

INVITATION

Alcohol and Pregnancy Conference

Place: European Parliament – Brussels
Date: Wednesday, 9 September 2009
Time: 08h45

Hosted by the Swedish Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats

You are cordially invited to a one day conference 'Alcohol and Pregnancy'

The Conference is jointly organized by Eurocare and the Swedish Presidency of the European Union to mark International Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Day.

Drinking alcohol during pregnancy is the leading known cause of birth defects and developmental disorders in the EU.

It affects about 1% of people in the EU27 (i.e. nearly 5 million people) and is the only one that is 100% preventable.

Unfortunately, many women are not aware that, throughout pregnancy, even at low levels of exposure, alcohol interferes with the normal development and can seriously damage the unborn child. Numerous studies show there are a substantial number of women in the EU who continue to drink during pregnancy. It is estimated that this ranges from 25% in Spain to 35%-50% in the Netherlands and even higher rates in the UK or Ireland (79%).

The umbrella term, **Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)**, describes the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. These can include physical, mental, behavioural and or learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications.

This meeting will be a unique opportunity for Public authorities and experts to learn more about this condition, share experiences and good practices, and discuss the different policy options to curb its incidence.

IMPORTANT: Due to the limited amount of available seats, prior registration is needed.

Deadline for registration:

- 1 September 2009 (for those who have a permanent pass to the European Parliament)
- 20 August 2009 (for those who DO NOT have a permanent pass)

For any additional information please contact Aleksandra Kaczmarek at info@eurocare.org tel.: +32 (0)2 736 05 7

Draft Programme

8:45 – 9:15 Registration

9:30 – 10:00 **Welcome by the Chair**, MEP (EPP-ED, Sweden)

10:00 – 10:40 **Opening remarks** by
EU Health Commissioner Androula Vassiliou (tbc)
Swedish Health Minister Maria Larsson

10:40 – 11:10 **Risks associated to prenatal exposure to alcohol**
Dr Diane Black: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) Foundation of the Netherlands

11:10 – 11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30 – 12:30 **Dimension of the problem: alcohol consumption among pregnant women**

- Italy: Prof. Mauro Ceccanti (Università La Sapienza di Roma and Centro di Riferimento Alcolologico)
- Spain: Unitat de Recerca Infància i Entorn (URIE), Paediatric Service, Hospital del Mar
- Ireland: Dr. Siobhan (Coombe Women's Hospital in Dublin)

12:30 – 13:00 **What can be done?: Recommendations on effective measures to tackle the problem**
Dr Kieran O'Malley: Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Belfast Trust, Northern Ireland

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch break*

14:00 – 17:00 **Examples of good practices**

- Learning from other countries experiences: Sweden; Catalonia (Spain); Poland
- Evaluation of the French experience with the pictogram: Juliette Guillemont (INPEES – Institut national de prévention et d'éducation pour la santé)
- Evaluation of the UK labelling voluntary agreement: Don Shenker (Alcohol Concern)
- The experience of the Association of Swedish Midwives: Kajsa Westlund
- FAS policlinic (Germany): Dr. rer. med. Reinhold Feldmann

17:00 – 17:15 **Closing remarks**
Michel Craplet: Chairman of Eurocare

Debate