in isolation, rather than supporting other policy measures or changes.

A discussion paper will be presented at the General meeting in Paris and further discussions are expected in the coming year.

Affordability of alcoholic beverages within the EU:

The discussion around minimum price and affordability was initiated in the last meeting of the Alcohol and Health Forum. DG SANCO has contracted RAND Europe to conduct a Study on the affordability of alcoholic beverages within the EU.

The main objective of this study is to analyse the drivers behind affordability of alcoholic beverages in the different EU countries, and the potential impacts of affordability on harmful use of alcohol. Specific objectives include:

- Explore the link between price/affordability of alcohol and harmful alcohol consumption;
- Study the relationship between tax-driven or competition-driven price differentials across borders;
- Explore how alcohol affordability affects alcohol consumption among different population groups, with a special focus on under 25 year olds;
- Examine the propensity of residents to import alcoholic beverages across borders, and its potential impact on harmful alcohol consumption;
- Assess the legal possibilities to influence the affordability of alcohol, providing an overview of the current EU legal framework and context conditioning the behavior of both economic operators and national governments (e.g. alcohol excise duties, current EU policy on travelers' alcohol allowances, competition law, and so forth).

An online questionnaire was available until the 19 September. An inception report is available upon request. The Secretariat will distribute the paper to the members as soon as it is available – expected in November 2008.

Budget consultation

The European Commission launched a public consultation on the EU Budget Review with the aim to set out the structure and direction of the Union's spending priorities for the next 20 years. A number of organisations representing a variety of societal interests across Europe contributed to the Budget Review by answering questions raised by the European Commission in its consultation document. The public health organizations wished to raise the profile of health in the EU budgetary process and secure more funding for health related actions in future EU budgets. That is why the EU Health Policy Forum decided to contribute to the consultation paper. A working group was established and a draft was distributed to all Forum members. The members were asked to comment and improve the text. After the approval of the final text by the EUHPF members the working group sent the approved text to the European Commission.

The Board members agreed to endorse, on behalf of Eurocare, the submission made by the Health Policy Forum to the Budget Consultation.

5.

EU FORUMS

The European Alcohol and Health Forum

The European Commission’s Alcohol and Health Forum was launched in June 2007; a multi-stakeholder forum, bringing together NGOs and economic operators, pledging to take concrete actions to reduce alcohol related harm in Europe.

Coordination Role

The Secretariat has taken on a “Coordination Role” among NGOs participating in the Forum. In practical terms, this has meant organising informal meetings prior to Plenary and Task Force Meetings, in order to discuss agendas and exchange ideas.



Eurocare, as a founding member of the Forum, is now also represented by nine of its member organisations: **ANPAA**, France (Agence Nationale de Prévention en Alcoologie et Addictologie); **Institute of Alcohol Studies**, UK; **Eurocare Italia**; **Alcohol Action Ireland**; **STAP**, Netherlands (National Foundation for Alcohol Prevention); **DHS**, Germany (Centre for Addictions); **IOGT-NTO Sweden**, **Nordan** (Nordic Alcohol and Drug Alliance), and the **Estonian Temperance Union**.

The following NGOs are members in the Forum and participate in the preparatory meetings:

European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), European Midwives Association (EMA), European Transport Safety Council (ETSC), European Youth Forum (YFJ)

Commitments

In September 2007, Eurocare’s Annual General Meeting voted for the following Eurocare Commitments to be submitted to the Forum:

1. A joint commitment with the European Youth Forum **to support the creation of an ‘Alcohol Policy Youth Network’.**
2. The development of a **Eurocare website.**
3. In addition the commitment to **“Raise Awareness of the Dangers of Drinking during Pregnancy”** was submitted in December 2007.

Plenary Meetings

The aim of the first plenary meeting was to discuss the practicalities of the Forum process, including the nominations of experts for the Task Forces; the process for the appointment the Science Group, and the timetable for submission of Commitments. Robert Madelin, Director General of DG Sanco, and Chair of the Forum, reiterated that commitments should be proportional to resources, and relevant to the aims of the Forum. He also reminded members that organisations were free to apply for Forum membership at any time during the process; this could mean that any new Eurocare members will have the option of joining the Forum.

