



EU HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum

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Ms. Agnese Raboviča
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Ms. Anne Calteux
Premier Conseiller de Gouvernement
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Subject: Ministerial Declaration on HIV/AIDS and co-infections in Europe and Central Asia

Brussels, 16 February 2015

Dear Ms. Pompa, Ms. Raboviča and Ms. Calteux,

We are writing on behalf of the [EU HIV Civil Society Forum on HIV](#) to follow up on the conclusions of the EU Italian Presidency Ministerial Conference on HIV/AIDS which took place in Rome last November. The conference closed with a consensus among participants that HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C, tuberculosis co-infections ought to be high on the EU's political agenda and work programme. As ECDC surveillance data, ECDC Dublin Declaration 10 years' report and UNAIDS data show, Europe is the only continent globally where the epidemic continues to grow so rapidly. In certain parts of Europe, the treatment coverage is lower than in some countries with generalised epidemic and AIDS related deaths are high. In the EU, the epidemic has stabilised but not declined, so clearly a lot remains to be done and improved.

The conference concluded on the need for renewing political commitment at European level and the need to discuss further the text of this commitment. The Italian EU Presidency committed to bring the conclusions of the High Level meeting for further discussion among EU member states. We are writing to urge the Trio Presidency of 2014-2015 to bring the discussion on a new Declaration on HIV/AIDS and co-infections forward.

The EU HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum (CSF) is an informal advisory body established in 2005 by the European Commission to facilitate the participation of NGOs and networks, including those representing People Living with HIV/AIDS, in European policy development and implementation as well as to exchange information.



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We are convinced that agreeing on a set of targets on HIV/AIDS at European level is crucial to update and improve the European response to HIV/AIDS and co-infections. It is time to update the European monitoring system, which was initiated in the occasion of the UN General Assembly Special Session 2001 and was then reinforced with the Dublin Declaration on Partnership to Fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia in 2004.

Participants at the Conference ranging from UNAIDS European Commission, ECDC, EMCDDA, WHO-Europe, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and civil society all expressed their interest in seeing such declaration process successfully completed in consultation with EU member states and governments from neighbouring countries and Central Asia. They also expressed their interest in collaborating to the process.

Furthermore, we believe that the process would contribute to a stronger EU position at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs in 2016, where the EU and its member states need to play an active role in advancing evidence and rights-based policies due to the persisting dramatic situation in Eastern Europe.

Sincerely,

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Cc:

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