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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

Subject: **Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs** Council
meeting on 18 and 19 June 2015

A new framework for the EU alcohol policy

– *Information from the Slovenian delegation*

(Any Other Business item)

Delegations will find in the Annex an information note from the Slovenian delegation on the above-mentioned subject.

A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR THE EU ALCOHOL POLICY

According to WHO, alcohol is the third leading risk factor for disease and mortality in Europe. The costs of harmful alcohol consumption in the EU are also extremely high. The societal costs of alcohol consumption in the EU for 2010 were estimated at €155.8 billion.¹

EU Member States therefore share a strong concern about the negative health, social and economic effects of alcohol in our societies. This was also apparent during the discussion on a new framework for the EU alcohol policy held at the informal meeting of Ministers of Health in Riga on 20-21 April 2015. A majority of Member States joined the call for a new comprehensive strategy to tackle harmful use of alcohol and alcohol related harm.

The Member States are addressing alcohol related harm at national level, however many of the evidence based policy measures related to alcohol prevention also need to be addressed at an EU-level.

Slovenia would therefore like to follow up on the discussion held on the informal meeting of Ministers of Health in Riga and invite the Commission to inform the Council on how it intends to proceed.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/health/alcohol/docs/eu_scoping_paper_cnapa_en.pdf