



EU Institutions and Decision–Making in Healthcare

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Talk Outline

- How does the EU work?
- How are health decisions made?
- How can organisations get involved?





LEGISLATIVE TRIANGLE

- European Commission proposes legislation
- European Parliament and Council consider it separately
- An agreement is reached (usually)
- **Often a long process!**





Council of the European Union

- **The Council represents the Member States.**
- **Each State acts as the Presidency of the Council for 6 months.**
- **Health comes under the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO).**
- **Health issues are discussed in EPSCO twice a year by the 28 health ministers.**
- **The Presidency also organises an informal discussion of Health Ministers on a specific topic.**





European Parliament

- 766 members
- Meets in Brussels and Strasbourg
- Detailed work is carried out in specialised committees
- Health is mainly dealt with in the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee (ENVI), which has 71 members.





European Commission

- **The European Commission is the EU's executive body.**
- **Each Member States has a Commissioner with a specific area of work**
 - **Tonio Borg (Malta) is responsible for Health and Food Safety**
 - **Neven Mimica (Croatia) is responsible for Consumer Affairs**
- **Commissioners are supported by officials organised in a number of Directorate-Generals**





Commission Has Five Main Functions

1. To set objectives and priorities for action. Includes strategic planning & work programme.
2. To propose legislation to EP and Council.
3. To manage and implement EU policies and the budget. 2012 EU budget was €147 billion.
4. To enforce EU law - jointly with Court of Justice.
5. To represent EU outside Europe - negotiating trade agreements etc.



