



EU TRIS notification submission in support of Ireland's alcohol labelling regulations

The European Mutual help Network for Alcohol related problems (EMNA), is an alliance of 16 non-governmental organisations in 9 European countries, all working on the principle of self-and-mutual-help groups, consisting of individuals and families that are suffering for alcohol related problems. The groups are either self conducted, or with a facilitator, who generally is a volunteer, and not a health-professional, therefore the attendance is for free and open to anyone has an alcohol problem. We estimate that all the group members that are regularly attending the weekly meetings could amount to at least 300,000 people. The results are excellent, generally situated at >70% sobriety of one year or more at the time of the interview. EMNA is member of EUROCARE and supports its positions on this subject, but specifically, is meant to give a voice to european citizens who have been harmed by alcohol consumption.

While participating in our groups, many of our members complain that no one has informed them about the health consequences of drinking. Let us not forget that alcohol producers have so far managed to be exempted from European regulations on warnings to be put on labels, including those relating to health. All foods are obliged to do so by the European regulation 1169/2011, but alcoholic beverages have managed to be exempt, and still do not write anything on the labels about health risks. When we asked them to comply, at European level (European Alcohol and Health Forum, EAHF), without further delay, to a rule that everyone else respects, they preferred to overturn the table (the Forum was suspended in 2017).

Indeed, there is a HEALTH problem, which requires to reduce exposure to addiction, cancer and other diseases, through mandatory indications on all labels of the risk for health, same as we can see on tobacco packages.

In June of this year, the Irish government notified the European Commission of Draft Regulations under Section 12 of the Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018, and EMNA fully supports of the core concept of on-product health information and warnings in Ireland.

We underwrite the undisputed value of such a progressive measure, the advancements of citizens' rights and the alignment with major global public policy actions to reduce alcohol use and harm, and we trust this regulation in Ireland will be paving the way for alcohol health warnings regulation and advancing health literacy on alcohol harm throughout Europe.

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