

Roadmap towards a new policy framework and action plan



EU HIV/AIDS

Civil Society Forum

HIV/AIDS CSF meeting – Luxembourg, November 23, 2015



Where are we?

What steps did we take already?

CSF meeting 3-4 December 2012



5 The future of HIV policy in Europe: New program and actions against HIV/AIDS – Donata Meroni, DG SANCO (Annex D)

Donata Meroni informed the CSF that the current Public Health Programme expires at the end of 2013. The negotiations over the new Health for Growth (HfG) 2014-2020 programme are still on-going. The Commission proposal for the HfG was adopted in November 2011. The European Parliament ENVI Committee voted for some amendments. Negotiations continue in triologue meetings between the European Parliament, the Commission and the Cypriot Presidency. Negotiations will continue under the Irish Presidency to reach an agreement on the HfG programme before the end of the first semester 2013.

In response to the question about the link between the HfG programme and a future HIV Communication, the Commission answered that there is no direct link. However, HIV is one of few diseases specifically addressed by policy at European level, which led up to now to relatively good funding. In 2013, the Commission will continue working within the framework of the current Communication and Action Plan. Wolfgang Philipp noted that he expects Commission will continue to refer the current Communication (since the same priority areas and groups still need to be addressed) after 2013 and will probably adopt an action plan form of a Commission working paper. In that way, he noted, the relation between the Action Plan and the annual work plan of the HfG could be optimised in such way.

In response, CSF members express their concern about not issuing a new Commission Communication on HIV, questioning the political clout of an Action Plan referring to an existing Commission Communication, which will expire at the end of 2013. To which Wolfgang Philip replied that an extension of the present Communication is not an option. Other options and possible politically influential mechanisms are still unclear at this stage. Wolfgang Philipp will provide a short summary of the available legislative and non legislative instruments.

The CSF members therefore decided to write a letter to the new Health Commissioner to ask what his plans are for the future to ensure sustainability of on-going efforts. CSF members agreed to appeal for an evaluation of an impact of present Communication and development of a new Communication on HIV and to suggest the key issues to be covered by such a document.

ECDC underlined that actions are essential and not only action plans. He noted that the limited responses rate to the monitoring questionnaire from CSF members does not help to monitor how the current action plan is being implemented.

After the CSF meeting 3-4 December 2012...



To the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy T. Borg
European Commission
B - 1049 Brussels
Belgium

Subject: On the need to renew an EU Communication and Action Plan 2014 – 2018 and show commitment by the European Commission in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the EU and neighbouring countries

Brussels/Amsterdam, 14/12/2012

Dear Commissioner Borg,

The co-chairs and members of the Civil Society Forum on HIV/AIDS of the European Commission welcome your Joint Statement with Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs on the occasion of World AIDS Day, welcome your commitment to participate at the upcoming Conference HIV and Human Rights next May in Brussels, welcome your commitments on HIV/AIDS, fundamental and patient rights, and non-discrimination in your public letter to the Members of the European Parliament, and wish you an excellent mandate.

HIV in Europe is still a public health challenge

The HIV epidemic in the European region is still not solved and poses a grave public health challenge. In fact, our region is one of the few remaining regions in the world, where the epidemic is still on-going and growing, as is clearly shown in the last **UNAIDS World AIDS Day Report 2012**, and where treatment coverage rate in e.g. Eastern Europe and Central Asia is only 25% in comparison to the 54% on the global level. In 2011 alone, around 125'000 persons have been newly infected with HIV in the WHO European region, as new data by WHO shows. Around 50% of persons living with HIV are diagnosed late in the European region. And up to 70% in certain regions do not even know about their HIV-status. The European region is today home to around 2.5 Million people living with HIV.

More needs to be done. Affordability of treatments that ensure sustainability of National Health Systems in times of financial and economic crisis, treatment access of uninsured people living with HIV including non-documented migrants, and the commitment to ensure universal access to HIV-testing, treatment, care and support are among the key priorities recognized by UNAIDS, WHO and ECDC. It is a human rights issue, it is a public health issue, and it is an economic issue.

