



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from : the General Secretariat

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Subject : Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on a Coherent European Policy Framework for External Action to Confront HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis
- Council Conclusions

At its meeting on 23 November 2004, and in the context of the discussion on a coherent European Policy Framework for external action to confront HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, the General Affairs and External Relations Council, in its formation of Development Ministers, adopted the conclusions in Annex.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS
ON
A COHERENT EUROPEAN POLICY FRAMEWORK
FOR EXTERNAL ACTION TO CONFRONT
HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND TUBERCULOSIS

RECALLING the objectives set out in the 2000 UN Millennium Declaration and UNDERLINING in particular the commitments to have, by the year 2015, halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria and other major diseases that afflict humanity, and to provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS;

RECALLING the Council Conclusions adopted on the European Policy framework,¹ the Programme for Action (PfA) to confront HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis,² and the progress report on the implementation of the PfA³;

RECALLING the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (26th UNGASS, New York, 27 June 2001);

RECALLING the "Three Ones" key principles proposed at the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Nairobi (September 2003) and confirmed during a High level meeting in Washington (April 2004): one agreed HIV/AIDS Action Framework that provides the basis for co-ordinating the work of all partners; one National HIV/AIDS Co-ordinating Authority, with a broad-based multi-sector mandate; one agreed country level Monitoring and Evaluation System;

¹ Council conclusions of 15 May 2001 (doc. 8495/01) on the Commission communication on Accelerated Action Targeted at Major Communicable Diseases within the Context of Poverty Reduction, (doc. 11901/00 COM(2000) 585).

² Programme for Action on Communicable Diseases in the Context of Poverty Reduction, (doc. 6802/01 COM(2001) 96).

³ Update on the EC Programme for Action : Accelerated Action on HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis in the Context of Poverty Reduction – Outstanding Policy Issues and Future Challenges, (doc. 7115/03 COM(2003) 93).

RECALLING the mandate given by the European Council, in the framework of the Multi-Annual Strategic Programme adopted in December 2003, to give priority to ensuring improvements in aid effectiveness, coherence, co-ordination and complementarity in support of the primary objective of the reduction of poverty, including the fight against diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria;

REAFFIRMING the Dublin Declaration on Partnership to fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia, adopted at the Conference "Breaking the Barriers - Partnership to fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia" (Dublin, 23-24 February 2004) and the Irish-Dutch organised seminar for Experts on New Preventive Technologies: Providing new options to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS (Dublin, 24 June 2004);

REAFFIRMING the Vilnius Declaration on Measures to Strengthen Responses to HIV/AIDS in the European Union and in Neighbouring Countries, adopted at the International Inter-ministerial Meeting on Combating HIV/AIDS (Vilnius, 16-17 September 2004);

THE COUNCIL

1. WELCOMES the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on a Coherent European Policy Framework for External Action to Confront HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis¹ in all partner countries, including the new neighbouring countries, and the Second Progress report on the EC Programme for Action² and ACKNOWLEDGES that, while maintaining a strong focus on poverty reduction, the new policy framework also forms a basis for EC action on the protection of human rights, particularly women's rights, the safeguarding of human security and the elimination of violence and discrimination.
2. UNDERLINES the importance of a full and swift implementation of the Doha Declaration on TRIPs and Public Health, and STRESSES that implementation of this declaration should not be hampered in formal amendments of the TRIPs Agreement, nor through bilateral negotiations or through national legislation;
3. ACKNOWLEDGES and WELCOMES the efforts made by the Commission and the Member States in terms of ensuring the necessary policy coherence and synergy among different policy areas such as trade, health, external relations and development, research and information technologies and encourages the Commission and the Member States to continue to develop and implement coherent policies;
4. URGES the Commission and the Member States to enhance their co-operation and co-ordination in the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and in the full implementation of the Cairo/ICPD +10 agenda ensuring that Sexual and reproductive health and rights are an essential component of HIV and AIDS prevention and that AIDS prevention and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) activities are integrated where appropriate;

¹ A Coherent European Policy Framework for External Action to Confront HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis (Doc. 14245/04 COM(2004)726).

² Second Progress report on the EC Programme for Action : Accelerated action on HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in the context of poverty reduction (Doc. 14245/04 ADD 1 SEC(2004) 1326).

5. RECOGNIZES that adequate resources and efforts are needed from the EC and the Member States to scale up responses to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, to strengthen health and other social services and outcomes at country level and to intensify research and development of new tools for prevention, particularly vaccines and microbicides, as well as new tools for treatment and diagnostics;
6. RECOGNIZES the key role of the EC and the Member States in the global efforts made by the WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS, Roll-back Malaria, Stop Tuberculosis, the WTO, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) to confront the three diseases and ACKNOWLEDGES the need for continued, adequate and predictable support, including financial resources, to all these efforts;
7. In particular, INVITES the Commission and the Member States to engage actively into preparations for the 2005 Replenishment Conference of the Global Fund, in order to ensure increased, adequate and predictable financing;
8. REQUESTS the Commission to present to the Council by April 2005 a comprehensive Plan of Action on different areas of intervention, including proposals for the future implementation, monitoring and co-ordination of the EU action to confront the three poverty related diseases.
