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## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

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

by Alessandro Foglietta, Salvatore Tatarella, Liam Aylward, Ryszard Czarnecki and Roberta Angelilli

on behalf of the UEN Group

on HIV/AIDS: early diagnosis and early care

**European Parliament resolution on HIV/AIDS: early diagnosis and early care**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to World AIDS Day on 1 December 2008,
  - having regard to the 2001 Abuja Declaration of Commitment,
  - having regard to the UNAIDS/WHO 2007 AIDS epidemic update,
  - having regard to the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which include reversing the HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2015,
  - having regard to the European Programme for Action to confront HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and Malaria, covering all developing countries for the period 2007-2011, which was adopted by the Commission in April 2005,
  - having regard to the Commission communication on 'Combating HIV/AIDS within the European Union and in the neighbouring countries 2006-2009',
  - having regard to the Gleneagles and UN 2005 commitments to achieve universal access to prevention treatment and care by 2010,
  - having regard to the findings of the Conference on 'Responsibility and Partnership - together against HIV/AIDS', at which the EU Ministers of Health met with 16 other country representatives in Bremen on 12 March 2007 to consider new initiatives for fighting AIDS in the European Union,
  - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, according to UNAIDS estimates, there are now 33.2 million people living with HIV, including 2.5 million children and whereas, during 2007, a further 2.5 million people became infected with the virus,
- B. whereas, according to the UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2008, the epidemic is stabilising but at an unacceptably high level,
- C. whereas, although the rate of new HIV infections has fallen in several countries, these favourable trends are at least partially offset by increases in new infections in other countries,
- D. whereas women still represent 50% of people living with HIV worldwide, and a gender-based approach would therefore be advisable,

- E. whereas there is an urgent need to combat all violence against women, including domestic violence, rape, forced marriage, prostitution, women trafficking, kidnapping during armed conflicts and the slavery of young women, which are some of the reasons for the propagation of HIV/AIDS epidemics,
  - F. whereas people living with HIV have special needs in terms of health care, family planning, safe birthing and breastfeeding of babies, which should be guaranteed, avoiding any discrimination,
  - G. whereas preventive tools such as PMTCT (Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission) should be available and complemented with the provision of continued antiretroviral treatment to mothers,
  - H. whereas, there is an urgent need to increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education and whereas World AIDS Day is an important occasion to remind people that HIV is still one of the major public health threats,
  - I. whereas it is important to guarantee access to proper treatment world wide and there should be an international commitment to ensure the availability of drugs at affordable prices all over the world,
1. Considers that HIV/AIDS constitutes a global emergency and poses one of the most formidable challenges to the development, progress and stability of our respective societies and the world at large;
  2. Welcomes the approval by the UN Global Fund of 94 new grants worth \$2.75 billion to projects aimed at fighting HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria the 10 November 2008 and considers *inter alia* that these new resources will significantly help the world in achieving global targets such as universal access to AIDS treatment and prevention;
  3. Stresses the fact that the estimated number of people living with HIV calls for an immediate and coordinated intervention at international level, with a comprehensive approach which should involve governmental bodies at international, national, regional and local level, as well as the cooperation of civil society and NGOs;
  4. Recalls that, in 2007, 33.2 million people were estimated to be living with HIV, 2.5 million people were newly infected and 2.1 million people died of AIDS;
  5. Stresses the fact that, even if the rate of new infections in Sub-Saharan Countries has decreased significantly, the fact remains that 68% of those living with HIV live in this region;
  6. Notes with concern that 1 500 000 people in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are living with HIV, and calls on the EU to create measures to guarantee that HIV patients are provided with appropriate treatment;
  7. Highly values the outcome of the meeting held on 9 October 2008 at which the UN Secretary-General and top executives from over a dozen international pharmaceutical

companies agreed that greater efforts must be made to combat HIV/AIDS, despite the significant strides that have been made in improving access to prevention and treatment;

8. Recalls the need for more investments in research and the development of new HIV-related medicines, as well as the development of affordable diagnosis equipment and prevention technologies, such as vaccines;
9. Welcomes the awarding of the 2008 Nobel Prize for Medicine to Sinoussi and Montagnier for their discovery of HIV and for their subsequent pioneering research into the virus;
10. Considers it essential for affected children to enjoy their right to health, education and welfare;
11. Recalls, therefore, the importance of social services and their funding being committed to ensure that children in households affected by HIV and AIDS are not forced to drop out of school to care for sick relatives or to engage in paid work if their relatives are ill;
12. Considers that particular efforts should be devoted to combating child prostitution and child sex tourism in order to avoid adding to the psychological and physical damages which this behaviour can lead to and the spreading of HIV;
13. Urges the Commission and partner countries to prioritise and set up programmes to protect women against infections caused by any kind of violence, including domestic violence, rape, forced marriage, prostitution, women trafficking, kidnapping during armed conflicts, and girl slavery;
14. Notes with concern that sex tourism has proved to be a major contributing factor to the rise in HIV levels in developing countries, and calls on governments to take appropriate steps to limit these practices;
15. Considers it essential that the EU give policy advice to governments and health authorities in developing countries, at national and regional level, and provide technical assistance and specialist advice on the treatment of patients, systems for safe blood transfusion, laboratory analysis, hospital management and the social reintegration of HIV-infected persons and their families into society;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments of the EU Member States, the UN Secretary-General and the heads of UNAIDS, UNDP and UNFPA.