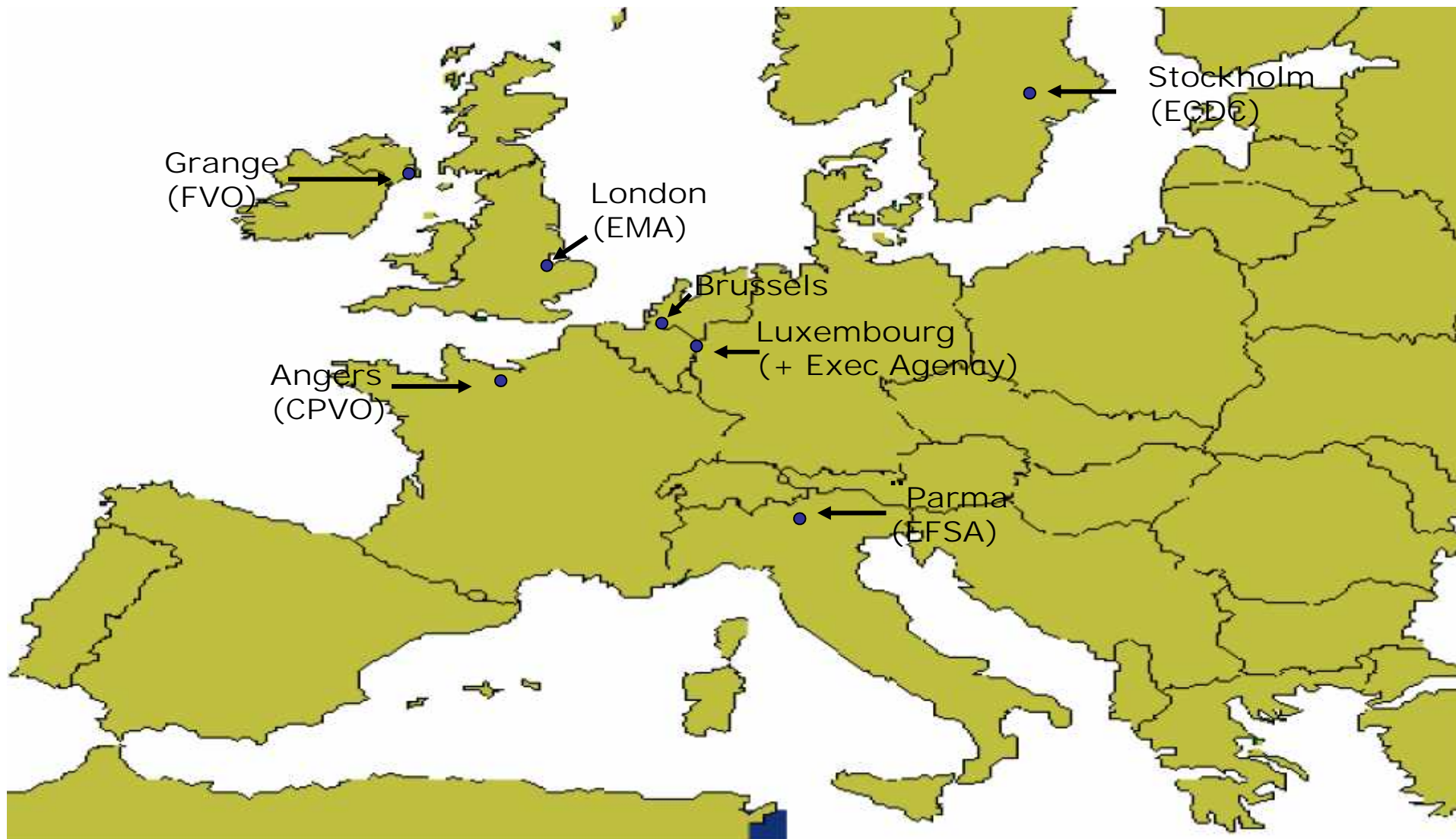


DG SANCO: The Main Health Directorate General





Where we are





European Medicines Agency



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

protection and promotion of public and animal health, through the evaluation and supervision of medicines for human and veterinary use

scientific evaluation of applications for European marketing authorisations

centralised procedure

- all medicines derived from biotechnology
- medicines for treatment of viral diseases, HIV/AIDS, cancer, diabetes, neurodegenerative diseases, auto-immune and other immune dysfunctions
- orphan medicines for rare diseases

monitoring the safety of medicines

establishing safe limits for medicinal residues in food of animal origin

stimulating innovation and research in the pharmaceutical sector





European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control



The ECDC works with Member States to prevent disease outbreaks and to react quickly and effectively to minimise their impact



“Strengthening Europe’s Defences against infectious disease”
<http://ecdc.europa.eu/>





Executive Agency for Public Health and Consumers (EAHC)



Managing the delivery of
the health programme
2008-2013

The objectives are to:

- Improve citizens' health security**
- Promote health for prosperity and solidarity**
- Generate and disseminate Health Knowledge**

http://ec.europa.eu/phea/index_en.html





Financial instruments

- **Current Health Programme 2008 - 2013**
- **Next Health Programme 'Health for Growth' 2014 – 2020**
(Commission proposal November 2011 under discussion by EP and Council)

Proposed Budget : € 446 million

- *Develop innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems*
- *Increase access to better and safer healthcare*
- *Promote health and prevent diseases*
- *Protect people from cross-border health threats*





Some Other Health Areas Dealt With In The Commission

- eHealth - DG CNECT
- Health Professionals - DG MARKT
- Health and Environment – DG ENV
- Health and Social services - DG EMPL
- Disability - DG EMPL
- Health Research - DG RTD
- Health and Development - DG DEVCO
- Structural Funds - DG REGIO & DG EMPL
- Health Systems & Public Expenditure – DG ECFIN





PART TWO: Decision-Making Process

Policy Process

- **Commission has the right of initiative - Proposals for EU actions have to be made by the Commission**
 - Proposals can be sparked elsewhere - stakeholders, politics, public opinion, Treaty changes,
 - Build upon past work

Steps of The Process

- Commission service drafts ideas – communication/ green paper etc
- (Impact assessment)
- Consultation process with stakeholders, **Health Policy Forum**
- Consultation with other Commission services,
- Formal proposal adopted by the Commission, if needed





The EU Health Policy Forum

Function

- Reviews EU's work in health and makes recommendations
- Responds to Commission consultations & assists in consultations
- Exchanges of views and experience
- Assists in implementation and follow-up of initiatives.

Membership

52 umbrella Organisations in 4 groups :

- public-health NGOs and patients' organisations
- organisations representing health professionals and trade unions
- health service providers and health insurance bodies
- businesses with an interest in and commitment to health promotion, protection and improvement.

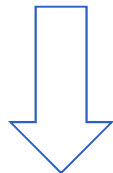




Decision-Making : Part Two

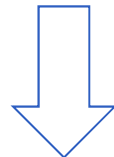
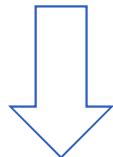
Commission Formal Proposal

Eg Recommendation for Member States, secondary legislation; comitology

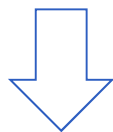


Council

Formal Proposal For Legislation



Council **CO-DECISION** **European Parliament**



Agreement





PART THREE: HOW TO GET INVOLVED

TARGETS

Council ??

- Influence national governments ?

European Parliament

- National MEPS
- Political parties
- Lobbyists

Commission

- Consultations
- EPF – Health Policy Forum
- Health Programme – applications for grants, tenders. Other programmes

Other Bodies

- Committee Of Regions Economic and Social Committee, ECJ





THANK YOU!

