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## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Alfonso Andria, Vittorio Prodi, Chris Davies, Holger Krahmer, Marios Matsakis, Frédérique Ries and Mojca Drčar Murko

on behalf of the ALDE Group

on World AIDS Day

**European Parliament resolution on World AIDS Day**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the September 2004 Vilnius Declaration on measures to strengthen responses to HIV/AIDS in the European Union and in neighbouring countries,
  - having regard to the Commission Working Paper on a coordinated and integrated approach to combat HIV/AIDS within the European Union and in its neighbourhood,
  - having regard to the Dublin Declaration on the Partnership to fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia, adopted in February 2004,
  - having regard to the June 2001 UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the ongoing UNAIDS programme,
  - having regard to the goal of a reduction of the contagion by 2015 set in the Millennium Declaration signed by the Heads of State and Government in September 2000,
  - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the HIV/AIDS epidemic, with some 40 million people worldwide living with HIV/AIDS, 90% in developing countries and 75% in Sub-Saharan Africa, continues to constitute a global emergency,
- B. whereas the proportion of newly reported HIV cases in Western Europe has doubled since 1995, with some of the highest rates of new infections to be found in some of the new Member States and those third countries that share our eastern border,
- C. whereas recent UNAID figures also point to increased levels of infection throughout the EU, particularly in the 15-25 age group,
- D. whereas poverty, underdevelopment and illiteracy are the main factors contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS,
- E. whereas, to date, the Global Fund has committed US\$ 3 billion in 128 countries to the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria,
- F. whereas every year 500 000 children die worldwide (i.e. 1 300 a day) from the infection,
- G. whereas positive moves have been made by some pharmaceutical companies, albeit a small number of them, to make patented HIV/AIDS drugs available at a reduced cost,

1. Notes with great concern the almost exponential rate of infection throughout the world;
2. Is concerned also by the increasing rates of infection in some societies that, a priori, have full access to all the necessary information about prevention and risk avoidance;
3. Regrets that, for many years in the past, prejudiced views in some sectors as regards the best means of prevention prevented full attention being directed to combating HIV/AIDS as it should have been;
4. Welcomes the political road map adopted in Vilnius to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic, but hopes that the political commitment portrayed will be translated into effective and concrete action;
5. Is greatly encouraged by the latest Commission financial commitment to the Global Fund announced in July this year, i.e. an extra € 42 million bringing total EU contributions to € 375 million or some 80% of our initial pledge to the fund; notes that this makes the EU the second largest contributor;
6. Notes with great interest the recent finding that a relatively cheap antibiotic (cotrimoxazole) has almost halved the rate of AIDS-related deaths in African children; notes that, although the drug does not combat HIV, it is clearly instrumental in preventing secondary infections which kill many HIV-positive children with weakened immunity at an annual cost of just \$ 7-12 per child compared to \$ 300 for the cheapest antiretrovirals;
7. Continues to be appalled at the fact that the most vulnerable and illiterate sections in underdeveloped societies, and therefore those who are potentially most at risk of infection, have little or no access to adequate means of prevention;
8. Calls on pharmaceutical companies to make affordable HIV/AIDS medicines available to developing countries;
9. Firmly believes that the EU has a significant role to play for both its own citizens and those of third countries in the global fights against the disease; welcomes in this respect the already existing EU funding for research projects, exchanges of best practice and the involvement of NGOs, particularly those best placed to address the specific challenges faced by vulnerable groups such as immigrants, sex-workers etc.;
10. Is of the view that the more developed countries have a moral duty to actively participate in global initiatives to combat HIV/AIDS, particularly those promoted by the UN;
11. Welcomes the decision by the UK, Sweden, and the Netherlands to agree to the request from many NGOs to make additional contributions to the Global Fund;
12. Calls on the EU Member States, and particularly on the Italian Government, to respect their commitment to donate financial resources to the Global Fund and to ensure the continuation of all ongoing actions;

13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States and the United Nations.