

Basic information	
2006/0106(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Recommendation	Procedure completed
Public health: prevention of injury and promotion of safety Subject 4.20 Public health	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		SINNOTT Kathy (IND/DEM)
			13/07/2006
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	TRAN Transport and Tourism		The committee decided not to give an opinion.
	FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality		ROBSAHM Maria (ALDE)
		11/07/2006	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration		Meetings
	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs		2803
		2007-05-31	
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner
	Health and Food Safety		KYPRIANOU Markos

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/06/2006	Legislative proposal published	COM(2006)0329 	Summary
05/09/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/11/2006	Vote in committee		

23/11/2006	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0398/2006	
11/12/2006	Debate in Parliament		
12/12/2006	Decision by Parliament	T6-0549/2006	Summary
12/12/2006	Results of vote in Parliament		
31/05/2007	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
31/05/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		
18/07/2007	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2006/0106(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Recommendation
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 152-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENV/6/38420

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE378.598	22/09/2006	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE380.680	18/10/2006	
Committee opinion	FEMM	PE378.627	08/11/2006	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0398/2006	23/11/2006	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0549/2006	12/12/2006	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2006)0328 	23/06/2006	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2006)0329 	23/06/2006	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2007)0303	24/01/2007	

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
National parliaments	IPEX	
European Commission	EUR-Lex	
Final act		
EP/Council Recommendation 2007/0718 OJ C 164 18.07.2007, p. 0001		Summary

Public health: prevention of injury and promotion of safety

2006/0106(CNS) - 23/06/2006 - Document attached to the procedure

This Communication focuses on the prevention of accidents and injuries in the Member States through the promotion of public health actions. It provides a strategic framework in the form of a Community action plan which will help the Member States prioritise injury prevention. The actions being proposed will form part of the "Community Public Health Programme" 2003-2008 as well as the "Consumer Policy Strategy" 2003-2006.

The Action Plan has been designed to give the Community the evidence-based information that is needed to help all Member States reduce the burden of injuries. The ultimate goal is to reduce injury mortality and morbidity and to ensure that the Community becomes a safer place to live in.

Previous accident prevention initiatives have managed to reduce the frequency of injuries considerably. Examples include road accidents, workplace accidents, chemical accidents and consumer product related injuries. However, there is still room for improvement. The Communication points to the significant differences in accident and injury rates between Member States and within their populations. The current injury mortality rate in the EU ranges from 27 deaths per 100 000 residents in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands to more than 143 deaths per 100 000 in Lithuania.

Preventative action not only helps reduce the huge burden on societies and individuals it also reduces, considerably, high health care costs and the costs to society from lost productivity. Every year, about 235 000 citizens of the Member States die as a result of an accident or violence. Annually, over 50 million citizens seek medical treatment for an injury and 6.8 million of these are admitted to hospital. Ample evidence exists to prove that preventative measures are cost effective, given that the benefits of preventing injuries often outweigh the costs of intervention by a factor of ten.

This Communication highlights the role of the health care sector in injury prevention. The kind of actions foreseen for workers in the health care sector are:

- quantifying the problems, identifying risk factors and measuring the effectiveness of interventions;
- the reporting of risk factors;
- advocating primary prevention;
- disseminating evidence-based strategies;
- increasing the professional capacities for advising people at risk;
- leading cross-cutting action plans; and
- informing the public about hazards and what safety precautions they can take.

Based on the data received from the Member States the Commission will set up a common information system on accidents and injuries. Such information is a prerequisite for policy making. It will have the advantage of combining data on health and injury statistics as well as helping policy makers assess the health burden vis-à-vis accidents and injuries. The common information system will be complemented by Community support for the exchange of good practice; Community support for national action plans and risk communication.

These action plans have been devised to focus on seven particularly vulnerable groups. They are:

- Children and adolescents;

- Elderly citizens;
- Vulnerable road users (pedestrians, cyclists)
- Sports injuries
- Injuries caused by products and services;
- People vulnerable to self harm;
- People vulnerable to interpersonal violence.

This Communication is accompanied by a Council Recommendation in which the roles of the Member States and the Commission in implementing this Action Plan are specified (please refer to summary of the initial proposal).

Public health: prevention of injury and promotion of safety

2006/0106(CNS) - 31/05/2007 - Final act

PURPOSE: to set out a list of recommendations addressed to the Member States on the prevention of injuries and to set out Commission tasks supporting the prevention of injuries as well as the promotion of safety.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Recommendation 2007/C 164/01 on the prevention of injury and the promotion of safety.

CONTENT: the Council adopted a Recommendation on the prevention of injury and the promotion of safety. Every year, about 235 000 citizens of the Community die as a result of an accident or violence. Injuries are, after cardiovascular diseases, cancer and respiratory diseases, the fourth most common cause of death in the Member States. In children, adolescents and young adults accidents and injuries are the leading cause of death.

The Recommendation aims, in particular, to improve the use of existing data as well as the development, where appropriate, of injury surveillance and of reporting mechanisms, with a view to ensuring a coordinated approach across Member States to develop their national policies, including the exchange of best practice.

