



# The EU High-level conference on Mental Health in its context

Priority group "Prevention of Suicide and Depression"  
Luxembourg, 26 February 2008

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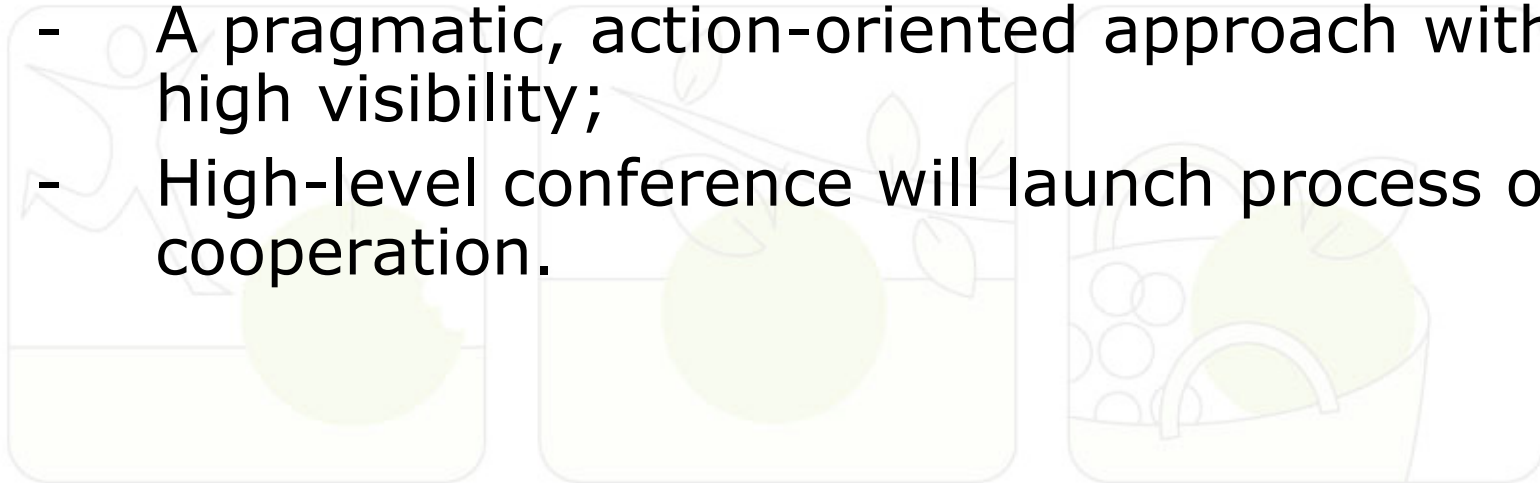
## Follow-up to the Green paper

- The *Response* to the Green Paper:
  - Much support for a greater priority for mental health at Community level;
  - Member States' responsibilities to be respected;
  - Community policies to be involved („Health in all policies“);
  - Work to be in line with WHO strategy.

# Follow-up to the Green paper

## ■ The *Follow-up* to the Green Paper:

- A pragmatic, action-oriented approach with high visibility;
- High-level conference will launch process of cooperation.



# Objectives

- Improve mental health in the population and tackle challenges of mental disorders through:
  - integrating mental health into Community policies;
  - promoting the exchange between Member States.
  
- This shall be based on:
  - collecting best practice from across the EU;
  - working across boundaries (MS, stakeholders across sectors, research)

# Priorities

1. Prevention of Suicide and Depression
2. Mental Health in Youth and Education
3. Mental Health in Workplace Settings
4. Older People



# Horizontal Priorities

1. Promotion of mental well-being
2. (Primary) Prevention of Mental Disorders
3. Support to people experiencing Mental Disorders
4. Improving information and research

# Deliverables

- Work process from High level conference through to thematic meetings (2009-2010) shall deliver:
  - *EU Action Plan on Preventing Suicide and Depression;*
  - Principles and Toolkits for Action (best practices, management tools) at workplaces, for Youth, in Education, and for Older People.