The EU Commission's Communication on combatting HIV/AIDS is ending in 2013
The current Communication of the Commission to the European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – Combating HIV/AIDS in the European Union and neighbouring countries

2009 – 2013 {SEC(2009) 1403, 1404, 1405} is drawing to an end in 2013. The basis of the Communication is still sound: Concentrating on political leadership, universal access to prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care and involvement of civil society, most at risk groups such as (1) men having sex with men (MSM), (2) injecting drug users (IDU), (3) migrants, and priority regions.

We want to draw your attention to the ECDC **Special Report: Monitoring implementation of the European Commission Communication and Action Plan for combating HIV/AIDS in the European Union and neighbouring countries, 2009 – 2013**. Even though the special report hints at some progress in certain areas, it also recommends that more needs be done building up on the progress to date in key areas pertaining to most at risk groups, support for civil society and the tackling of discrimination related to the HIV status.

A new EU Communication on combatting HIV/AIDS in the EU 2014 – 2018 is needed
We therefore urge you to initiate and support a new process leading up to a new EU Communication and Action Plan on combating HIV/AIDS in the European Union and neighbouring countries 2014 – 2018. We have read with great satisfaction your joint statement with Commissioner for Development Piebalgs on the occasion of World AIDS Day 2012 on the intention of the EU Commission: „The Commission will remain at the forefront of the fight against HIV/AIDS and against the discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS. Together with specialised European agencies, we will continue to work with partner countries, Member States, civil society and international partners to implement the Commission strategies to combat HIV/AIDS in Europe and in the world“ ([http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-12-928 en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-12-928_en.htm)). We thereby invite the Commission to show real leadership by committing itself to a new EU Communication on HIV/AIDS. Together we will continue to work with partner countries to implement the Commission strategies to combat HIV/AIDS in Europe and globally.
We furthermore invite you to a meeting of the HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum, which will be organised together with the upcoming European Conference on Human Rights and HIV. On this occasion we will be able to discuss pivotal issues pertaining to the HIV epidemic in the European region, and agree on the most effective ways of working together to find answers to the HIV epidemic.

Yours sincerely,

the Co-Chairs of the HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum,

Anna Zakowicz
Co-chair, Civil Society Forum
European AIDS Treatment Group
Place Raymond Blyckaerts 13
B-1050 Brussels
Anna.Zakowicz@eatg.org

Lella Cosmaro
Co-chair, Civil Society Forum
AIDS Action Europe
Keizersgracht 390
NL -1016 GB Amsterdam
office@aidsactioneurope.org

The EU HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum (CSF) is an informal advisory body established in 2005 by the European Commission to facilitate the participation of NGOs and networks, including those representing People Living with HIV/AIDS, in European policy development and implementation as well as to exchange information.

May 10, 2013: 200 endorsements...



CALL TO THE EUROPEAN UNION LEADERS AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO REAFFIRM THEIR LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT ON HIV/AIDS, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE EUROPE UNION, BY APPROVING A NEW STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN ON HIV/AIDS.

To: José Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission

To: Tonio Borg, European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy

Cc: Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament

Cc: Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council

Cc: Lucinda Creighton, Minister for European Affairs of Ireland

Cc: Linas Antanas Linkevičius, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Cc: Dimitris L. Avramopoulos, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic

Brussels, 10 May 2013

We undersigned, taking into consideration:

- The UN Millennium Development Goals (2000),
- The UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (2001),
- The UN Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS (2006, 2008 and 2011) and;
- The Dublin Declaration on Partnership to fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia 2004, highlighting the commitment *“to strengthen the capacity of the European Union to fight effectively against the spread of HIV/AIDS; promote the active involvement of the institutions of the European Union, and other relevant institutions and organisations”*.

