



**EUROPEAN ALCOHOL POLICY  
CONFERENCE  
BUILDING CAPACITY FOR ACTION  
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**Task Force on Youth Aspects of Alcohol**

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In October 2006 the European Union launched the alcohol strategy, to reduce the alcohol related harm within EU and support the member states work within the alcohol field.

To implement the strategy, the Commission established the European Alcohol and Health forum. The forum provides a common platform for all interested stakeholders at EU level that aims to reduce alcohol-related harm. In addition, the Forum presented two task forces, one on youth specific aspects on alcohol.

The task force on youth specific aspects on alcohol are composed mainly by stakeholders from the alcohol industry and NGO:s from the public health and/or the youth sector. The task force meets at least two times annually.

The task force has, in order to advance towards the formulation of recommendations to the Forum, focused on identifying actions which have a potential for

- curbing under-age drinking;
- curbing drink-driving by young people;
- educating and empowering young people on alcohol issues;
- promoting responsible selling and serving of alcohol for young people;
- protecting young people from the consequences of alcohol abuse by others.

This has been done through a workshop, which was carried out in February. In this workshop a number of "best-practice-examples" was shown from all over Europe. These examples, and the following discussion during the meeting that followed the workshop, will be put together to a first set of draft recommendations that will be presented to the Forum plenary meeting in mid-april.

The presentation will describe the setting up of the task force and how it relates to the implementation of the Alcohol Strategy. It will also describe the controversy that surrounded the setting up of the Forum and task forces which still continues, concluding with statement of the presenter's view of why, despite its dangers and limitations, NGOs should support the Forum and participate in its activities.