

CDG on WINE

24/3/17

The future of the European Alcohol and Health Forum

"The Commission is considering the introduction of improvements to the structured dialogue with stakeholders in the context of the action to minimize alcohol related harm.

This reflection is being formed by our experience with the EU Alcohol and Health Forum, by the evaluation and monitoring reports, by comments that you have shared with us over time, and also by meetings with both former and current members of the Forum. It is also being influenced by the experience of similar stakeholder groups.

This process has gained in urgency since the Forum lost the presence of NGOs. We consider this as detrimental for the dialogue with stakeholders but mostly for citizens, as we are missing out on opportunities for action (and despite the fact that industry and NGOs – as well as the Commission – have continued to work on minimizing alcohol related harm).

The objective of the Commission is to use this situation as an opportunity to improve the collaboration with both, the industry and NGOs, to step up the ambition of the Forum, and to restart the Commission-steered stakeholder work (and dialogue) as soon as possible.

We will transparently keep you informed of developments of this process as it progresses. On that note, one of the latest steps were two meetings with the NGO former members of the Forum: a preparatory meeting on 17 February and another one on 2 March.

It is our intention to then continue the process by inviting other alcohol stakeholders to meetings. In the meantime, you may also wish to send any suggestions for improvement of the dialogue and action."