

■ **Legislative proposals for the creation of a European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDPC)** will be published in the coming weeks, says the European Health Commissioner, David Byrne, according to a report in the *Lancet*. The commissioner's officials have been working on the draft for a number of months but the recent SARS* epidemic has enhanced the project's urgency. Commissioner Byrne hopes to synchronise the launch of the ECDPC with the expansion of the EU to 25 member nations in 2004. According to the commissioner, establishing the ECDPC would be the most effective response to the present-day threat of infectious diseases.

* severe acute respiratory syndrome

Rogers A. Europe contemplates US-style disease-control centre. *Lancet* 361: 1625, 10 May 2003

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