Considering that:

- The European Commission (the Commission) Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of 26 October 2009 - *Combating HIV/AIDS in the European Union and neighbouring countries 2009-2013 - and its accompanying Action Plan* will come to an end on 31 December 2013;
- The Commission underscored political leadership and a number of measure to be taken, including:
 - *“The need to link the response to HIV/AIDS with the socio-economic priorities in political strategies at country level”;*
 - *“The mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS-related issues across EU policies, legislation and agreements”;*

- *Supporting “the involvement of civil society organisations, including those representing PLWHA and affected communities, in planning, implementing and evaluating the response to HIV/AIDS in the European Union and neighbouring countries”;*
- *To “maintain the HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum as the principal interface to advise the Commission and the HIV/AIDS Think Tank”;*
- *To “support activities that aim at (1) to decreasing HIV-related stigma, (2) promoting respect for the human rights of all PLWHA and (3) addressing all forms of HIV-related discrimination and support the social inclusion of PLWHA”;*
- *Promote universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support by encouraging “Member States’ national authorities to assess the possibilities of structural and social funds and other instruments to scale up HIV/AIDS related health services”.*

Recognising that:

- Tangible and encouraging gains have been made in the control of HIV/AIDS;
- The European Union has been at the forefront of HIV/AIDS.

Considering that:

- Neither the European Commission nor the European Commissioner for Health and Consumers Policy has clearly committed to develop and adopt an updated strategy and action plan on HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases for 2014-2020;
- As we prepare to celebrate 10 years of the Dublin Declaration in 2014:
 - Complacency towards with HIV/AIDS represents a threat to public health in Europe;
 - The financial, economic and social crisis is jeopardising efforts to achieve prevention, early detection and access to state of the art affordable treatment and care based on public health evidence and human rights;
 - Targeting and allocating funds at the right level to programmes addressing risk groups within the EU and beyond is crucial to the control of the pandemic;
- The European Union, in particular the European Commission, needs to renew political, scientific and social commitment and leadership in order to address the issues mentioned above, and to fully halt the spread of the virus;
- The goal of the strategy must be to ensure affordable antiretroviral therapy for people living with HIV/AIDS, reinforce HIV prevention and end all forms of discrimination.

We, the undersigned,

- Representatives of civil society organizations, of organisations and groups of people living with HIV/AIDS, representatives of community based organisations of most affected and

- vulnerable groups (people who use drugs, men who have sex with men, migrants, sex workers, prisoners, ethnic minorities and other vulnerable groups);
- Representatives of health professionals’ organisations, of research institutions, of scientific medical societies;
- Practitioners involved in research, prevention, testing, treatment and care;
- Members of the European Parliament;
- National policy makers.

Call on the European Commission to affirm at the HIV and Human Rights Conference, “Right to Health, Right to Life” 27-28 May 2013, in Brussels, to commit to develop a Strategy and Action Plan on HIV/AIDS and frequently associated diseases - viral hepatitis, STI and TB - in order to keep the EU at the forefront of the global efforts to get new infections, AIDS deaths and discrimination cases to zero.

Signatories of the Call to the European Commission and European Leaders to re-affirm their Leadership and Commitment on HIV/AIDS, both inside and outside of the European Union, by Approving a new Strategy and Action Plan on HIV/AIDS

	Name of Organisation	Representative	Country
1.	AIDS Action Europe	Elena Grigoryeva, Chair Steering Committee	Europe/international
2.	Coalition PLUS	Hakima Himmich, President	Europe/international
3.	Correlation Network	Eberhardt Schatz	Europe/international
4.	East Europe & Central Asia Union of PLWH, ECUO	Dr. George Mataradze, Executive Director	Europe/international
5.	Eurasian Harm Reduction Network	Serge Votyagov, Executive Director	Europe/international
6.	European AIDS Clinical Society	Manuel Battagay, President	Europe/international
7.	European AIDS Treatment Group	Brian West, Chair	Europe/international
8.	European Harm Reduction Network	Maria Phelan	Europe/international
9.	European Public Health Alliance	Monika Kosinska	Europe/international

