


Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Recommendation	2001/0801(CNS)	Procedure completed
Public health: drinking of alcohol by children and adolescents. Recommendation		
Subject 4.20.03 Drug addiction, alcoholism, smoking		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy		24/01/2001
		PSE STIHLER Catherine	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		25/01/2001
		PPE-DE ZISSENER Sabine	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Health	2354	05/06/2001
	Health	2319	14/12/2000
European Commission	Commission DG Health and Food Safety	Commissioner	

Key events			
27/11/2000	Legislative proposal published	COM(2000)0736	Summary
14/12/2000	Debate in Council	2319	
18/01/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/04/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
25/04/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0150/2001	
15/05/2001	Debate in Parliament		
16/05/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0263/2001	Summary
01/06/2001	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0310	Summary

05/06/2001	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
05/06/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
16/06/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/0801(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Recommendation
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 000
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/5/14285

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(2000)0736	27/11/2000	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0150/2001	25/04/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T5-0263/2001 OJ C 034 07.02.2002, p. 0168-0222 E	16/05/2001	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(2001)0310	01/06/2001	EC	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

EP/Council Recommendation 2001/458 OJ L 161 16.06.2001, p. 0038 Summary
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Public health: drinking of alcohol by children and adolescents. Recommendation

PURPOSE : to present a proposal for a Council Recommendation on the drinking of alcohol by children and adolescents. **CONTENT** : the proposed Council recommendation clearly sets out what Member States should do in order to formulate strategies and take actions to address the problems in their countries due to the inappropriate consumption of alcohol by children and adolescents. Firstly, Member States must strengthen efforts to develop and implement appropriate comprehensive health promotion policies targeted at children, adolescents and their parents, teachers and carers at local, national and European level. Member States must also: - strengthen and support efforts to develop and implement health promotion programmes in schools, to appropriately include the alcohol issue, taking into account existing experiences, for instance the concept of health promotion in schools; - support measures to raise awareness of the effects of alcoholic drinking, in particular on children and adolescents; - encourage youth organisations, sports organisations and other local community initiatives to include and integrate health education in relation to alcohol within their programmes of activity; - encourage the producers of alcohol beverages in their efforts to develop specific training for servers and sales persons with regard to the protection of children and adolescents; - encourage the production of advisory materials for parents to help them discuss alcohol issues with their children; - further develop initiatives addressed to the young people on the dangers of drink-driving; - take strict enforcement action as a matter of priority against the sale of alcohol to underage customers; - foster a multi-sector approach, to educating young people about the use and abuse of alcohol; - produce and disseminate and use evidence based information on the factors which motivate children to start drinking at a worrying level; - support the development of specific approaches on early detection and brief interventions concerning young people being alcohol dependent. With regard to good codes of conduct, the Member States should: - strengthen the enforcement of regulatory control with regard to the promotion, marketing and retailing of alcoholic beverages; - seek the agreement of manufacturers and retailers to apply the same high level of responsibility and standards with respect to marketing and promotion and retailing in Member States; - establish cooperation with producers and retailers of alcoholic

beverages; - ensure that alcoholic beverages are not designed or promoted to appeal to children or adolescents; - create a system for ensuring the removal of products, which offend a code of conduct, from sale, and the cessation of inappropriate marketing or promotional practices. ?

Public health: drinking of alcohol by children and adolescents. Recommendation

The committee has adopted the report by Catherine Stihler (PSE, UK), which makes substantive amendments to the proposal in the framework of the consultation procedure. The report emphasises several factors that give grounds for concern: the tendency to mix tobacco, alcohol and drugs, the propensity to consume these products at increasingly early ages, which intensifies the risk of addiction in adulthood and the correlation between alcohol consumption and anti-social behaviour. The committee therefore believes there is a need to take preventive measures in order to reduce demand; at the same time, these measures should also be designed to limit the supply of the products in question. The main proposed measures are the introduction of a provision prescribing the labelling of products with consumer information on alcoholic content. This measure has been made all the more necessary by the appearance on the market of a vast range of alcoholic refreshments or ready-mixed soft drinks with an alcoholic content. It is particularly important to ensure that trade names, advertisements and other forms of customer conditioning do not blur the distinction between alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Parallel to these efforts, provision must also be made for compulsory cautionary warnings on the labels of all alcoholic drinks, and steps must be taken to ensure that, when goods are displayed in shops, a rigorous distinction is made between genuine soft drinks and alcoholic beverages, with warning signs indicating the latter, especially in supermarkets. The parliamentary committee also calls for a provision stipulating that, at public events where alcohol is sold for immediate consumption, at least one non-alcoholic drink must be available at a price not exceeding that of the cheapest alcoholic beverage. Steps must also be taken to ensure that the renunciation of advertising aimed at children and teenagers must not be confined to the printed media but must also apply to radio and television advertising. The committee also emphasises the need to conduct 'appropriate studies' on the problem of alcohol consumption among young Europeans and believes that the collection of data 'must take place in a standardised manner' so that the collected data will be comparable. Finally, in place of the terms 'dependence' or 'abuse', the committee prefers the expression 'harmful use of alcohol', since very few adolescents are actually dependent on alcohol. ?