# High Level Conference

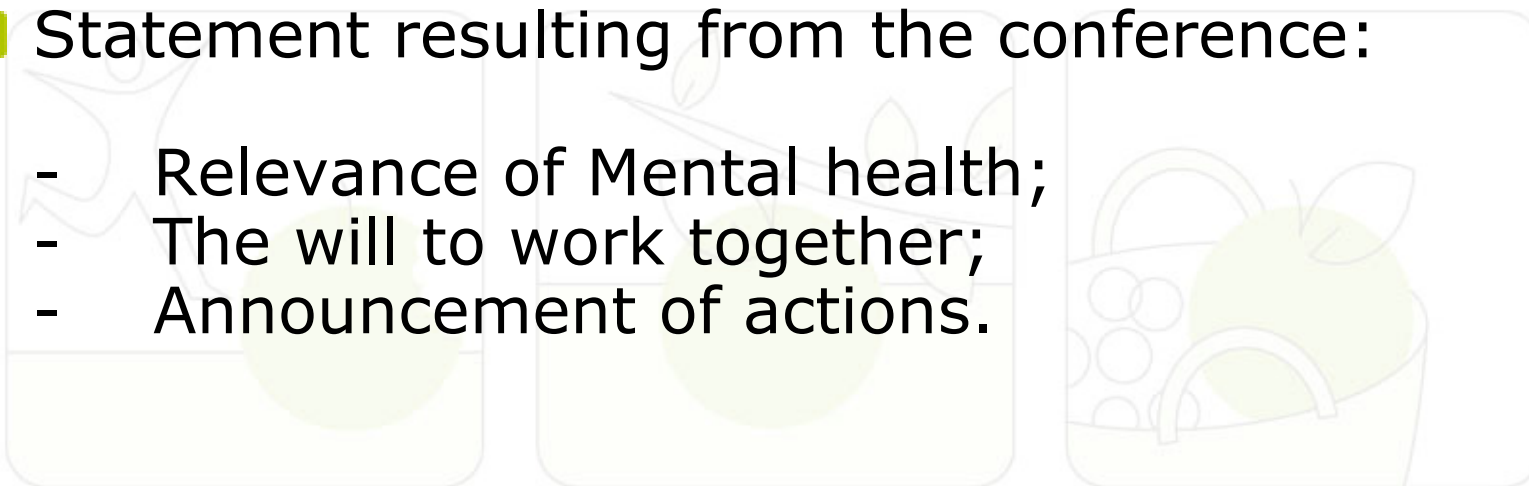
Invitational conference, Brussels, 13 June 2008

- Central in increasing visibility and promoting engagement;
- President Barroso, Commissioners Kyprianou, Figel, Spidla; European institutions;
- MS Ministers of Health and from other areas;
- Stakeholders (organisations and leaders) including civil society;
- Research experts.

# European Pact for Mental Health

## ■ Statement resulting from the conference:

- Relevance of Mental health;
- The will to work together;
- Announcement of actions.



# Suicide and Depression

- Plays an essential role;
- Inequalities between MS create a European dimension;
- Reflects the health sector dimension – but is also a horizontal priority.

# Suicide and Depression

## ■ Size of the problem

### Causes of death in the EU27 in 2004 (ESTAT)

Mental and behavioural disorders  
incl. suicide, self-inflicted injuries

150,976

Alcoholic abuse

14,771

Drug dependence, toxicomania

2,978

AIDS

5,794

Transport accidents

53,462

Homicide, alcohol

6,177

- The size of the problem is not necessarily reflected in the level of priority attributed.

## Response

- Increase visibility;
- Build common ownership;
- Present the arguments in favour of the need and the possibility to act.

## Political *Acquis*

- Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (Public Health), 2006
  - *Overall objective:*  
To promote good public health on equal conditions and improve protection against health threats
  - *„Operational objectives and targets“*  
include:  
Improving mental health and tackling suicide risks