CSF meeting 27 May 2013



6 EU HIV/AIDS Policy & Action plan beyond 2013: EC plans and CSF involvement

Paolo Guglielmetti explained that the Commission is currently preparing to conduct an external evaluation of the Communication. The evaluation should be completed before the end of 2013 and will inform on future needs and directions. At the time being, the Commission is considering different political tools to give continuity to the present Communication, getting to conclusion at the end of 2013: an Action Plan not supported by a Communication, a new Communication or a Recommendation. A decision will be made based upon the outcomes of the on-going evaluation. See **annex E** for further details.

Discussion:

WHO has a problem with the strategic information on treatment coverage: it gives an overly optimistic perspective because of the different methodologies adopted by member states. ECDC recognises that many member states do not use the WHO methodology, but nevertheless cannot dispute the way member states capture the data.

Paolo Guglielmetti underlined that there is political leadership and commitment on the part of the Commission with the objective to identify follow-up mechanism to the current Commission Communication. At present the mechanism has not yet been defined but the process has started.

Actions:

-
- CSF delegation: meet with Commissioner Borg after CSF meeting to discuss future HIV policy and civil society engagement
 - CSF CT: follow-up with DG SANCO to ensure pro-active involvement of CSF in the development of a new political framework to follow the current Commission Communication
-

CSF meeting 27 May 2013



**EU HIV/AIDS Policy & Action Plan
beyond 2013: European Commission and
Civil Society Forum Involvement**

17th HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum Meeting
Brussels, 27 May 2013

Paolo Guglielmetti
DG SANCO – Health Threats Unit



Communication from the Commission to
the European Parliament, the Council,
the European Economic and Social
Committee of the Region

on

'Combating HIV/AIDS in the EU and
neighbouring countries, 2009 - 2013'




Expected outcomes

- **Decreased number of HIV**
- Improvement of the **quality of life** of people living with HIV and most at risk populations
- Strengthened **solidarity** towards an unambiguous response to HIV/AIDS
- Improved **education, knowledge and awareness** on HIV/AIDS





Evaluation

- **Independent evaluation** of the overall EU intervention to combat HIV/AIDS in Europe be carried out to assess the impact and relevance of the actions pursued
- The external evaluation will be **launched in 2013**
- Data gathered by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and International bodies will be used for the evaluation
- Preparatory and execution phase




Evaluation – Preparatory phase

- Internal consultation and planning of evaluation needs
- Drafting intervention logic tailored to the extensive range of actions taken by the EC
- Defining the scope of evaluation and weighting of activities
- Formulation of questions
- Drafting Terms of Reference
- Establishing steering group for the evaluation
- Sending request for services (with Terms of Reference) through the SANCO evaluation Framework Contract (4 contractors in the Public Health Lot)
- Receiving offers from contractors
- Selection of the winning offer



Evaluation – Execution phase

- Kick off meeting with the contractors
- Inception report
- Interim report
- Final report
- Dissemination of results
- Follow up actions



CSF meeting 9-10 December 2013



3.2 EU Policy Framework on HIV/AIDS / policy work

The updating process of the EU Action Plan on HIV/AIDS is on track

- Consultation with the HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum
- Consultation with the Think Tank on HIV/ Inter-service consultation involving EEAS DG ELARG, DEVCO, HOME RTD, JUST
- Consultation with EU agencies.

The external evaluation of the Commission Communication on Combating HIV/AIDS in the EU and Neighbouring Countries and Action Plan should be ready in May 2014.

