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MHE welcomes set up of Joint Action on Mental Health and Well-being

Mental Health Europe (MHE) is pleased to see the Council of the European Union taking an active step in mainstreaming mental health by inviting the European Commission and European Union (EU) Member States to develop a Joint Action on Mental Health and Well-being under the EU Public Health Programme 2008-2013. MHE thoroughly welcomes this initiative, and encourages the Commission and EU Member states to promptly get involved, keeping mental health and well-being high on both the EU and on national political agendas.

The Joint Action is particularly important as it would indicate the commitment of the European Commission and Member States to attaining the specific objectives set by the Council. Moreover, the Joint Action would provide a platform for exchange of views, cooperation and coordination between Member States. It would help build innovative partnerships between the health and other relevant sectors, facilitating a review of the policy impact on mental health, addressing mental health problems of vulnerable groups and preventing mental health problems in workplace and educational settings. The Joint Action could also be a further step in promoting community-based and socially-inclusive approaches to mental health.

The proposal for a Joint Action is a result of the “European Pact for Mental Health and Well-Being,” which came to an end in March 2011. MHE was very much involved in the Pact, by providing strategic advice on relevant mental health issues, gathering examples of action and good practices, building capacity for all the actors involved, and proving valuable expertise when needed. Our commitment to improving mental health for all will also be reflected in our involvement in developing the Joint Action. MHE has already contacted the European Commission’s Directorate General for Health and Consumers in order to discuss incorporating specific MHE priorities in the future Joint Action.

For more information, please contact Mental Health Europe, at info@mhe-sme.org or +32 2 280 04 68

About Mental Health Europe

Mental Health Europe (MHE) is an organisation committed to the promotion of positive mental health, the prevention of mental distress, the improvement of care, advocacy for social inclusion and the protection of human rights for people with mental health problems, their families and carers. MHE vision is of a Europe where mental health and well-being is given high priority in the political spectrum and on the European health and social agenda, where people with mental health problems live as full citizens with access to appropriate services and support when needed, and where meaningful participation is guaranteed at all levels of decision-making and administration. MHE’s values are based on dignity and respect, equal opportunities, freedom of choice, anti-discrimination, social inclusion, democracy and participation.