



International Diabetes Federation
European Region

Brussels, 28 June 2004

Dear Sir, Madam,

I am pleased to send you the Proceedings of the EU Workshop, "Towards a European Framework for Diabetes Prevention and Care", held in Dublin, on the 7- 8 April 2004.

One of the major conclusions of the Dublin Workshop was the need to act together, throughout Europe, to ensure common approaches for preventing and controlling diabetes. To achieve this goal in Europe, diabetes should be addressed by the appropriate EU policy framework to promote proper prevention, diagnosis and control for all Europeans.

We are delighted by the outcome of the June EU Health Council of Ministers that finally placed Diabetes on the EU agenda recognizing the disease as a key public health concern. Indeed, we fully share the Irish Presidency's conclusion that: "Diabetes requires the development of a comprehensive, integrated programme of prevention, care and rehabilitation. It constitutes a significant public health problem with high mortality and serious levels of illness and disability. There exist identifiable interventions and sound evidence-based strategies which could have a potential to significantly improve the health of individuals and populations across Europe."

The International Diabetes Federation-European Region (IDF-E) believes that only by collaborating together with various stakeholders and working with the EU Institutions, member states' health officials and broader members of the health community, will we be able to achieve this goal. The EU together with member states have an increasingly significant role to play in developing European guidelines, sharing best practices and setting common standards through EU Recommendations.

Together we can make a difference in the lives of those at risk or suffering from Diabetes.

Please do not hesitate to contact Lex Herrebrugh at the IDF-Europe Office (lex@idf-europe.org) if you wish to have any further information. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Tony O'Sullivan

Chairman Diabetes Federation of Ireland and President-Elect IDF-Europe