

The Commission activities on alcohol

Mr Kari Paaso, DG Consumer
Protection and Public Health

EU's Powers on Public Health

- **As a general rule...**
 - EU Treaty excludes binding legislation on public health (see Art 152)
- **...but there are exceptions, e.g.**
 - Tobacco control laws (passed using EU's internal market powers)
 - Laws on safety of blood, human tissues, cells (exception provided by Art 152 itself)
 - Abuse of alcohol in the new Treaty

Cornerstones

- The 2001 Recommendation;impl report
- The 2001 and 2004 conclusions
- Public Health Programme 2003 – 2008 and annual WPs
- ECAS-report
- Phepa project
- Bridging the Gap project
- The upcoming report
- The upcoming ELSA project
- The next project(s) (?)

Many consultations

- Politically very problematic, hence extensive consultations, tobacco a benchmark
- Member States' experts in the Comm WP
- Stakeholders: an attempt to define green, amber and red areas, first meeting 6 June.

Draft Working Paper on Tackling Alcohol Related Harm

- Contents
 - **Policy Context**
 - Health, social and economic impact, EU's policy competence, need for a comprehensive EU approach
 - **Seven key areas for action:**
 1. Drinking and Driving
 2. Under-age drinking
 3. Commercial communication
 4. Consumer information
 5. Availability of alcohol
 6. Protection of third parties, esp. families and children
 7. Exchange of information, data and research(Treatment was added as the eight area after the consultations)
- ➔ *Circulated to MSs and stakeholders in July 2004*