The priority areas identified are:

- the safety of children and adolescents;
- the safety of elderly citizens;
- the safety of vulnerable road users;
- prevention of sports and leisure injuries;
- prevention of injuries caused by products and services;
- prevention of self-harm;
- prevention of violence, particularly domestic violence against women and children.

Member States should:

- make better use of existing data, develop a national injury surveillance and reporting system in order to provide comparable information, and assess the needs for introducing additional initiatives on product and service safety and in other areas;
- set up national plans for preventing accidents and injuries;
- ensure that injury prevention and safety promotion be introduced in a systematic way in schools and in training of health and other professionals.

The Recommendation asks the **Commission** to:

- gather, process and report Community-wide information based on injury surveillance data provided by the Member States;
- facilitate the exchange of information on good practice and disseminate this information to relevant stakeholders;
- support Member States in the inclusion of injury prevention knowledge into the training of health and other professionals;
- carry out Community actions by using the resources provided for in the Community Public Health Programme and successor programmes, the general framework for financing Community actions in support of consumer policy, the Framework Programme for Research and any other relevant Community programmes;
- lastly, carry out an evaluation report four years after the adoption of the Recommendation to determine whether measures proposed are working effectively and to assess the need for further actions.

Public health: prevention of injury and promotion of safety

2006/0106(CNS) - 12/12/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Kathy Sinnott (IND/DEM) and made some changes to the proposal. It wanted to see eight priority areas instead of seven, and inserted the area of safety at the workplace. It also made special reference to the prevention of violence, particularly violence against women and children and pointed out that domestic violence against women is the main cause of death and invalidity among women between the ages of 16 and 44. Parliament also pointed out that people over 65 years of age represent 16% of the total population in the EU, but suffer a disproportionate 40% of fatal injuries; thus the elderly run more than double the risk of encountering a fatal accident, and long bone fractures are the main cause of hospitalisation among the elderly.

Parliament inserted the following in its recommendations to Member States:

- carry out scientific studies, particularly on self-harm and risk taking behaviour;
- pay particular attention to the social determinants that provoke injuries and insecurity: the biggest difference in injury, mortality and morbidity rates is between poorer and wealthier countries, and between social classes within countries. The gap is growing, due to factors such as increased road traffic, worsening inequalities in terms of income, higher unemployment, decreasing social support, market liberalisation and increased availability of alcohol, and poor regulatory and enforcement mechanisms. The unemployed, ethnic minority groups, migrant workers, refugees, and disabled and homeless people are particularly at risk;
- take measures so that databases on good practice in injury prevention are based on sound data taking into account local circumstances, and are supported by research that indicates the specific social, economic, infrastructural and cultural circumstances within which successful policies are implemented;
- raise public awareness on causes and consequences by highlighting the responsibilities of both individuals and society as regards the prevention of injuries and the promotion of safety;
- ensure that insurance companies that have access to injury data provide all relevant data to the Member States in order to facilitate the definition of the mechanisms and places where accidents most frequently occur and use this information to improve prevention.

MEPs called for the Commission to submit a legislative proposal for the establishment of a Community-wide injury surveillance system, for the exchange of information on good practice and for the dissemination of information, including precise details of financial implications. Furthermore, all future programmes on the prevention of injury and the promotion of safety should take into account health inequalities, bearing in mind that lack of access to social support, poor community cohesion and social exclusion reduce people's capacity to withstand social conflict without resorting to violence, including self-harm.

Public health: prevention of injury and promotion of safety

2006/0106(CNS) - 23/06/2006 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to set out a list of recommendations addressed to the Member States on the prevention of injuries and to set out Commission tasks supporting the prevention of injuries as well as the promotion of safety.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Recommendation.

CONTENT: this Recommendation is being proposed in order to help reduce the amount of injuries across the EU, which after cardiovascular diseases, cancer and respiratory diseases, is the fourth most common cause of death in the Member States. Unlike other diseases, however, injuries are preventable and experience shows that when proper measures are introduced the number of accidents and injuries can be reduced considerably.

This Recommendation is being proposed alongside a Commission Communication on "Actions for a Safer Europe". In summary, it recommends that the Member States should:

- Develop a national injury surveillance and reporting system in order to provide comparable information;
- Set up national plans for preventing accidents and injuries;
- Ensure that injury prevention and safety promotion be introduced in a systematic way for health care professionals.

For its part, the Recommendation asks the Commission to:

- Within the framework of the “Community Public Health Programme” establish a Community-wide injury surveillance system collecting injury data provided by the Member States;
- Establish a Community –wide mechanism for the exchange of information on good practice and disseminate this information to relevant stakeholders;
- Provide Member States with the necessary evidence for inclusion of injury prevention know-how vis-à-vis health workers;
- Support the development of good practice; and
- Carry out an evaluation report four years after the adoption of this Recommendation to determine whether measures proposed are working effectively and to assess the need for further actions.