

Press Release
Brussels, 23 January 2009

**EHFA signs agreement with Prof. Willem van Mechelen to be Chair
of the EHFA Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)**

In order to further professionalize the work of EHFA, to provide access to the state of art physical activity research and information, as well as to offer assistance to the Board, Standards Council, and Technical Working Groups, EHFA has signed an agreement with Prof. Willem van Mechelen to be Chair and to select other members of world standing to form the EHFA Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).

Prof. Willem van Mechelen MD, PhD, FACSM, FECSS (1952) is employed by the VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam as a full professor of Occupational and Sports Medicine.

In this capacity he is Head of the Department of Public and Occupational Health (80 fte), co-Director of the EMGO Institute (200 fte), Vice-Dean of the Netherlands School of Public Health and Director of Research Centre Body@Work TNO VUmc.

He leads a group of about 40 staff who conduct primary care research in the area of work, physical activity, sport and health. He was also on the Advisory Committee for the formulation of latest EU Guidelines for Physical Activity.

Willem van Mechelen is a board certified occupational physician, epidemiologist and human movement scientist.

Prof. Van Mechelen: *"I am convinced that - based on extensive research - Physical Activity will contribute towards containing the 'Globesity Crisis'. With EHFA as European umbrella organisation for the health & fitness sector we hope to contribute to reaching the goal of 'More people - More active - More often'. I look forward to working with the EHFA Team."*

Harm Tegelaars, EHFA President comments: *"I am delighted that such an eminent world renowned scientist and expert on Physical Activity is going to advise us on these matters. His network provides unrivalled access to the latest developments in science that can impact our sector in many different ways, from behaviour change, to retention and condition management."*

Note to Editors:

EHFA is a not-for-profit association created to represent the interest of the health and fitness industry across Europe. It acts to bridge the gap between industry, academia, governments, science, and, importantly, the public, at the European level. EHFA promotes the benefits of an active lifestyle and the use of safe and reliable health and fitness facilities as a venue for health enhancing physical activity under the supervision of highly qualified professionals.

EHFA currently represents approx 6 000 health clubs and leisure centres and 15 national associations spread across 22 countries. Membership is open to all stakeholders, public or private, including operators and suppliers, training providers and accreditation institutions. More on www.ehfa.eu

Attachment: photo - Prof. Van Mechelen and Herman Rutgers, Executive Director EHFA



Prof. Van Mechelen and Herman Rutgers, Executive Director EHFA