

important consequences for public health. Like wars, terrorist attacks have effects that go far beyond the direct casualties.⁵ Public health professionals have an important role in monitoring these effects and, where possible, nudging policies in ways that promote, rather than impair health and human rights.

REFERENCES

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EDITORIAL NOTE

2002 marks the tenth anniversary of the European Public Health Association. Although a decade is a short time in historical terms, the 1990s stand out as a time of momentous change in Europe as, for the third time in the twentieth century the maps of our continent have been redrawn.

In some cases barriers were falling – most visibly the barbed wire and watchtowers that formed the Iron Curtain, but also the divisions between the countries that now form ‘Schengenland’. Even the United Kingdom, which has always maintained a somewhat transatlantic position, culturally if not geographically, is now tied securely to the rest of Europe by the umbilical link that is the Channel Tunnel. Elsewhere barriers were being built – some peacefully, from what was Czechoslovakia, but others by force, as successive states emerged from the flames of war in Yugoslavia. But these new barriers, although initially seemingly insurmountable, are now also falling, as those on either side realise that there is more that unites than divides them. And across Europe as a whole, despite obvious diversity, in culture, language, and health, we also have a great deal in common. We all face common threats, such as the challenges posed by economic and social inequality, or the corrosive power of the tobacco industry, but we also have common opportunities. One of these is our ability to learn from

each other’s experience, to avoid making each other’s mistakes and to build on their successes. EUPHA has played an important role in this process, with its annual conferences providing a forum to exchange ideas. We, as its official journal, are also proud to have played a small part in this process.

This year, to mark EUPHA’s tenth anniversary, we will be publishing a series of reflections by former EUPHA presidents, two of which appear on pages 78–79 of this edition.

Of course we are never complacent and, as we enter our second decade, we are already exploring ways in which we can provide a better service to our readers. Many of these ideas were discussed at the EUPHA Governing Council in Brussels, in December 2001. They include how we can take advantage of the opportunities provided by the internet to provide easier electronic access to the journal, as well as the provision of abstracts in languages other than English. These ideas are now being considered by the national associations and we hope that as many people as possible will engage in this discussion, as this is ultimately your journal. Whatever is decided, however, the editorial team look forward, with confidence, to another even more successful decade ahead.

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