


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2003/2146(INI)	Procedure completed
Poverty: combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, action programme		
Subject 4.20.01 Medicine, diseases 6.30 Development cooperation		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	DEVE Development and Cooperation		09/07/2003
		EDD SANDBÆK Ulla Margrethe	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		11/06/2003
		PSE CORBEY Dorette	
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		11/06/2003
		PSE VALENCIANO Elena	
	Commission DG	Commissioner	
European Commission	Human Resources and Security		

Key events			
26/02/2003	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2003)0093	Summary
04/09/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
02/12/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
02/12/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0474/2003	
13/01/2004	Debate in Parliament		
14/01/2004	Decision by Parliament	T5-0020/2004	Summary
14/01/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	

Procedure reference	2003/2146(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/5/19839

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(2003)0093	26/02/2003	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0474/2003	02/12/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0020/2004 OJ C 092 16.04.2004, p. 0127-0307 E	14/01/2004	EP	Summary

Poverty: combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, action programme

PURPOSE : to present a report on the progress made in 2001 and in 2002 in the implementation of its Programme for Action on HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. **CONTENT** : this report entitled "Update on the EC Programme for Action - Accelerated action on HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB in the context of poverty reduction" shows that despite progress made in improving the effectiveness of existing initiatives, in making medicines more affordable to poor countries and in improving investment in research and development, challenges remain great and mobilisation remains important. Since its adoption, the Commission has continued to draw attention to the threat of these diseases, particularly by bringing developing countries on board in the debate as well as in multilateral negotiations. In 2001, EUR 450 million was spent by the Commission in the area of health and population policies. The report also sets out future challenges and details outstanding policy issues that need to be addressed such as : - Impact of existing Actions : with regard to increasing impact, progress has been limited. The number of peoples affected, infected and dying from HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB is still on the increase. Few have access to effective TB and malaria interventions and anti-retroviral medicines. Despite international consensus on the urgent need to tackle these diseases, there remains a lack of large-scale collective action both at national and global level. With this Action Programme, the Commission has, however, together with all partners engaged in this fight, drawn more attention to these diseases and the need to work in a co-ordinated way towards the same objectives. The EU approach is based on the need to match all ongoing international efforts in health, education, as well as trade and research. Emphasis will remain on increasing spending on social structures, as a key determinant for the effectiveness of these efforts. - Affordability and Trade : the progress report shows that the Commission's strategy towards tiered (that is reduced) pricing as a norm for poor countries has gained broad support and is applied by some manufacturers in their sales to developing countries. The Commission has also delivered in terms of increasing protection against importation of tiered priced medicines into the EU by proposing a regulation to this effect. Tariffs and fees in the importing countries have been identified as serious obstacles to making medicines more affordable and should therefore be eliminated. The EU will work towards such elimination. In the World Trade Organisation (WTO), during the lengthy negotiations leading to the Doha Declaration on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights, the EU fought to ensure that intellectual property protection is supportive of public health. The problems faced by WTO Members with insufficient or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector at large in making effective use of compulsory licensing remain unsolved. The EU continues to be fully engaged in finding a long lasting, multilateral solution to this problem as soon as possible. - Research and Development : in research, the Commission has been able to deliver a step change in the amount of funds allocated by the EU and in the way these are used. For the first time, Europe will be able to speak and act at world level with one voice on research. Significantly increased resources have been allocated to basic, pre-clinical and clinical research in HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB from the 6th Framework Programmes for Research. EU Member States, developing countries and other donors are joining efforts, on the ground in the developing countries, in an integrated European programme for research against the three poverty diseases. The Commission will invest EUR 200 million in this initiative, the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Programme (EDCTP). On top of that, the Commission will invest another EUR 200 million in more basic research. The EDCTP initiative constitutes a new step forward as it will strengthen and unify European and African research efforts in the fight against the three diseases. Moreover, it fully involves developing countries scientists and public authorities. The EDTCP is a unique opportunity to create a long-term, sustainable and genuine partnership between the EU and developing countries, which is essential to accelerate the development of new products to confront the three major communicable diseases. Globally, the EU has been proactive in addressing the issues covered by the Action Programme for example, in the context of the G8, in particular at Okinawa, at EU/US summits, the EU/AU forum. The Commission is an active Board Member of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) and will contribute EUR 120 million in 2002. The progress report concludes that the Action Programme has demonstrated that a strong EU voice is crucial, and, as a result of the Programme, EU positions on targeted HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB actions have been significantly strengthened on a global level jointly with other partners. Nevertheless, more efforts are needed to provide regular and structured dialogue with developing countries. Renewed efforts are also needed to work jointly at the European level as well as with specific partners on all the issues stated in the Programme.?