Public health: drinking of alcohol by children and adolescents. Recommendation

The European Parliament approved the report by Mrs Catherine STIHLER (PES, UK) (by 445 votes for, 63 against and 21 abstentions) on the drinking of alcohol by children and adolescents. Overall, the Parliament welcomed the Council's proposals, with a large number of amendments to beef up the draft recommendations, including: - systematic training for school nurses and doctors so they recognise psychological problems in children and adolescents; medical practitioners to be made more aware of the most effective methods for combatting alcohol abuse; - retailers of alcoholic drinks to be made to share the responsibility for protecting young people, and in particular to be responsible for observing licensing restrictions on the sale of alcohol to young people; - underage consumers not to be targeted with misleading brand names or packaging; - soft drinks not to be more expensive than beer; - television advertising rules on alcoholic drinks to be harmonised throughout Europe; - visible information and warnings about alcoholic drinks to be displayed in sales areas, particularly supermarkets. Moreover, it should be added that there is a need to promote efforts to use the potential of sport and the competitive spirit to combat alcohol abuse which is the fashion among young people and to promote healthy lifestyles. The report also requires the appropriate authorities, responsible for safety in pools, lakes rivers and at the sea side, to include in their warning notices to swimmers the dangers of swimming after consuming alcohol. ?

Public health: drinking of alcohol by children and adolescents. Recommendation

The Commission has accepted in full the amendments relating to: - the new wording proposed which is more explicit and reflects the statements of the Commission's communication on road safety; - highlighting the need to promote research and data collection. It also makes sense to underline the need to enable young people to make informed choices and in this context to also mention the regional level; - the addition of the statement "support the study of alcohol consumption as one of the health determinants on the basis of which the consequences at local, national, regional and Community level could be assessed and encourage in the content the development of data banks to address systematically all relevant issues with regard to alcohol and health"; - student organisations should indeed be mentioned in the proposal together with youth and sport organisations; peer pressure, parental abuse and lack of self-esteem are important areas of concern; to help to eliminate negative images associated with alcohol-free alternatives is a valid aim; - strengthen the role of young people. ?

Public health: drinking of alcohol by children and adolescents. Recommendation

PURPOSE : to adopt a Recommendation on the drinking of alcohol by young people, in particular children and adolescents. **COMMUNITY MEASURE :** Council Recommendation 2001/458/EC on the drinking of alcohol by young people, in particular children and adolescents. **CONTENT :** the text recommends that in formulating their strategies and taking action in the framework of a common approach across the Community, with the respect to young people and consumption of alcohol, Member States, with the support as appropriate of the Commission should inter alia: - promote research into all the different aspects of problems associated with alcohol consumption by young people, and disseminate to interested parties evidence-based information on the factors which motivate young people to start drinking; - support measures to raise awareness of the effects of alcohol drinking and foster a multi-sectoral approach to educating young people about alcohol, in order to help prevent the negative consequences of its consumption; - increase young people's involvement in youth health-related policies and actions; - further develop specific initiatives addressed to young people on the dangers of drink-driving; - take action as a matter of priority against the illegal sale of alcohol to underage consumers and, where appropriate, require a proof of age; - support notably the development of specific approaches on early detection consequent interventions at preventing young people becoming dependent. Member States should also: - encourage in cooperation with the producers and the retailers of alcoholic beverages and relevant non-governmental organisations, the establishment of effective mechanisms in the fields of promotion, marketing and retailing, to - ensure that producers do not produce alcoholic beverages specifically targeted at children and adolescents; - ensure that alcoholic beverages are not designed or promoted to appeal to

children or adolescents; - develop specific training for servers and sales persons with regard to the protection of children and adolescents and with regard to existing licensing restrictions on the sale of alcohol to young people; - allow manufacturers to get pre-launch advice, in advance of marketing a product or investing in a product, as well as on marketing campaigns before their actual launch; - ensure that complaints against products which are not being marketed in accordance with the principles set out in the recommendation can be effectively handled, and that such products can be removed from sale and the relevant inappropriate marketing or promotional practices can be brought to an end; - urge the representative producer and trade organisations of alcoholic beverages to commit themselves to observe the principles described above.?