

ORAL QUESTION H-0210/03

for Question Time at the part-session in April 2003  
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Bastiaan Belder  
to the Commission

Subject: Information programmes concerning HIV/AIDS in developing countries

Is the Commission aware of the encouraging results achieved by information programmes concerning HIV/AIDS in Uganda and Zambia, programmes which make marital fidelity and abstinence integral components of the fight against the disease<sup>1</sup>?

To what extent does the Commission see the good results achieved by these information programmes as a legitimate contribution to efforts to reduce the number of abortions?

Do the concepts of marital fidelity and abstinence have a place in EU activities in the sphere of development cooperation, given that sexual behavioural models play an important role in many information programmes? After all, handing out contraceptives in itself never proves effective in combating HIV/AIDS.

Would the Commission prefer to integrate the concepts of marital fidelity and abstinence into all relevant EU aid measures and programmes, or will it acknowledge the relevance of these values only on the basis of agreements with all the local groups involved?

Tabled: 27.03.2003

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<sup>1</sup> Abstinence and marriage successful against AIDS. In: Reformatorisch Dagblad, 27 July 2002, Apeldoorn.  
Nurses in the classroom no help against AIDS. In: Volkskrant, 10 July 2002, Amsterdam.  
Condoms count: Meeting the need in the era of HIV/AIDS, The PAI Report CARD 2002. Washington: Population Action International.  
[www.populationaction.org/resources/publications/condomscount/downloads/CondomsCount\\_English.pdf](http://www.populationaction.org/resources/publications/condomscount/downloads/CondomsCount_English.pdf)  
CARE for Europe, Sandbaek report: Giving aid or pushing an agenda? p. 5. Brussels: November 2002