

Brussels, 22nd June 2013

Dear Hon Members,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 21st June in which you demonstrate your interest in the important issue of men's health which is a key priority for myself and my services.

Allow me to clarify certain issues that may have led to a misunderstanding regarding the report in question.

The Men's Health report has been published as a short and as an extended version. The two constitute the official report published by the Commission and are publicly available at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/population_groups/gender/index_en.htm

Given the length and broad scope of the extended report, it was appropriate to accompany this document with a shorter report which provides an overview of health issues which reflect and highlight the current priority areas. The lead author was informed of the revision and agreed to this approach. Allow me to also highlight that the said report was commissioned through a tender, which means that the Commission holds all rights as to its content, distribution and presentation.

It is my view that certain issues merit being put forward as key priorities. The short report focuses for example on preventable risk factors (lifestyle), accessing health services, health status, cardio-vascular disease, cancer, communicable diseases (including HIV/Aids) and mental disease - all major areas of Commission work. To cite one example cancer or cardiovascular diseases are two main causes of premature death with cardiovascular disease accounting for 36 % of all deaths among men.

I therefore cannot understand why your letter implies that certain of these areas have been omitted. It is clear that in a synthesised form, a report cannot include all the detail. However it is clear that the major issues from a health point of view are also included in the short report.

The extended report includes all data and topics that were covered by the contractor and is available for reference together with the short report for those who wish to have further and more comprehensive data on the very broad range of issues that it covers.

In conclusion, I assure you that protecting the health of all European citizens remains my foremost priority.

I trust that the explanations clarify the issues you raise in your letter.

Yours sincerely,



To:

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| Margrete Auken MEP | Jens Nilsson MEP |
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