

**IOGT International Official Statement to
WHO EURO 67 Regional Committee Meeting**

06.09.17

Theme:

Progress report on implementation of the European Action Plan to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol 2012 – 2020

Distinguished delegates,

It's an honor and privilege to address you today on behalf of IOGT International.

Analysis of the implementation of the WHO Global Alcohol Strategy indicates that the European region had the highest level of activity to increase scope and intensity of government policies to curb alcohol harm. For instance since 2010, **27 countries of the region have increased alcohol excise taxes.**

Unfortunately, even in the WHO region with the highest activity, to date only 20 countries have enacted evidence-based alcohol policies. Troubling is also that among the 8 countries worldwide that have increased subsidies for the alcohol industry, five are from this region.

In this context, we are deeply concerned about the fact that Member States are **far off track to achieve the global target to reduce per capita alcohol consumption by 10%** by 2025, and thus will fail to reduce premature mortality from NCDs by 25% until 2025.

Harmful use of alcohol is not only a major risk factor for NCDs, infectious diseases, violence, or road traffic fatalities; it's also a major obstacle to development **adversely affecting 13 of 17 Sustainable Development Goals** in all three dimensions: economic, social and environmental.

Nevertheless implementation of cost-effective, high-impact and evidence-based policy best buys is still inadequate.

Therefore, we call for more action to tackle harmful use of alcohol in an integrated and comprehensive manner.

IOGT International strongly supports Member States that have repeatedly called for more action on population-level responses to curb alcohol harm.

We urge you to lead on **making harmful use of alcohol a priority topic** at the forthcoming WHO Executive Board meeting in January 2018.

I thank you for your attention.



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