

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

Week of 23rd May 2011

### Quote of the week

*"A sustained national commitment to brain research could have transformative impacts on science and society"*

**Steven Hyman**, MD, provost of Harvard University, Professor of neurobiology at Harvard Medical School, talking to Psychiatric News earlier this month

### Agenda Watch

The Working Party on Public Health met in Brussels last Monday in order to conduct final examinations of the draft conclusions on:

- The European Mental Health Pact;
- Recommendations on working 'Towards modern, responsive and sustainable health systems'.

Please see further updates for details on how these have progressed

### Key updates this week

*First meeting of the Steering Group on the Pilot European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing*

The European Commission has established a Steering Group on the Pilot European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, jointly chaired by EC Vice President Neelie Kroes (NL) and EC Commissioner John Dalli (MT) – DG SANCO - which met for the first time on the second of this month.

The group includes, amongst others, EU member state representatives, industry, health and social care professionals, and elderly and patient organisations. It's the first time in Europe that representatives of this scale have joined forces to drive innovations in active and healthy ageing.

Please click on the following link to view the draft report of the first meeting: [Draft report of the first meeting of the High level Steering Group on the Pilot European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing](#)

### [Reflecting on success](#)

DG SANCO has published its **Key achievements on health in 2010 report**, which, amongst other areas, highlights the following achievements:

- The adoption of a new Directive on patients' rights in cross-border health care' including a selection of the benefits the new law will bring about;
- The 2010 update to the 'European pact for mental health and well-being;'
- Better coherence between EU internal and external policies relating to health;
- Facilitating three workshops on different aspects of healthy ageing, in an effort to share success stories and best practice;
- The driving force behind the need to address health inequalities;
- The Europe for Patients campaign, including a broad selection of health policy initiatives which address better healthcare for alzheimer's diseases, other dementias and general mental health.

Please click [here](#) to read the document in full

### *Meeting the needs of an ageing demographic*

The OECD has published a report entitled '**Help Wanted? Providing and Paying for Long Term Care**', in response to the estimate that people aged 80+ in the OECD countries (including EU member states) will grow to 10% of the population by 2050 (from just 4% in 2010).

The report considers how member states can realistically provide the right level of care for older people in the face of such a significant increase.

It is the result of a 2-year project combining qualitative and quantitative approaches and, amongst others, covers the following topics:

- Demographic projections and their implications for long-term care labour markets and expenditure;
- Policies to support family carers;
- An analysis of public and private coverage schemes for long-term care in OECD countries;
- Financing policies to improve access while keeping costs under control;
- Options to improve value for money from long-term care services. Efficient management of the interface between health and care.

To view the reports in full, click on the following links:

**Commission:** <http://ec.europa.eu/health/reports/european>

**OECD:** <http://www.oecd.org/health/longtermcare/helpwanted>

### Articles of interest

*Psychiatric News*, **Patrick Kennedy launches initiative to promote brain research**, <http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/content/46/9/1.1.full>

*e-Gov Monitor*, **EU sets up group to steer innovation**,  
<http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/41832>

*Businessweek*, **Researchers find a link between too much or too little sleep and cognitive decline in middle age**,  
<http://www.businessweek.com/lifestyle/content/healthday/652443.html>

### Dates for your diary

EBC Board Meeting, June 14<sup>th</sup> 2011

EBC Industrial Board Meeting, June 15<sup>th</sup> 2011

FENS & SfN Advisory Workshop, Brussels, June 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011

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