CSF meeting 8-9 July 2014



3.1 Update on EU HIV/AIDS policies, including Action Plan 2014-2016 and key points of external evaluation of EC Communication on HIV/AIDS – Matthias Schuppe

Matthias reported about EC activities including the Action Plan 2014-2016:

“The Commission briefly updated the Think Tank on activities undertaken in relation to the HIV/AIDS dossier since the last meeting in December. This included the renewal process of membership in the HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum (December 2013 – April 2014), the publication of the prolonged EU Action Plan on HIV/AIDS: 2014 – 2016 (March 2014) and discussion of the Action Plan with the Health Security Committee and the Council Working Party on Public Health. Furthermore the Commission highlighted the Commission conference ‘Health in Europe – making it fairer’ (March 2014), which focused on discrimination in health and included a session focusing on HIV/AIDS allowing for an interactive panel discussion between civil society and government representatives. In June 2014 the Commission (Chafea) organised a HIV/AIDS Media Cluster meeting under the auspices of the Greek Council Presidency in Athens.

CSF meeting 8-9 July 2014



The Commission then presented in more detail the prolonged Action Plan on HIV/AIDS: 2014 – 2016 with particular focus to actions adding increased focus to addressing HIV/AIDS and human rights, targeted and combination prevention and treatment for HIV/AIDS and co-infections (treatment as prevention), measures to raise awareness on sexual and reproductive health, as well as increased focus on additional risk groups such as prisoners and sex workers.

External evaluation

The Commission presented some preliminary results and recommendations emanating from the external evaluation of the 'Commission Communication on Combating HIV/AIDS in the European Union and neighbouring countries'. Following an outline of the evaluation approach and methods key results in relation to the five thematic areas of the evaluation were highlighted. These included changes in the HIV epidemic and access to key services, the role and impact of the Civil Society Forum, the contribution of EU funded research and public health projects to the implementation of the Communication, funding to combat HIV/AIDS in the EU and EU Member States and EU level HIV policy coordination and monitoring."

CSF meeting 24-25 November 2014



10 EU Communication for combating HIV/AIDS in the European Union and neighbouring countries - Action Plan after 2016 – State of affairs

Although the Action Plan has been renewed until 2016, it is already crucial to advocate for a policy tool after 2016 to establish the commitment of the Commission and the EU to HIV and co-infections. Some aspects are important and need to be taken into consideration: the collaboration with the agencies and their strategies in order to use synergies, which key populations should be prioritized, which new developments should be considered, which kind of data are needed, prevention and/as treatment, access to treatment, health inequalities among many others. The external evaluation of the former EU Communication has been finalised and the results will soon be published. This will be the initial and necessary step for Civil Society to start the process of working on strategies for a new policy instrument. After that, about 12 months are needed for an impact assessment and another 6 months for the policy development itself. What kind of policy instrument CSF should advocate for has to be well thought about.

CSF meeting 6-7 July 2015



2 The current state of HIV Policy in Europe: Update from the Commission including a presentation on the Health Policy Forum and its IT Platform

Matthias Schuppe updates the attendees on recent developments in regard of the European Commission's HIV dossier (see Annex 1). He announces that the external evaluation of the Commission Communication and Action Plan on combating HIV/AIDS 2009-2013 will be published soon. After running through the activities during the Italian and Latvian presidency the calls for proposals for projects on "early diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis", "early diagnosis of tuberculosis" and tender(s) on "Surveys and target prevention projects for training of health professionals" are presented. Matthias also announces that he leaves the HIV dossier by July 16 but will remain in the field with a new position of the health profiles portfolio.

Discussion: The discussion centres on the policy framework after 2016, when the current action plan will expire. Luis emphasises that the work on the new framework has to start this year in order to have a continuing one in 2017. After the failure of the Rome declaration, and since there is no follow-up during the Latvian and Luxembourgian presidency, there is a clear commitment from the Commission needed to work on it. Lella adds that health is not very high on the EU agenda at the moment and that joint efforts are needed. The CSF coordination team is therefore assigned to write a letter to President Juncker to ensure that HIV, viral hepatitis and Tuberculosis are of importance in the EU and neighbouring countries.

