

**BUDAPEST CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH
EUROPEAN COMMISSION DECLARATION**

The European Commission welcomes the political impetus created by the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health that was held in Budapest on 23-25 June 2004.

The Conference Declaration sets out a valuable road map for future action and records the commitments made on all conference topics, including Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE), various tools for policy-making and the future development of the WHO's Environment and Health process in Europe.

The CEHAPE in particular is an important document which lays the foundation for developing comprehensive policies to improve the health of young people across our continent, bringing together environment and health policy in an effective way.

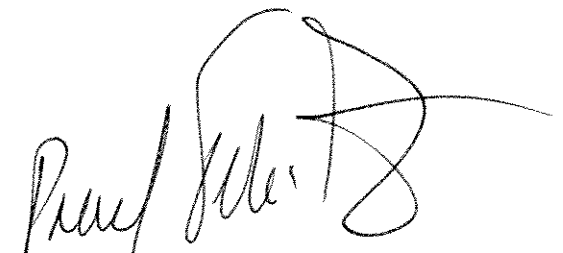
The European Commission shares the Conference's desire to secure a healthier future for Europe's children. The Commission is committed to working actively with its Member States and with international organisations, in particular the World Health Organization, to achieve the goals set out in these two documents.

In 2003 the Commission adopted its European Environment and Health Strategy¹ which is now being followed up with the EU Action Plan on Environment and Health². The CEHAPE and the Ministerial Declaration provide both input and impetus for the actions at EU level. Synergies between these EU-level actions and the actions arising from the Budapest conference should be fully exploited. The Commission will work in close cooperation with the WHO and the EU Member States to ensure that this happens.

Signed on behalf of the European Commission


Margot Wallström

Budapest, 25 June 2004


Pavel Telička

¹ COM (2003) 338 final of 11.6.2003

² COM (2004) 416 final of 9.6.2004