



WORKING GROUP

On Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS and Development
in the European Parliament

EPWG Newsletter

Issue 4 / 2008



EPWG meeting: follow-up of UNGASS

Organised by Stop Aids Alliance, UNAIDS and MSI and Chaired by **Sophie In't Veld**, in this meeting **Marielle Hart** (Stop Aids Alliance), **Henning Mikkelsen** (DG DEV), **Denis Haveaux** (UNAIDS) and **Thijs Berman** (MEP; PES) presented their views on the UNGASS and the XVII International AIDS conference in Mexico. They highlighted

the outcomes on behalf of their different sectors and the role these actors play in implementing the commitments made. The meeting focused specifically on three focal areas, namely: Linking the response to HIV/AIDS to health systems strengthening (HSS); Financing to facilitate achieving Universal Access, in particular for key populations and the right to access, in particular for key populations

These three focal areas were also identified as key challenges in scaling up toward universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. In order to achieve this, sufficient, sustainable and predictable financing must be provided by the donor community. For the minutes: www.epwg.eu

EP Resolution on Maternal Mortality

On the 4th of September 2008, European Parliament adopted a resolution by 394 votes to 182, with 34 abstentions on maternal mortality in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5, to reduce from 3/4 maternal mortality by 2015. Parliament has called on the Council and Commission to reduce the differences in maternal mortality rates between industrialized and developing countries. **Benita Ferrero-Waldner**, member of commission, highlighted that "Poor people – women, men and children – living in developing countries encounter a wide range of interrelated sexual and reproductive health problems.(...) Together, these conditions are responsible for much suffering and many premature deaths". The resolution has called the Council and Commission to extend maternal health care services as part of primary health care. "Maternal mortality could perfectly be avoided if women to sexual and reproductive health" argued **Anne van Lancker**, EPWG president.

The resolution: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2008-0406+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

Study Tour EPF with RAISE

On 19-20 September, the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF) led a Fact Finding Mission of European Parliamentarians to Georgia to assess the situation of reproductive health of internally displaced persons and to evaluate the health infrastructure needs of the country in the aftermath of the conflict between the Republic of Georgia and the Russian Federation. The mission has been organised on the invitation of Hon. George Tsereteli MP, Vice Chairperson of the Georgian Parliament and Member of EPF Executive Committee with the cooperation of the United Nations Population Fund in Georgia. Members of the EPWG Jean Lambert and Neena Gill participated in the mission, as well as Louise LeeJones of the Raise initiative (Reproductive Health Access, Information and Services in Emergencies).

The EPWG is a dynamic all-party group in the European Parliament, established in 1991. In accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD 1994), the Working Group advocates the support of gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights and the response to HIV and AIDS, as the basis for sustainable social and human development and poverty reduction.

EPWG News

• New Members EPWG



The EPWG secretariat warmly welcomes French Socialist MEP Ms. **Françoise Castex** who is member of the Committee on International DEVE and Finnish Christian Democrat MEP Ms. **Sirpa**

Pietikäinen who is a member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs as well as Human Rights.



• 6 October Screening at the info point 13.00-14.30

Screening of a documentary 'Dead mum's don't cry' on maternal mortality and lack of drugs in Chad. EPWG Glenys Kinnock will moderate. To register:

Aidco-InfoPoint-Conferences@ec.europa.eu

• 14 October EU Women's Envoy

The Dutch MEP Kathalijne Buitenweg would be pleased to invite you to a conference on the role and responsibility that should have EU Women's Envoy. EPWG president, **Anne van Lancker** will speak on European Policy on Women's Rights. To register:

kathalijnemaria.buitenweg@europarl.europa.eu

• 21 October Zoom In Strasburg

MSI and WPF are pleased to invite you to an exhibition, which aimed to raise understanding of global developmental issues through photos and stories made by young people from the North and the South. For more information, contact Marie Stopes International, 0032-2-5515451.

Secretariat services to the EPWG are provided by Marie Stopes International
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