



## High hopes for future alcohol policy in the EU

European Alcohol Policy Alliance warmly welcomes the proposed Action Plan from the European Commission.

We expect a comprehensive Action Plan building on the guidance given by World Health Organisation Europe 2012 – 2020, with specific targeted actions that are regularly monitored.

The European Commission articulated its plans towards the future of the alcohol policy in the EU in its meeting with the Member States. The current European Alcohol Strategy will be supported by an Action Plan for the period 2014-2017.



**‘Eurocare is eagerly looking forward to working together with the European Institutions to step up actions on alcohol policy and reduce the alcohol related harm in Europe. The social cost of alcohol in the EU is estimated for 155 billion Euro per year. We simply cannot afford little action in the area of tackling alcohol related harm. It is one of the best investments we can make for our children’s health and future’ comments Mariann Skar, Eurocare Secretary General.**

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## Defeating drunkenness in Russia: myth or reality?

Eurocare was present in the Press Centre at RIA Novosti on the 17 October, where Director Tatyana Mironova had gathered a roundtable of speakers calling for a Roadmap with concrete actions on alcohol policies.

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## EWA conference

Not yet registered to the European Alcohol and Workplace (EWA) conference November 22?

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## Alcohol and taxes - a win win situation

Increasing alcohol taxes is the right thing to do, how many more will follow Poland and Finland?

In the times of economic crises some countries are moving in the right direction by increasing the tax on alcohol which serves for the benefit of both public health and public finances at the same time.



[See Eurocare’s presentation on alcohol and tax](#)

## Eurocare members leaving the Alcohol and Health Forum

Several of Eurocare members have left the European Alcohol and Health Forum (EAHF) last week. The NGOs

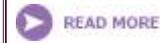
This week Poland and Finland have proposed increase in alcohol tax levels in their next year's budgets.

Polish Finance Minister Jacek Rostowski is aiming for an increase to excise taxes on tobacco products by 5 percent, and alcohol by 15 percent. The measures follow the cabinet's approval on Friday of the draft budget for 2014, which looks to decrease the country's deficit, with revenues reaching 276.9 billion zloty (65.6 billion euro), and spending at 324.6 billion zloty (76.9 billion euro).

Finland is also planning tax hike on alcohol in 2014 under the Ministry of Finance proposal the tax on alcohol would be increased by 2.15 euros a litre of 100 per cent alcohol. This would translate into tax hikes of 5 to 8.6 per cent depending on the category of alcoholic beverage.

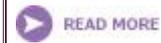


have been disillusioned with the EAHF ability to provide effective and efficient changes to reduce alcohol related harm across the EU.



### **GAPC 2013**

On 7-9 October 850 representatives from 55 countries gathered in the South Korean capital, at the third Global Alcohol Policy Conference organised by the Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA).



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