New Commissioner for Health, Androulla Vassiliou, addressed Forum members in the plenary: *“I see as a really positive outcome the fact that at regular intervals the Forum brings together organisations which, in the past, have tended to avoid sitting at the same table. This is the first occasion at European level where we can see the alcohol and advertising industries sharing ideas with health NGOs, youth organisations and medical associations. I do not underestimate the potential benefits from these exchanges.”* Commenting on the commitments submitted by members, she highlighted that there were “some promising initiatives,” but also challenged members by asking: *Are the tabled initiatives ambitious enough? Is the combined “weight” of these initiatives attaining the critical mass that would make the difference?*

Open Day of the Alcohol and Health Forum

An Open Forum was convened by DG Sanco on 17th April 2008, in order to give interested bodies and organisations from the EU and beyond who participating in the Forum an occasion to follow the work taking place; this Open Forum is to be held once a year. Eurocare, along with some of its members, assured a strong presence with a visible stall containing diverse publications and displays of various alcoholic drinks and gadgets as examples of ‘bad marketing.’ Also, a rolling slideshow of ‘bad’ advertisements, linking alcohol to social and sexual success was displayed.

Task Forces

Eurocare put forward several nominations to the task forces, and was delighted that representatives were selected for each of the Task Forces.

The Youth taskforce agreed to focus on “educating and empowering young people to make informed and responsible choices in relation to alcohol” and agreed that protecting young people from alcohol abuse by others should be added to the tasks of the taskforce.

In the Marketing Taskforce the chair, Mr Madelin has the basic assumption which he calls the working hypothesis, one which he believes the Task Force can unite behind: "DG SANCO's working hypothesis is that the balance of evidence shows cumulative effect of marketing on young people's knowledge, attitudes and behaviour".

Science Group

The Science Group was appointed after an open call for expressions of interest. Ian Gilmore, President of the Royal College of Physicians (UK) was elected as Chair. The Group has been requested to investigate *“The impact of marketing communication on the volume (and patterns) of consumption of alcoholic beverages”*. A preliminary report will be produced for the November Forum meeting. There will be no policy advice in it, just review of existing science. They will include other external experts in the process and they will organise a scientific hearing on the issue sometime before November.

Link to the Commission Reports:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/alcohol/Forum/alcohol_forum_en.htm

Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Action

The Committee on National Policy and Action was set up by DG SANCO to coordinate and further develop policies on alcohol. It is one of the three main pillars of the EU Alcohol Strategy implementation process, along with the Alcohol and Health Forum and the Committee on Data Collection, Indicators and Definitions. The Committee, which is the continuation of the Working Group on Alcohol, is composed of Member State representatives and experts, and of observers, including the World Health Organization.

The main objective of this group is to further coordinate government-driven policies aimed at reducing alcohol-related harm at national and local level, building upon the examples of good practice identified in the Commission's Strategy. It will review national and regional alcohol policy development in the light of the strategy outlined in the Commission's Communication, with a view to disseminating best practice across the EU.

All information can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/alcohol/documents/ev_20071105_en.pdf

EU Health Forum

The EU HEALTH FORUM was established in 2001 by the European Commission and brings together organisations active in health to advise the European Commission on health policy. It provides an opportunity to representative organisations of patients, health professionals and other stakeholders, such as health service providers, to make contributions to health policy development, its implementation and the setting of priorities for action.

The EU Health Forum is composed of two complementary elements:

The Health Policy Forum meet 28th November 2007 and 30th May 2008. The main focal points for the meetings were a consultation on the Commission reforming the budget, the EU Health Strategy and revising the mandate and the future work of the EU Health Policy Forum. The Eurocare Secretariat is a member of the working group.

An Open Forum is planned as a platform for general exchange of information and for a discussion with a broader range of groups and interested parties, next meeting will be the 10-11 December 2008.

Alcohol Policy Youth Network (APYN)

APYN's project is promoted by Eurocare, in partnership with the European Youth Forum, Alliance House, UK and with the support of DG SANCO of the European Commission, as well as in cooperation with other International Intergovernmental Institutions, such as WHO and UNICEF.



Secretariat Staff attended the Constitutive Meeting of the Alcohol Policy Youth Network (APYN), in Budapest, from the 28th to the 30th of March; this meeting gathered more than 30 representatives of the member organisations. In total, 21 youth organisations, identified among the member organisations of the European Youth Forum (National Youth Councils and International Youth Organisations) are members of the network and participated in the Constitutive

meeting where a strategic action plan for 2008-2009 was carefully (re)written.

