


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2001/2006(COS)	Procedure completed
Combating major communicable diseases: accelerated action within the context of poverty reduction		
Subject		
4.20.01 Medicine, diseases		
6.30 Development cooperation		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	DEVE Development and Cooperation		05/02/2001
		PPE-DE KHANBHAI Bashir	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		13/02/2001
	PSE CORBEY Dorette		
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy		12/03/2001	
	PSE SCHEELE Karin		
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		23/01/2001	
	V/ALE EVANS Jill		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	General Affairs	2346	14/05/2001
European Commission	Commission DG Development	Commissioner	

Key events			
20/09/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2000)0585	Summary
18/01/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
14/05/2001	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
10/07/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
	Committee report tabled for plenary		

10/07/2001		A5-0263/2001	
04/10/2001	Debate in Parliament		
04/10/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0513/2001	Summary
04/10/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
11/04/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2006(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/5/13700

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(2000)0585	20/09/2000	EC	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		COM(2001)0096	21/02/2001	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0263/2001	10/07/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0513/2001 OJ C 087 11.04.2002, p. 0159-0244 E	04/10/2001	EP	Summary
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2003)0093	26/02/2003	EC	Summary

Combating major communicable diseases: accelerated action within the context of poverty reduction

PURPOSE : to present the communication from the Commission on accelerated action targeted at major communicable diseases within the context of poverty reduction. **CONTENT** : this communication on the need for accelerated action targeted at major communicable diseases as a burden on the poorest and an obstacle to development, analyses the major political issues involved, reports on the rationale for continuous Community involvement, and sets out a framework with three broad areas for targeted action. These three areas for targeted action include: 1) reaching optimal impact of existing interventions, services and commodities targeted at the major communicable diseases affecting the poorest populations; 2) increasing affordability of key pharmaceuticals through a comprehensive and synergistic global approach; 3) increasing investment in research and development of global goods targeted at three major communicable diseases. An accelerated Community response to the major communicable diseases should be seen as part of and complementary to ongoing Community investments in health and poverty reduction. For the response to be effective, coherent efforts of the Commission in conjunction with the EC Member States, partner countries, international and civil society partners and other stakeholders are required, as are greater innovation and more rapid action than traditional development assistance allowed for so far. The policy framework set out in the communication is the Community's first response to the recommendations of the G8 Summit held in Okinawa in July 2000. The framework will be broadly discussed during a high level Round Table with all interested parties, in particular developing countries, EU Member States, European Parliament, international development agencies, civil society, researchers and the pharmaceutical industry. The results of the Round Table will provide valuable input to the Commission in formulating a programme for action.?

Combating major communicable diseases: accelerated action within the context of poverty reduction

This Commission's Programme for Action develops the policy framework presented in the September 2000 Communication on "Accelerated Action targeted at major communicable diseases within the context of poverty reduction". It establishes a broad and coherent Community response, over the period 2001-2006, to the global emergency caused by the three major communicable diseases, HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, which most affect the poorest populations and which undermine global health. The Programme, as part of an expanded global effort, targets actions to increase; the impact of existing interventions, the affordability of key pharmaceuticals, and research and development

of specific global public goods to confront these diseases in developing countries. The Commission will prioritise investment in health, aids and population in the context of poverty reduction. A greater focus on communicable diseases will be provided through options including; the redirection of unspent resources, guidance on future programming exercises and the use of regional funds. More effective aid management processes will speed up the disbursement of funds to improve health. While the overall approach will be comprehensive, targeting the support for better health. The Commission will maintain a major focus on prevention. Investment in strengthening pharmaceutical policies will include the appraisal of opportunities to develop local production capacities. The Commission will seek to work in close cooperation with the UN, the G8 partners and the World Bank, civil society and EU Member States to, based on each partner's comparative advantage, to enable greater coordination, complementarity and efficiency of international funding. The European Community will seek to increase the affordability of key pharmaceuticals through attention to issues related to taxes and tariffs in developing countries. The European Community will also work towards the introduction of tiered pricing as the norm for the poorest developing countries, while seeking to prevent re-importation to the EU market. Investment will build capacity within developing countries on health and trade-related issues, including implementation of the TRIPS Agreement. Moreover, building increased capacity for research in developing countries will be a priority. The Framework presented identifies main actions, potential partners and instruments, and will be further detailed within specific work plans following endorsement of this Programme for Action. Lastly, appropriate mechanisms, resources and partnerships will be put in place to monitor implementation of this Programme for Action, and to participate in a global monitoring system encompassing the efforts of all the international partners.?

Combating major communicable diseases: accelerated action within the context of poverty reduction

The committee adopted the report by Bashir KHANBHAI (EPP-ED, UK) on the Commission communication. It called for funding to be increased and priority to be given to reinforcing healthcare services and structures in developing countries. The EU should devote 10% of its development aid spending to policies aimed at combating the main communicable diseases and supporting health systems and population programmes. Such action should combine prevention (e.g. through information and immunisation programmes), treatment (including access to drugs and health structures) and research into vaccines and drugs suited to the population in developing countries. The committee felt that the Commission should devote particular attention to preventing HIV infection in the 15-24 age group, where half of all new HIV infections were occurring, and also to the situation of women and young girls. The report focused on the need to make essential medicines available at reasonable prices in the developing countries, and on the related issues of patents, generic medicines and the TRIPS agreement. It called for the Commission to be granted a mandate to propose ways and means of reviewing the relevant articles of the agreement and to launch a debate within the WTO on reconciling the TRIPS agreement with the public health interests of the developing countries. It also proposed that the 6th Framework Programme should devote considerable funding to the often-neglected area of research into diseases of the poor. Other measures suggested included the establishment of a global fund for infectious diseases (FFID), with support from the EU, G8, the World Bank, IMF and public and private contributions. Allocations to such a fund should be in addition to existing aid efforts. Lastly, the committee proposed that a research agency be set up for distributing new vaccines and treatments. ?

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The European Parliament voted to approve the resolution by Mr Bashir KHANBHAI (EPP-ED, UK). (Please refer to the previous text).?