Poverty: combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, action programme

The committee adopted the own-initiative report drawn up by Ulla Margrethe SANDBAEK (EDD, DK) in response to the Commission communication. It began by pointing out that HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis represented the major burden of disease affecting the world's poorest people, causing the deaths of almost 20 thousand people a day in developing countries. MEPs underlined the particular impact these

diseases had on women and children, calling on the Commission to help compile data on this, including the effect on women's working lives and on children who are orphaned. The Commission was also urged to highlight the important role played by women as the main health promoters and the need for gender mainstreaming in health policies. To help increase access to affordable treatments, the committee called on Member States and the EU to make prompt and full use of the WTO agreement to allow patent laws to be changed so generic medication can be manufactured in the EU under compulsory licence for export to developing countries without the necessary manufacturing capacity to produce the drugs themselves. It stressed that tiered pricing was only one of the options for obtaining a sustainable supply of affordable products and said that the Commission should encourage developing countries to reduce their own customs duties on medicines. MEPs believed that European aid should above all support developing countries' own efforts to strengthen the human, institutional and infrastructural resources, to help restore basic public health services. They also noted that, with debt repayment and servicing representing almost 40% of the least developed countries' GDP, the problem of indebtedness required a global solution based on international and national action. The report also called for an effort to increase the incentives to the European pharmaceutical industry to take part in fighting poverty-related diseases. Protocol assistance, subsidies and the waiving of fees could all play a part, as could partial transfer of patent rights to drugs not addressing poverty-linked diseases. Finally, MEPs called for significantly greater EU funding to tackle these diseases in the 2006-11 Financial Perspective, and for the nomination of an EU ambassador to lead the EU's work in this area. ?

Poverty: combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, action programme

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Ulla Margrethe SANDBAEK (EDD, DK) stressing its concern about the increasing figures of people affected and the high mortality resulting from HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. (Please see the summary of 02/12/03.) Parliament stressed that access to drinking water and a balanced diet are essential conditions for good public health. Access to basic health and sanitation services must be a governmental priority - and as such reflected in the Country Strategy Papers - with increased annual funding on the part of both the EU and international community and developing countries' own governments. The latter must restore basic public health services and systems. On the question of tiered pricing, Parliament felt that a system for tiered pricing is only one of the strategies needed for obtaining affordable medical products in a sustainable way. It asked the Commission, Member States and developing countries to explore further possibilities - among them global/regional procurements - that would increase affordability of medical products for countries in need. The complex arrangements under the agreement on TRIPS and public health adopted prior to the WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun may in fact obstruct access to medicines. Parliament asked the Commission to provide support for technology transfer and the establishment of local pharmaceutical and other production capacities, particularly in relation to clinical trial programmes in developing countries. Parliament went on to urge the Commission, the Council and the Member States to ensure that national governments and the EU increase levels of support for the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis so that the total contribution of the EU and Member States can meet the target set by President Prodi of delivering EUR 1 billion to the Fund. Finally, Parliament stated that the EU should take a leading role in developing effective policy measures and partnerships on R&D of Global Public Goods with a particular focus on therapeutic and preventive technology, such as microbicides and vaccines, that meet the health needs of developing countries.?