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WHO/EU Evidence into Action Alcohol Project (EVID-ACTION)

Press conference on alcohol and cancer

**“Prevention in Focus: Europe’s Moment for Bold Alcohol
Action:**

14 October 2025, 09.00-09.40 CEST

UN Studio, UN City

Copenhagen, Denmark and Online

24 May 2025

Original: English

Provisional programme

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| 09.00-09.40 | <p>Press-conference on alcohol and cancer
UN City Studio
<i>Dr. Hans Kluge</i>, WHO Regional Director for Europe
<i>Dr Elisabete Weiderpass</i>, Director, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)</p> |
| 10:00–10:05 | <p>Welcome & Opening Remarks
<i>Dr. Hans Kluge</i>, WHO Regional Director for Europe</p> |
| 10:05–10:15 | <p>Key note address: Alcohol and cancer. What do we know and where do we go?
<i>Dr Elisabete Weiderpass</i>, Director, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)</p> |
| 10:15-11:00 | <p>Panel Discussion: What can we do to accelerate action to prevent harm from alcohol in Europe?
Policymakers and public health leaders will share insights on effective alcohol policy measures and successful implementation practices across diverse settings.
Suggested panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Dr. Hans Kluge</i>, WHO Regional Director for Europe• <i>Dr Elisabete Weiderpass</i>, Director, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) [TBC]• <i>Ms Sophie Løhde</i>, Minister of the Interior and Health of Denmark [TBC]• <i>Dr Karmen Joller</i>, Minister of Social Affairs Estonia [TBC]• Mr Olivér Várhelyi, Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare, European Commission [TBC]• <i>Ms Romana Jerković Kraljić</i>, Member of European Parliament, President of MEPs Against Cancer interest group [TBC] |

11:00-11:25

Technical Q&A with experts

- *Dr. Beatrice Lauby-Secretan, Head for IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention Programme, Deputy Head, Evidence Synthesis & Classification Branch, IARC, Lyon, France*
- *Dr. Susan Gapstur, Senior Visiting Scientist, Evidence Synthesis & Classification Branch, Responsible Officer for IARC Handbooks Volumes 20 A & B, IARC, Lyon, France*
- *Dr. Jürgen Rehm, Senior Scientist, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Chair of the Experts Group of Head of IARC Handbook Volume 20 B, Toronto, Canada*
- *Dr. Carina Ferreira-Borges, Regional Advisor, Alcohol Illicit Drugs and Prison Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe*
- *Dr. Dag Rekve, Senior Technical Officer, Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviours Unit, WHO Headquarters Geneva*

11:25-11:30

Closing remarks

Dr Gundo Weiler, Director, Prevention and Health Promotion, WHO Regional Office for Europe