Ruth Ruiz, from the secretariat, was a guest speaker in the Training Course organised by the APYN on Alcohol and Youth in Portugal (14 - 19 July). She gave an overview of the current context of alcohol policy making.

Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA)

The GAPA mission is to reduce alcohol related harm worldwide by promoting evidence based policies independent of commercial interests. The Alliance was established in 2001 and in 2003 Eurocare formally added Alcohol Policy Alliance to its name.

European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

Eurocare is an active member of EPHA and participates regularly in their Policy coordination meetings and in the working group on alcohol and the last year in the labeling working group.

During 2007 and 2008 Eurocare has organised and /or participated in a number of conferences and meetings on different issues relevant to reducing alcohol related harm at EU level.

The main ones being as followed:

- DG Sanco Away Day (September 2007) - Eurocare hosted a half day workshop on 'The Harmful Consequences of Alcohol' for the DG Sanco Staff Away Day, which took place at the Helecine Chateau, near Brussels. The interactive workshop focused on 'The Dangers of Drinking During Pregnancy' and 'Drink Driving in Europe', two priority themes outlined in the EU Alcohol Strategy.
- Alcohol Policy Network Meeting within the Building Capacity project in Bled was attended by the Secretariat.
- Nordan Conference (October 2007), NGO's and Policy Making: Role, Co-Operation and Responsibility, Reykjavik. Ruth Ruiz gave an update of developments at EU level at a European Alcohol Policy Workshop. Emilie Rapley gave a presentation on Eurocare's lobbying activities in the workshop on " Use of alcohol and drug research".
- German TV Arte (October 2007) interviewed Emilie Rapley, Rolf Huellinghorst and Claude Riviere
- The Alcohol Policy Youth Network (APYN) is launched in Budapest (March 2008). The Secretariat participates together with 21 youth representatives from all over Europe together with officials from difernt institutions and partners. See: www.apyn.org
- Third Alcohol Policy Conference in Barcelona (April 2008),
The Secretariat organized three parallel sessions at the conference:
 1. European Commission's Alcohol and Health Forum : An Overview for Non Participants
 2. LABELLING - No evidence = no impact? What can be achieved through labelling: existing research and political context
 3. HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES: THE EXAMPLE OF ALCOHOL
 Ruth Ruiz chaired a parallel session.
- Dublin Conference (May 2008): Situating Policy and the alcohol industry
Mariann Skar chaired the session Commercial Communication.
- NGO meeting Sofia (June 2008), Bulgaria
Ruth Ruiz gives an overview on alcohol policy developments at EU level.
- APYN Training Course in Almada, Portugal 14-19 July
Ruth Ruiz gives a presentation on understanding the current context of alcohol policy making.
- Active Youth summer camp, Karlstad, Sweden 29-30 July
Ruth Ruiz gives an overview on alcohol policy developments at EU level.
- Alcohol and Pregnancy event in the European Parliament on the 9.9

Building Capacity

Eurocare secretariat took part in the two Alcohol Policy Network (APN) meetings organised within the framework of the Building Capacity Project in Bled (October 2007) and Barcelona (April 2008). Eurocare was one of the co-sponsors of the 3rd European Alcohol Policy conference that took place in Barcelona (3rd-5th April 2008) and organised three parallel sessions: Labelling, Health in all policies: the example of Alcohol and the European Alcohol and Health Forum (3 -5April)

There has been an ongoing cooperation with Walter Farke from DHS in the framework of WP number 4 (networking) carried out on behalf of Eurocare. This included a country visit to Bulgaria on the 9th and 10th of June and where the Secretariat gave a presentation on EU Alcohol Policy.

AMMIE - Alcohol Marketing Monitored in Europe – proposal prepared by STAP:

The AMMIE project was the result of discussions taking place in the Marketing Task Force of the Alcohol and Health Forum. During the discussions regarding the functioning of the existing self regulations systems (SRO's) in the EU-Member States the chair stressed the necessity of independent monitoring of self regulation in Europe. The goal is to improve these regulations in terms of content and process. Also the input of the perceptions by and exposure of young people has been stressed.

