

## INVITATION to Lunch Seminar

### *The Social Cost of Alcohol: Passive drinking*

Place: European Parliament – Brussels  
Date: Tuesday, 2 February 2010  
Time: 12h30 – 14h30\* (lunch will be provided)

Room: A3G-3

**Hosted by MEP Anna Hedh**

Drinking alcohol is a deeply ingrained part of the European society; each year, the average intake per adult is equivalent to 1,400 small beers (11 litres of pure alcohol).

The consequences of drinking go far beyond the individual drinker's health and well-being. They include acts of drunken violence, vandalism, sexual assault, road accidents, harm to the unborn fetus, child abuse, and a huge health burden carried by both the National Health Systems and friends and family who care for those damaged by alcohol.

Each year in Europe, alcohol causes:

- Some 50% of all violent crime to the person
- Some 40% of all domestic violence
- 2,000 homicides (4 in 10 of all murders)
- 10,000 deaths in drink-driving accidents for people other than the drink-driver
- 5 million people born with mental disorders and birth defects because of their mothers' drinking
- 16% of all child abuse / neglect
- 5-9 million children living in families adversely affected by alcohol

This meeting will be a unique opportunity to hear the testimonies of experts and professionals who have firsthand experience of these problems through their work.

Please send your completed [registration form](#) to [ruth.ruiz@eurocare.org](mailto:ruth.ruiz@eurocare.org) before

- 23 January (If you DO NOT have a permanent pass to the European Parliament)
- 1 February (if you do have a pass)

## Draft Programme

**Welcome by MEP Anna Hedh**

**Opening remarks** by Hans Olav Fekjær (Actis)

### Alcohol and Interpersonal Violence

- Drunken violence, vandalism and sexual assault: representative of Police forces
- Aggressive behaviours in the Emergency rooms: Nurses Association
- Domestic violence: Xavier Ferrer (Fundación Salud y Comunidad)

### Alcohol and traffic accidents

- Vojtech Eksler (ETSC: European Transport Safety Council)

### Children living in families with alcohol problems: the invisible victims

- Mira Roine (ENCARE: European Network for Children for Children affected by Risky Environments within the family)

### Harm to the unborn child

- Dr Rudi Kohl (FAS Polyclinic. The Netherlands)

**Closing remarks** Eurocare

*Debate*