

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

2006/2232(INI)

28.2.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

on combating HIV/AIDS within the European Union and in the neighbouring countries, 2006-2009
(2006/2232(INI))

Draftsman: Michael Cashman

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas recent progress in HIV/AIDS treatment, together with a decline in prevention funding, has contributed to an increase in unsafe behaviour and consequently to growing numbers of new HIV infections; according to EuroHIV, 23.620 newly diagnosed cases of HIV infection were reported in the European Union in 2005 and the rate of newly diagnosed cases of HIV infection reported has nearly doubled since 1998,
 - B. whereas despite the increased number of HIV infections, the steady decrease in the number of AIDS cases diagnosed in recent years has continued in 2005, with less than half the number of cases diagnosed in 2005 in comparison to 1998,
 - C. whereas, according to UNAIDS, more than 39.5 million people live with HIV and 4.3 million people were infected with HIV in 2006 alone; whereas 95% of the affected population live in developing countries and whereas 28 million of them live in Sub-Saharan Africa; whereas only 1% of the infected population in developing countries who need treatment (antiretroviral drugs) receive it,
 - D. whereas a large proportion of HIV infections remain undiagnosed - in the United Kingdom for example, an estimated one third of people with HIV do not know their serostatus and are likely to discover it only once afflicted by HIV/AIDS-related illnesses¹,
 - E. whereas it is widely known that not all Member States have equal access to treatment and drugs and that in many of them - particularly in the new Member States - inequalities exist in as regards the availability of funding and resources,
 - F. whereas people living with HIV/AIDS are subject to a variety of prejudices and discrimination, in their private or professional lives,
 - G. whereas according to the 2006 Eurobarometer on AIDS prevention, 54% of the EU-25 population believe or are convinced that AIDS can be caught by kissing on the mouth someone who has AIDS or who is HIV positive, and 42% believe or are convinced that it is possible to become infected by drinking from a glass which has just been used by someone who has AIDS or who is HIV positive,
- 1. Urges those Member States which do not collect national data on HIV/AIDS to develop an effective HIV/AIDS case reporting system;
 - 2. Encourages Member States to provide free and widespread access to HIV testing and to disseminate information, including web-based information, especially to high-risk groups and young people, on voluntary testing and counselling;

¹ *HIV/AIDS in Europe*, Council of Europe, Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, rapporteur: Mrs. Christine McCafferty, doc. 11033, 27 September 2006.

3. Strongly encourages the Member States to guarantee that all citizens receive sexual education and information, which includes respect and responsibility for one's partner and equal rights for homosexual, bisexual and transsexual people, and underlines the importance of giving sexual education in schools;
4. Encourages Member States to facilitate access to primary prevention means at the lowest possible cost, for example access to male and female condoms and safe injection equipment;
5. Stresses the universal right of all human beings to have equal access to medical care and treatment and access to medicines and drugs;
6. Strongly encourages the Commission and the Member States to subsidise and provide money for research and development of microbicides and female condoms which give women the power to protect themselves and a male partner from HIV/AIDS with or without the partner's agreement, since condoms continue to be the most well known and available protection against HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), but require a male partner's agreement¹;
7. Welcomes the Commission's determination to address the special needs and requirements of migrant populations for non-discriminatory access to information and prevention, treatment, care and support;
8. Calls on the Commission and Member States to take action and to promote awareness of trafficking in women who often suffer from poverty and discrimination and can become subject to sexual abuse, increasing their exposure to HIV/AIDS;
9. Encourages Member States to further develop information and awareness campaigns to address the public image of HIV/AIDS and prevent discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS; urges Member States to prohibit discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS, in particular in the services sector (for example with regard to insurance, bank services and health care);
10. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to allocate increased public funding for HIV research in order to develop new medicines/vaccines;
11. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to establish policies and programmes for the social integration and entry into the labour market of people living with HIV/AIDS;
12. Urges Member States to include people living with HIV/AIDS from the moment of diagnosis in their definition of disability so that they are covered by Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation² and therefore protected against discrimination at work on the grounds of their HIV/AIDS status and provided with reasonable accommodation in their workplace;
13. Urges Member States to promote at the international level the abolition of travel and

¹ "Women and HIV/AIDS: Confronting the Crisis" A joint Report by UNAIDS/UNFPA/UNIFEM 2004:45.

² Article 5 of Council Directive 2000/78/EC.

residency restrictions for people living with HIV/AIDS, as they constitute discrimination;

14. Urges Member States to fully implement Directive 2002/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 January 2003 setting standards of quality and safety for the collection, testing, processing, storage and distribution of human blood and blood components and amending Directive 2001/83/EC, in particular as regards the systematic HIV-screening of blood donations; urges Member States and neighbouring countries not to discriminate against gay, lesbian and bisexual people in banning them from giving blood.

PROCEDURE

Title	Combating HIV/AIDS within the European Union and in the neighbouring countries, 2006-2009
Procedure number	2006/2232(INI)
Committee responsible	ENVI
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	LIBE 28.9.2006
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Michael Cashman 19.12.2006
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	1.2.2007
Date adopted	28.2.2007
Result of final vote	+ : 46 - : 0 a : 0
Members present for the final vote	Alexander Alvaro, Edit Bauer, Philip Bradbourn, Mihael Brejc, Giuseppe Castiglione, Giusto Catania, Mladen Petrov Chervenjakov, Carlos Coelho, Fausto Correia, Panayiotis Demetriou, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop, Kinga Gál, Patrick Gaubert, Roland Gewalt, Lilli Gruber, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, Lívia Járóka, Magda Kósáné Kovács, Barbara Kudrycka, Henrik Lax, Sarah Ludford, Edith Mastenbroek, Claude Moraes, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Martine Roure, Luciana Sbarbati, Inger Segelström, Søren Bo Søndergaard, Manfred Weber, Tatjana Ždanoka
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Simon Busuttil, Marco Cappato, Charlotte Cederschiöld, Gérard Deprez, Giorgos Dimitrakopoulos, Genowefa Grabowska, Sophia in 't Veld, Ona Juknevičienė, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Tchetin Kazak, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Hubert Pirker, Marie-Line Reynaud, Luca Romagnoli, Eva-Britt Svensson
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	
Comments (available in one language only)	