



Tackling harmful alcohol abuse

Press release 12 May 2015

Today the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has published an important new report on harmful alcohol abuse:

<http://www.oecd.org/health/oecd-outlines-action-for-governments-to-tackle-heavy-cost-of-harmful-drinking.htm>

The European Public Health Association welcomes the work that OECD has done to assemble the evidence base for action to tackle the severe health consequences of alcohol. In particular it strongly endorses the call for a combination of policies addressing both individual heavy drinkers and the overall level of consumption in the population. It is expected that the alcohol industry will lobby fiercely against the latter policies citing the fact that they are based on modelling, precisely because it knows that population-based measures including higher prices and restrictions on opening hours, are most effective. EUPHA therefore calls on decision makers to ensure that, when they come to address the health consequences associated with alcohol, implement health policies based on evidence, not corporate spin. Policy makers should not succumb to pressures from the alcohol industry which has adopted many of the same tactics that have been used by the tobacco industry, and indeed many of the same public relations companies.

Note to editors: The European Public Health Association, or EUPHA in short, is an umbrella organisation for public health associations and institutes in Europe. EUPHA was founded in 1992. EUPHA now has 71 members from 41 countries: • 40 national associations of public health • 18 institutional members • 9 European NGOs • 4 individual members. EUPHA is an international, multidisciplinary, scientific organisation, bringing together around 14,000 public health experts for professional exchange and collaboration throughout Europe. We encourage a multidisciplinary approach to public health. Our vision is of improved health and reduced health inequalities for all Europeans. We seek to support our members to increase the impact of public health in Europe, adding value to the efforts of regions and states, national and international organisations, and individual public health experts.