

# Alcohol policy in Belgium: recent developments

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## 2 Drug unit : context and mandate

- Federal administration, view of this presentation
- Alcohol, illicit drugs and psychoactive medication
- Stimulate innovation in drug treatment
- Development of legislation
- Financing research
- Support of coordination General Drug Policy Cell and IMC Drugs
- Follow up and support international issues



## 3 Presentation overview

### 1. Common Declaration on Alcohol Policy, 2008

1.1. Objectives

1.2. Measures

1.3. Results

### 2. Draft Alcohol Plan, 2013

2.1. Methodology

2.2. Effects

### 3. Future



# 1. Common Declaration on Alcohol Policy, 2008, IMC Health

## 1.1. Objectives

- to prevent and limit alcohol related harm
- to reduce problematic alcohol use
- develop policy regarding risk groups and situations



## 1.2. Some measures

- Coordinated, efficient and integrated policy
- Public expenditure studies
- No sale of alcohol in petrol stations and in vending machines
- No free alcohol during sport or cultural events
- No exclusive presence of alcohol behind display windows of night shops
- Introduction of minimum age of 16 for buying beer and wine in shops



- Evaluate legislation on ‘alcopops’
- Limit as much as possible the amount of alcohol publicity and marketing
- Limit marketing strategies to information on the product, its origin, its content and its production process
- Implement legislation on auto-regulatory system for marketing and publicity
- Information campaign for health workers on alcohol and pregnancy
- Evaluate implementation of ‘alcolock’



## 1.3. Some results

- Public expenditure study
- Introduction of minimum age of 16 for buying beer and wine in shops
- Information campaign on legislation minimum ages
- Information campaign for health professionals on alcohol and pregnancy (in progress)
- Evaluate implementation of 'alcolock'
- Evaluate legislation on 'alcopops'



! Not all measures are within the competencies of ministers of Health

Further discussions and agreements were necessary

Mandate from IMC Health in 2012 for elaboration of global and integrated alcohol plan





## 2. Draft Alcohol Plan, IMC DRUGS, 2013

### 2.1. Methodology

Global and integrated approach with all relevant authorities

Based on international policy documents

Evidence based

Stakeholder involvement (June/July 2013)



General objectif : reduce the harmful use of alcohol

Specific objectifs with actions, timing, responsibilities, indicators, sources of information



Draft plan was not approved in December 2013  
because of disagreement on certain measures



## 2.2. Effects

### PUBLIC DEBATE, JUNE 2013

#### Media :

*“Regering werkt aan minimumprijs voor alcohol” (De Standaard, 28/06/2013)*

*“Alcohol wordt komende jaren duurder en moeilijker te krijgen” (De Standaard, 28/06/2013)*

*“Alcohol voor jongeren mogelijk pas vanaf 18” (De Standaard, 20/06/2013)*

*“Alcoholplan met drastische ingrepen op komst” (De Morgen, 28/06/2013)*



## Parliament: discussion on minimum age



## PUBLIC DEBATE, DECEMBER 2013

Media :

*“Aanbod alcohol amper beperkt in nieuw plan”* (De Standaard, 17/12/2013)

*“Geen verbod op happy hours”* (De Standaard, 17/12/2013)

...



## Parliamentary questions on alcoholplan

Several Ministers continued own policies



## 3. Future

### POLICY

The discussion on the content and the method of an integrated alcohol policy will be continued in the coming year.





## ONGOING RESEARCH

Treatment gap (KCE) - <http://kce.fgov.be/node/2326>

Needs of general practitioners and occupational physicians (ULiège) -  
<http://www.belspo.be/belspo/fedra/proj.asp?l=en&COD=DR%2F60>

Integrated Care for patients with Alcohol Use disorders (KULeuven) -  
<http://www.belspo.be/belspo/fedra/proj.asp?l=en&COD=DR%2F68>



Thank you

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