

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Commissioner Tonio Borg  
Head of Cabinet

Brussels,

09. 04. 2013

Dear Mr Olsson,

Commissioner Borg asked me to thank you for your letter of 1 March 2013, and for your support and engagement in EU level work on alcohol and health.


Let me assure you that the European Commission fully shares your concern about alcohol-related harm in children and young people. This is why children are the first priority of the current EU alcohol strategy. We are conscious that there are many children in Europe living with at least one parent who is alcohol dependent. The challenge here is to help those children and also to help their parents to manage alcohol use disorders, as well as to prevent parents from becoming heavy drinkers or alcohol dependent. Action on alcohol needs to be comprehensive and include both aspects of prevention and management of alcohol use disorders.

Member States have a key role to play in this regard, as most measures to address alcohol related harm fall under their jurisdiction – for example taxation, age limits, blood alcohol limits for driving or restrictions on alcohol advertising.

The recent independent evaluation of the activities implemented as part of the EU alcohol strategy confirms its added value and highlights the usefulness of EU-level coordination and mobilisation to address alcohol-related harm.

The results of this evaluation, as well as the most recent data on consumption and health outcomes, will be taken into account in shaping future action. I can assure you that the protection of children and young people against alcohol-related harm is a key concern for the Commission.

Yours sincerely,



Joanna Darmanin

Mr Simon Olsson  
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