It is proposed to monitor alcohol marketing practices in a comparable and systematic way in several, regionally divided, Member States (Denmark, Germany, Italy, Bulgaria and the Netherlands, and maybe more during the course of the project). This monitoring will be implemented by national NGO's on the basis of the experience of STAP. The content of the alcohol marketing practices will be recorded and analysed. Questionable ads will be put into the jurisdictions systems of the national advertising bodies and their decisions will be documented. The same advertisements will be rated by national youth panels. These panels are recruited and coordinated by the European Youth Forum, based on existing scientifically proved rating systems. All the results will be presented for consultation and recommendation to the project partners and experts and the EASA (European Advertising Standards Alliance). The project will be evaluated by Professor Gerard Hastings (Institute of Social marketing) and the final results will be disseminated by EURO CARE to all relevant stakeholders,; NGO's , economic operators and decision makers.

So far a positive evaluation has been received, but the negotiation phase is still to come.

Alcohol labeling – prepared by CRIOC:

The main objectives of the proposal are;

- (1) To determine the consumer interest in labeling of alcoholic beverages and how it influences the drinking behaviour of consumers, and in particular of groups at risk such as youngsters.
- (2) The results of an overall consumer survey focusing on alcohol labeling could serve as a baseline for the European labeling policy that is under revision for the moment.
- (3) To assess a new integrated approach on consumer information and education. The principle of formal commitment to measurable best practice and data sharing between involved stakeholders should be assured.
- (4) To undertake an overview and an exchange experiences on alcohol labeling policies between the Member States.

So far a positive evaluation of the proposal has been received, but the negotiation phase is still to come.

Membership

In 2008, Eurocare have 48 member organizations from 21 countries throughout Europe.

The Annual General meeting

The General Assembly is comprised of all members of Eurocare and is normally gathered twice a year. The principle role of the General Assembly is to set broad policy guidelines, elect the Board, approve the admission of new members and approve budgets and annual accounts from 2008 and forwards.

The Board

Eurocare is governed by a Board that consists of between six and ten members. In 2007 – 2008 the Board consisted of six members. They were:

Chairman: Michel Craplet, Association National de Prevention en Alcoologie et Addictologie (ANPAA), France

Honorary secretary: Andrew McNeil, Institute of Alcohol Studies (IAS), UK

Vice chairman:

Tiziana Codenotti, EUROCARE, Italia

Rolf Hullinghorst, Deutsche Haputstelle fur Suchtfragen (DHS), Germany

Vice Secretary: Ritva Varamaki, Finnish Centre for Health Promotion, Finland

Treasurer: Sven-Olov Carlsson IOGT-NTO, Sweden

The Policy group:

Wim Van Dalen , STAP, Stichting Alcoholpreventie (STAP), the Netherlands

Marion Rackard, ALCOHOL ACTION IRELAND, Ireland

Claude Riviere, ANPAA, France

Johan Damgaard Jensen, DANISH ALCOHOL POLICY NETWORK, Denmark

Special Advisor: Anders Ulstein, Actis, Rusfeltets samarbeidsorgan, Norway

Special Advisor youth: Joao Salviano, ALCOHOL POLICY YOUTH NETWORK (APYN)

The Board and policy group has met in December 2007 (Brussels), March (Brussels), April (Barcelona), June (Padova) and September (Paris). In addition there have been regular informal meetings between members of the Board and the Secretariat.

Staff

The Eurocare Secretariat was formerly established in Brussels in October 2007 with the engagement of a Secretary General based in Brussels. Eurocare has maintained an office in Brussels since 1996 with a policy officer while the Secretariat was based in the UK. Eurocare has functioned as a legally registered, non-profit making association in Belgium since 1996.

The Eurocare Brussels office has in 2007 – 2008 had a team of three people who coordinate Eurocare's work. In period there has been a part-time trainee.

The Eurocare office acts as a central point for communication between the member organizations, facilitate its advocacy work with the European Institutions, organize and participate in relevant conferences and meetings.

From September 2007 to September 2008 five newsletters have been sent to 284 recipients. A new web site was launched in September 2008. A working group for the development of the new web site was set up in February 2007. The group met in Dublin in 2007. Both the working group and the Board have been regularly consulted during the development process. The Secretariat has invested a considerable time and effort towards the launch of a more modern and technically more advanced website. The new site aims to be a 'one stop shop' for policy makers, NGOs, journalists, and all those interested in alcohol policy. The website will focus in particular on the dissemination and analysis of relevant EU policy developments and information from member organisations.

Member Organisations

Belgium:

Vereniging voor Alcohol-en Andere Drugproblemen vzw (VAD)

Bulgaria:

Foundation Horizonti 21

Czech Republic

IOGT Czech Republic

Denmark

Alkoholpolitisk Landsråd

IOGT Denmark

Estonia

Estonian Temperance Union

Finland

Finnish Association for healthy lifestyles

Finnish Centre for Health Promotion

Terveys ry – Finnish Health Association NGO

France

Association National de Prevention en Alcoologie et Addictologie (ANPAA)

Movement Vie Libre

Germany

Deutsche Hauptstelle für Suchtfragen (DHS),

Deutsche Guttempler Order IOGT e.V

Ireland

ALCOHOL ACTION IRELAND

North West Alcohol Forum

Italy

A.I.C.A.T (Associazione Italiana Club Alcolisti in Trattamento)

Centro Studi sui problem droga/alco correlate S Francesco

Eurocare, Italy

Fondazione Devoto Associazione Aliseo

ONLUS Gruppo Logos – Onlus

Lithuania

Agapao

Netherlands

STAP, Stichting Alcoholpreventie (STAP)

ANDO

Norway

Actis – Policy Network on Alcohol and Drugs

Poland

The State Agency for Prevention of Alcohol related problems (PARPA)

The Polish IOGT Foundation

Portugal

Centro de Alcoplogia Nova Rumo
Sociedade Anti-Alcodlica Portuguesa (SAAP)
Associacao Anti Alcodlica da Madeira
Centro de Alcoologia Ricardo Pampuri

Spain

Foundation Salud yComunidad
Asociacion de Ex-Alcoholicos Espanoles EDEX
Fudacion Vivir sin Drogas
Malaga Asociacion A.R.E.A. (Ayuda Recuperacion de Enfermos Alcoholicas)
Socidrogalcohol

Switzerland

ISPA – Institut Suisse de prevention de l’alcoolisme et autres toxicomanies
Switzerland Blue Cross

Sweden

IOGT-NTO
Swedish Council on Alcohol and Drugs
MHF

Turkey

Tutunsuz Yasam Dernegi (Tobacco Free Life Association)

United Kingdom

Institute of Alcohol Studies

Ukraine

Independent Sobriety Association – International

Pan European

NorDan (Nordic Alcohol and Drugs Policy Network)

Active

International

IOGT International

11. Finances

The Institute of Alcohol Studies (IAS) in the UK provided from the beginning in 1990 the Secretariat and the accounts were done in the UK, as part of the IAS accounts. Eurocare per se did not have any income. Each member paid its own expenses and contributed to the organization according to ability. The Brussels office established in 1996 has been directly staffed and financed by Actis, Norway. Much of its web and information was provided by the IAS and expenses were covered by the Swedish member, IOGT-NTO. In addition, costs related to meetings are covered by individual members.

With a view to secure funding for Eurocare, the Secretariat applied for an operating grant from the European Commission under the Public Health Programme. Unfortunately the application was rejected on the basis that the European Commission have no evidence for financial viability of our organisation, due to lack of annual accounts for the last financial year as well as an external audit report.

Eurocare has since 2006 introduced budgeting and accounting in our internal reporting to members in an effort to increase transparency and accountability. This will be formalized from this fiscal year and a 2008 Eurocare account will be audited in 2009.

Membership fees were introduced in 2007 and have been paid by a number of member organisations. However, the fee is low and more contributions are needed if the Secretariat is to have a leading role in developing alcohol policy at EU level.

| <u>Eurocare</u> | <u>Accounts</u> | <u>2007</u> |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|
| Income | | |
| Economic support members | | 180 181,62 |
| Total income | | 180 181,62 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Salaries (including consultants) | | 97 619,13 |
| Travels and meetings | | 17 484,23 |
| Subscriptions/ memb. fees | | 9 658,11 |
| Adm. and operational costs | | 42 998,22 |
| Investments (Equipment, renovation) | | 11 678,46 |
| Total expenditure | | 179 438,15 |
| Result | | 743,47 |
| Financial transactions (interest, fees) | | -743,47 |
| Gain/Loss | | 0,00 |
| (Including, salaries, rent and all contributions known) | | |
