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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: **Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council**
meeting on 1 December 2014
Outcomes of conferences during the Italian Presidency
- *Information from the Presidency*
(Any Other Business item)

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Presidency on the above mentioned subject.

Outcomes of conferences during the Italian Presidency*Information from the Presidency*

During the Italian Presidency, Italy has complied with the public health commitments listed in the working Programme, both on prevention, in all its aspects, and healthcare.

In the field of prevention, special efforts have been made to draw conclusions highlighting the role of the Member States in facing and fighting emerging communicable diseases.

This commitment concerned, first of all, the management of the emergency caused by the epidemic of **Ebola virus**, where many harmonization efforts have been done to reach a shared European approach.

As planned, again in the field of communicable diseases, we have hardly worked for the adoption, by the EPSCO Council of Conclusions on **vaccination practices**, that highlight the importance of strategies and action plans aimed at strengthening the use of these fundamental prevention tools.

An important Conference on **HIV**, held on the tenth anniversary of the Dublin Declaration, set a new commitment for the EU Member States, involving the civil society, to permanently defeat this disease, with the involvement of civil society, addressing the critical aspects of the increase in HIV infections in some areas of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, among key populations at higher risk on comorbidities and access to care, in addition to the need for education in reproductive health in young people.

Another crucial event of our Presidency has been dedicated to the **Health in the Mediterranean**. In the light of the most recent outbreaks and the impressive flow of migrants that affects Europe and consistently with the fundamental Italian participation to **Global Health Security Agenda**, during the conference, attended by representatives of the EU countries and of the countries bordering the Mediterranean sea, concrete commitments to work together, in order to achieve a full implementation of the International Health Regulations and to fight against the growing phenomenon of antimicrobial resistance have been taken.

With regard to non-communicable chronic diseases, Italy intended to sensitize other MSs on gender health. The Conference on “**Women’s health**: a Life-Course approach” highlighted possible shared strategies to protect women’s health throughout their lives, taking into account the key role of women in the society.

According to the international commitment taken during the Group of Eight (G8) on 2013, the issue of **dementias**, crucial for an ageing society, was also discussed in a specifically dedicated Conference. The Italian planning practice, implemented during the European semester, has been proposed as an example of best practice to be adopted by all MSs. During the Informal meeting of the Ministers of Health held in Milan, the issue of cancer prevention has been dealt with, through the adoption of **healthy lifestyles**, starting from the so called "Mediterranean diet", irreplaceable in our culture.

Chief Medical Officers focused on chronic respiratory diseases and on diabetes, highlighting new models of governance that would make these diseases manageable in a framework of health systems sustainability. They have also emphasized, adopting a specific document the role that **genomics** could play in facing the important challenges for public health represented by chronic diseases.

Regarding therapeutic interventions, the Italian model was taken as example to manage the pain relief therapy and **palliative** treatments, and this view was also shared with the European partners during the Informal Meeting of the Ministers of Health. During the Chief Medical Officers meeting,, it has been decided to extend the pain relief therapy and palliative treatments networks among all the Countries.

Topics that are presented today as Council Conclusions have been discussed not only in the Working Parties, but also in specifically dedicated events and conferences.

The Conference on “Quality, **safety** and cost of care” had the objective to reflect on the need to conjugate the adoption of policies improving quality and safety with the most appropriate economic evaluations, and the today’s conclusion are fully in line with that discussion-

The Conference on “**Innovation** systems and prospects of Health”, in collaboration with the Italian medicines Agency, held just before the Informal meeting of September, posed solid bases for the document we have adopted today.

It is important to mention that all these activities have involved Italian Regions, that could contribute to the development of the contents, the civil society and the stakeholders.

Finally, today is only the first of December, and our last month of Presidency is still giving us the possibility to organize other important events:

- 2nd Annual Joint Action Conference on “The Health Workforce Planning and Forecasting”
- European Conference on “Youth Mental Health: from the continuity of psychopathologies to the continuity of treatments”
- Conference on” Neurodevelopmental disorders, with specific reference to speech and language disorders in the developmental age and to Autism spectrum disorders”
- Presentation of the Report on the Health Status of Country (RSSP) 2012-2013
- International Conference on Medical Devices
- International Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance