

## The European Brain Council's Weekly External Environment Update

Week of 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011

### Quote of the week

*“For many thousands of people with dementia, being admitted to hospital is not the best treatment. It is also very costly. Commissioners must invest in services in the community to reduce this number and help people with dementia to live well at home.”*

Jeremy Hughes, Chief Executive of the Alzheimer’s Society, commenting on a report which calls for an improvement in the way dementia services are commissioned, see articles of interest for further details

### Agenda Watch

- i) Click [here](#) to access the draft agenda of the European Research Area Committee - Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation meeting that will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> December

### Institution Watch

- i) The text of the **Health Programme - Annual work plan for 2012** is now available. Click [here](#) to access it
- ii) Between December 2011 and January 2012, the European Parliament will expand to include eighteen new MEPs. The attached PDF features a set of brief profiles

### Key updates this week

#### ***Final texts from the 3rd Steering Group Meeting of the EIP on Active and Healthy Ageing***

Please click [here](#) to access the final texts of the strategic and operational plans from the 3rd Steering Group Meeting of the **European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing** that took place on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

#### ***Survey demonstrates widespread public support for greater investment in dementia care and research***

A survey has revealed overwhelming public support for greater government investment in research into treating Alzheimer’s, as well as improved levels of care for existing sufferers.

The survey of four European countries (as well as the US) – **France, Germany, Poland and Spain** – was designed and analysed by **Alzheimer Europe** and the Harvard School of Public Health.

It also highlighted the prevalence of those who have experienced the disease, either directly or through someone they know – France (72%), Germany (73%), Spain (77%), and 54% in Poland.

Unsurprisingly, clear majorities in these European countries favoured greater public investment in the care of people with Alzheimer's disease (69% in Germany, 72% in Poland, 79% in Spain and 85% in France) with small minorities (between 1% in France and Spain and 5% in the US) wishing current spending to be decreased.

Heike von Lützu-Hohlbein, Chairperson of Alzheimer Europe, said: "In times of economic difficulties, we should not forget the impact that dementia can have on people's lives and those of their families and carers.....In some European countries (England, France, Norway and Scotland) we have already seen the development of comprehensive dementia strategies and it is now time for such programmes to be put in place in all European countries to better support people with dementia and their carers."

#### ***Roadmaps for Commission's forthcoming initiatives in 2012***

**The European Research Council has** launched an open call for proposals on the **ERC Advanced Grant**. Click [here](#) for more information.

#### ***Horizon 2020 - Presentation of the proposal by the Commission***

On 6<sup>th</sup> December, the competitiveness council held a discussion on the Horizon 2020 legislative package, following a presentation from the Commission.

Please click on the following links to view relevant supporting documents:

- [Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament](#)
- [Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation](#)

#### ***Council Conclusions on partnering in research and innovation***

Click [here](#) to access the **Council Conclusions on partnering in research and innovation**.

#### ***Health and Consumer Affairs council conclusions (Health)***

Earlier in the month, the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs council took place.

Click [here](#) to access its conclusions, which amongst other areas, specifically focus on:

- Closing health gaps by promoting healthy lifestyle behaviours
- Health for Growth Programme 2014 – 2020

***Strength in numbers***

Click [here](#) to access the council conclusions on **Partnering in Research and Innovation**.

**Articles of interest**

✓ *Health Service Journal online*, Cost of rising emergency dementia admissions revealed  
<http://www.hsj.co.uk/home/commissioning/cost-of-rising-emergency-dementia-admissions-revealed/5039130.article>

✓ *Public Service online*, Combating brain disease  
[http://www.publicservice.co.uk/feature\\_story.asp?id=17565](http://www.publicservice.co.uk/feature_story.asp?id=17565)

**Dates for your diary**

**Please check future updates for the date of EBC's first Board Meeting of 2012**