



19 March 2009

To: Kaleria Lavrova, Coordinator, Steering Committee, Eurasian Harm Reduction Network
Vladimir Zhovtyak, President, East Europe & Central Asia Union of PLWH
Gregory Vergus, Regional Coordinator, International Treatment Preparedness Coalition in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Re: Third Eastern European and Central Asian AIDS Conference in Moscow (EECAAC)

Dear Kaleria, Vladimir and Gregory,

Thank you for your letter of February 16, 2009.

The first meeting of the EECAAC 2009 Conference Organizing Committee was held in Moscow on March 10, following a meeting of the Committee Co-Chairs in Geneva on March 6, 2009.

The Global Fund, UNAIDS and the International AIDS Society agree that EECAAC 2009 represents an important and timely platform to ensure the important issues of harm reduction and substitution therapy among injecting drug users are adequately addressed. As Conference Co-Chairs, we are committed to working with the members of the conference organizing committee towards ensuring that one full day of the conference will be devoted to issues related to HIV and injecting drug use. We are also advocating for a session to be included in that day to address the legislative and other challenges of implementing substitution therapy across the region, and further that the session includes governmental authorities, scientific and public health experts and community leaders from Russia and other countries in the region.

Yours sincerely,

Michel Kazatchkine,
Executive Director, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Michel Sidibe,
Executive Director, UNAIDS

Craig McClure,
Executive Director, International AIDS Society