



Partnership in Public Health
and Social Well-being

Partnership Annual Conference (PAC)

13 - 14 December 2004, Tallinn, Estonia

Conclusions by the Chair

The first Annual Conference of the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being was held in Tallinn, Estonia, on 13 - 14 December 2004, hosted by Mr. Marko Pomerants, Minister of Social Affairs of Estonia. Mr. Morgan Johansson, Minister of Public Health and Social Services of Sweden, chaired the meeting.

The PAC held a discussion on the theme "To strengthen economic and social development through public health interventions, particularly in the fields of alcohol and tobacco". Experience was shared in these fields and the gains in societal, economic and human terms were emphasized. The important role of the Partnership was underlined for supporting national programmes in the fields of alcohol and tobacco as well as for providing an informal platform for exchange of experience and best practice.

The PAC mandated the CSR to continue its work to elaborate a co-ordinating and financing mechanism/Voluntary Fund. Partners presented their programmes, activities and contributions in order to promote and support positive developments in public health and social well-being.

The PAC adopted a progress report of the CSR and a Partnership Work Programme for 2005 emphasising that the fight against HIV/AIDS is a major concern and will be a core for activities promoted by the Partnership during 2005. Furthermore, it adopted a report concerning the establishment of a Partnership web-site and database and urged Partners to consider volunteering contributions for the establishment and development of the database. Finally, the PAC adopted reports from the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and listened to oral reports by other multilateral regional and international Partner organisations active in the Northern Dimension area.

The PAC welcomed a network under the Partnership umbrella on trafficking of human beings, ensuring more comprehensive and co-ordinated work in this area. It also welcomed

the development of a closer co-operation on non-communicable diseases and lifestyle related health and social problems.

The PAC elected Lithuania as Co-Chair for one year. The PAC 2005 was decided to be held in Stockholm, Sweden, preliminarily in the middle of November.

The PAC thanked Estonia for an excellent hosting of the meeting and the Tallinn Information Office of the Nordic Council of Ministers for its great helpfulness in organizing the side events.