Think Tank meeting 7-8 July 2015



URGENT CALL TO ACTION

ENDING HIV, VIRAL HEPATITIS, STI'S AND TUBERCULOSIS IN EUROPE NEEDS THE LEADERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The facts:

- 2.2 million people live with HIV in WHO Europe. 30-50% of them unaware that they are HIV positive; and around 50% of those who are positive are diagnosed late
- It is estimated that around 0.1 to 7% (by country) of the population of the EU lives with hepatitis B. Approximately 15 - 40% of infected patients will develop cirrhosis, liver failure or hepatocellular carcinoma
- It is estimated that 11.3 million people live with hepatitis C in the WHO Europe region and only a fraction of patients receive treatment.

Estimated European prevalence and number of infected individuals

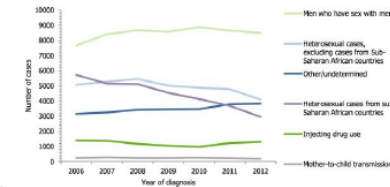
Region	Anti-HCV (%)	Viremic HCV prevalence	N anti-HCV (2013)	N viremic HCV (2013)
W. Europe	0.9% (0.7-1.5)	0.6% (0.5-1.0)	3.7 m	2.6 m
C. Europe	1.3% (1.1-1.6)	1.0% (0.9-1.2)	1.5 m	1.2 m
E. Europe	3.3% (1.6-6.5)	2.3% (1.1-5.0)	6.8 m	4.7 m
C. Asia	5.4% (3.5-6.8)	2.3% (1.5-3.0)	4.5 m	1.9 m

68% of HCV infections in the European Region are in Eastern Europe & Central Asia

11.3 million

Gower et al 2014, J Hepatology

Figure 2. Number of diagnosed HIV reported infections adjusted for reporting delay, by transmission mode, origin and year, EU/EEA, 2006-2012



There is clear evidence that

- the number of new infections in key populations in Europe is growing
- there is evidence that the early initiation of treatment has benefits for the individual and the society
- stigma and discrimination are main obstacles to accessing healthcare and prevention services
- prevention of HIV is feasible with a combination of the right tools
- harm reduction works.

We need a new policy framework centered on HIV!

The drafting and adoption of a comprehensive policy on HIV was promised by Commissioner Borg in 2013, and reiterated by Commissioner Andriukaitis in November 2014. We welcomed with great enthusiasm Commissioner Andriukaitis' proposal to develop a joint policy framework including viral hepatitis and TB.

But commitment alone is not enough; work needs to start immediately. As it became clear in the HIV Think Tank meeting on 07/07/2015, an impact assessment is a necessary step towards a new policy framework.

We call on the European Commission to show leadership, and continue to work on the impact assessment. Any further delay will lead to unnecessary deaths and human suffering in these disease areas.

European civil society organisations working in the field of HIV, viral hepatitis and tuberculosis are ready and willing to assist this process in any way we can.

Luxembourg, 08/07/2015

Representatives of the Civil Society Forum

September 14, 2015

European Commission
Secretariat General
President Jean-Claude Juncker
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B - 1049 Brussels
Belgium

CC: European Commission
Directorate General for Health and Food Safety
Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis
B - 1049 Brussels
Belgium

Berlin, September 14, 2015

Dear President Juncker,

We are writing to you in our capacity as representatives of civil society organisations and communities which share an interest in achieving a concerted response to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and viral Hepatitis in Europe. We have noted with great concern that health in general, and HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and viral Hepatitis in particular have slipped down on the agenda of the European Commission.

This is a particularly unsettling development considering the following data: HIV remains one of the biggest Public Health concerns across the European Union with an increasing number of infections in the key population of men who have sex with men (MSM), a quarter of the global multi-drug resistant TB burden is concentrated in the WHO European Region and in this same region an estimated 11.3 million people live with Hepatitis C.

Recent regional political events held under the Italian and the Latvian Presidency of the EU, such as the Ministerial Conference on HIV in Rome in October 2014 and the Ministerial Conference on TB and its multi-drug resistance in Riga in March 2015, instilled some hope in civil society organisations for a greater regional political commitment in this area. The Slovak government has also indicated that emphasis will be placed on communicable diseases during their Presidency of the EU Council in 2016, which is promising.

Nevertheless, the EU still lacks a comprehensive and updated policy framework which coherently addresses HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and viral Hepatitis and reflects the competences of the EU Institutions and Member States in this field and allows for effective internal and external policies.

In fact, the current EU HIV Action Plan will end in 2016. The EU TB Framework Action Plan, which is not of political nature, dates back to 2008 and urgently needs to be updated. On top of that, no regional policy framework exists on Hepatitis C. Most importantly, since these diseases are of a cross-border nature, any new regional policy framework should be developed together with Eastern Partnership countries – as is currently the case with the HIV Action Plan.

While we welcome Commissioner Andriukaitis' proposal to develop an integrated European Commission policy on HIV, Tuberculosis and viral Hepatitis, we call on you, Mr President, to ensure that the European Commission immediately starts working on a comprehensive EU-Eastern Partnership Policy Framework, which will pave the way for HIV, Tuberculosis and viral Hepatitis elimination in both the EU and the Eastern neighbourhood.

Please note that we will also reach out to the European Parliament's Committee on Environment Public Health and Food Safety to organise a hearing on HIV, Tuberculosis and viral Hepatitis in 2016 in the context of a policy framework at the Commission level and the WHO and UNAIDS 2016-2021 strategies. We firmly believe that combined action and policy coordination across the different key stakeholders in the European Union will result in better and more sustainable results in these key areas of public health.

Mr. President, we would like to emphasise that European civil society organisations continue to be prepared and willing to assist you in these efforts. HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and viral hepatitis know no borders and represent a true risk to the fabric and health of our societies. These complex tasks require complex solutions, but the precious experience and knowledge accumulated and increased collaboration will allow us to address the challenges that infectious diseases pose for our region. What we need first and foremost is your political leadership and support.

Sincerely yours,

European Civil Society Organisations in the field of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and viral Hepatitis:



EU HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum

AIDS Action Europe



European AIDS Treatment



Stop AIDS Alliance



TB Europe Coalition



Correlation – European Network for Social Inclusion & Health



Coalition Internationale SID

European Liver Patients Association



ELPA – European Liver Patients Association



2015...



Advocacy after the Rome Ministerial Conference failed to renew the Dublin 2004 Declaration, November 2014

02.2015: EU HIV Civil Society Forum (CSF) letter to current and upcoming EU Presidencies and European Health Commissioner to request follow-up after the failed Rome Declaration

07.2015: CSF and Think Tank (gov. representatives) criticise lack of movement from the European Commission (EC) towards a new policy framework

09.2015: Joint HIV, HCV and TB organisations letter to EC President Juncker (September) to start work on the policy framework

2015...



09.2015 EC brainstorming session with interested Member States, ECDC, EMCDDA, WHO, UNAIDS and HIV CSF representatives about remaining challenges, priorities and added value of EU and EC work on HIV

- No news on the policy framework
- Maybe a new Action Plan
- question: an overall approach towards HIV, viral hepatitis and TB?

11.2015 Joint Position Paper

Next steps



- 23-25 November: follow-up discussion at EU HIV Civil Society Forum and EU HIV Think Tank meetings
- Increase attention to EECA in the EU HIV CSF and Think Tank by inviting the UN Regional Office Director, UN Special envoy, and by organising presentations by CSF representatives from the Region
- Follow-up on plans with Dutch, Slovak and Maltese EU Presidencies and coordinate joint actions
- Mobilise key Member States and members of the European Parliament
- Joint actions around IAS



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

**LET'S START THE DISCUSSION ON
THE NEXT STEPS!**