



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

Priority group "Mental health in Workplace Settings"
Luxembourg, 29 February 2008

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Assumption

- „Health is the Greatest Wealth“
(White Paper on Health)
- Health and well-being - a key resource for creating wealth.

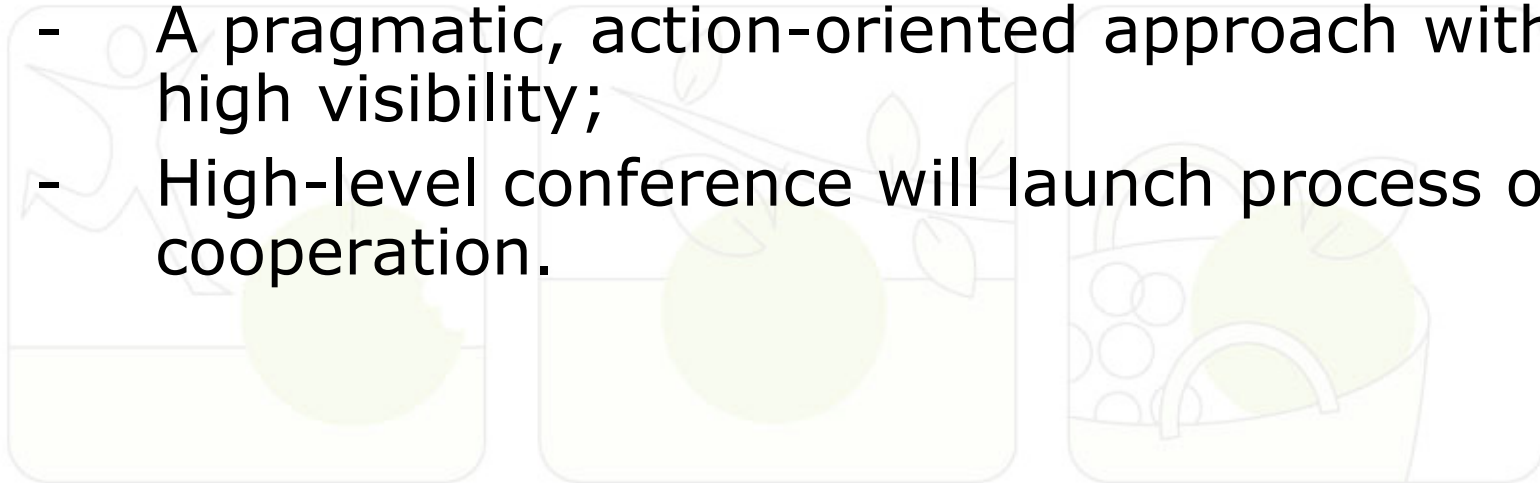
2005 Green paper and Follow-up

- Mental health and wellbeing – an interest and responsibility for all society
- 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 policies, best practice and knowledge 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 Vassiliou, Figel, Spidla; European institutions;
- MS Ministers of Health and from other areas;
- Stakeholders (organisations and leaders) including civil society;
- Research experts.

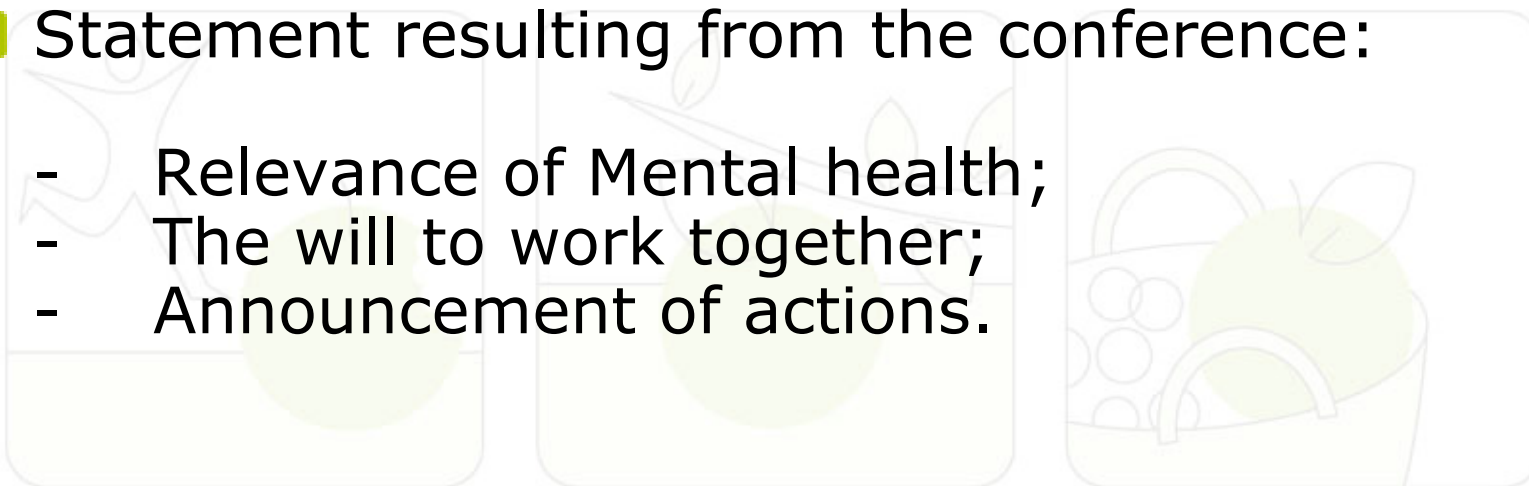
Response

- Increase visibility;
- Build common ownership;
- Present the arguments in favour of the need and the possibility to act;
- Bridge policies, practice and research.

European Pact for Mental Health

■ Statement resulting from the conference:

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



Mental Health in Workplace settings

- Policy context / acquis
 - Lisbon process
 - productivity
 - labour markets
 - employability, adaptability
 - innovation
 - Social Partner Framework Agreements on Stress and Harassment and Bullying at the Workplace
 - Strategy on Health and Safety at Work
 - White Paper „Together for Health“

Mental Health in Workplace settings

■ Approach

- Complementarity with existing policy mechanisms – focus on encouraging and developing tools for better implementation
- Operationalise common fields between public health, occupational health and human resource management

Beyond the consensus paper

- Expert Report to draw synthesis
- Possibly Proposal for EP and Council Recommendation on Mental health
- Accompanying activities:
 - Campaign and award on workplace mental health
 - Projects on best practice and evidence-based tools
 - Leadership project with WHO Europe
- Thematic meetings

Mental Health in Workplace Settings

■ Expectations for today

- Develop common ownership;
- Identify the key issues and knowledge;
- launch work on a consensus paper bringing together different perspectives and creating a „template“ of issues and evidence on possible actions.

Mental Health in Workplace Settings

- Building the case for leadership and action in:
 - Promoting mental health and well-being for better health and productivity
 - Preventing disorders to avoid their implications;
 - Giving support to those who do experience disorders at the workplace and in returning to the workplace;
 - Improving information and data.

Mental Health in Workplace Settings

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