

# Directorate-General for Health & Consumers

*DG SANCO views on*  
Future Developments for the European  
Collaboration on Health Technology Assessment

***EUnetHTA Conference  
Paris 20 November 2008***

# Background 1

- Member States' responsibility for Public Health
- EC role is to encourage co-operation and take action where MS cannot act alone effectively (notably on cross border aspects)

# Background 2

## The EU Health Strategy 2008-2013

### *Principles*

- Shared health values
- Health is the greatest wealth
- Health in all policies
- Strengthening the EU voice in global health

### *Objectives*

- Fostering good health in ageing Europe
- Protecting citizens from Health threats
- Supporting ***dynamic health systems and new technologies***

# Proposed Directive on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare

- Aims at establishing a framework for safe, high quality and efficient cross-border healthcare
- Includes provisions on co-operation between MS
- ...in particular, provisions on co-operation for HTA

## Article 17 of the proposed Directive on cross-border healthcare

- MS to facilitate development and functioning of a HTA network
- The HTA network should connect national authorities/bodies responsible for HTA (designated to the Commission by the MS)
- The HTA network will support HTA cooperation
- and ensure provision and exchange of information on HT
- Commission to adopt measures for the establishment and management of the network and to define info to be exchanged

# Interest of DG SANCO for HTA development and use

- Constant investment under successive public health programmes
- Overall policy aim: to support the development of HTA through collaboration and common activities, notably on the new area of drugs
- Means: establishment of a network, and development of tools for ensuring added value to the EU-level HTA collaboration
- Very positive progress, thanks to the EUnetHTA project

# Perspectives

- The development stage of EUnetHTA is now concluded: COMM will evaluate the results
- Negotiations in progress in the Council and EP
- Future developments are dependent on interest shown by MS and decisions taken by Council/EP on the cross-border health care proposal
- If the proposed approach is endorsed, need to evaluate options for the establishment and management of the Network

## Next steps (short term)

- Evaluation by DG SANCO of the results of EUnetHTA based on the final report
- DG SANCO to invite Member States' Health Authorities to appoint representatives for discussion of the future of the HTA EU-level collaboration
- The possibility of joint action under the HTA for ensuring continuity and further development of the HTA collaboration will be considered

## Next Steps (longer term)

- Depending on the position of Council/EP on Article 17, preparatory work for the assessment of options would be launched by DG SANCO
- Possible Communication on HTA planned at this stage for 2010 (to be confirmed in light of priorities of the new Commission)



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EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT