


# Procedure file

| Basic information  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) <a href="#">1994/2007(COS)</a>                              | Procedure completed |
| Public health and development: AIDS policy of the Community and the Members States in the developing world |                     |
| Subject<br>4.20.01 Medicine, diseases<br>6.40.12 Relations with developing countries in general            |                     |

| Key players                                   |  |
|---|--|
| <a href="#">European Parliament</a>           |  |
| <a href="#">Council of the European Union</a> |  |

| Key events |  |   |         |
|------------|--|---|---------|
| 06/01/1994 | Non-legislative basic document published   | COM(1993)0479   | Summary |
| 07/02/1994 | Committee referral announced in Parliament |   |         |
| 30/05/1995 | Vote in committee                          |   |         |
| 29/05/1995 | Committee report tabled for plenary        | <a href="#">A4-0146/1995</a>  |         |
| 13/11/1995 | Debate in Parliament                       |  | Summary |
| 15/11/1995 | Decision by Parliament                     | T4-0543/1995  | Summary |
| 15/11/1995 | End of procedure in Parliament             |   |         |
| 04/12/1995 | Final act published in Official Journal    |   |         |

| Technical information      |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Procedure reference        | 1994/2007(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/3/05191                                   |

| Documentation gateway          |  |               |            |    |         |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------|------------|----|---------|
| Non-legislative basic document |  | COM(1993)0479 | 07/01/1994 | EC | Summary |
|                                |  |               |            |    |         |

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|---|--|------------|----|---------|
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | <a href="#">A4-0146/1995</a><br><a href="#">OJ C 183 17.07.1995, p. 0003</a> | 30/05/1995 | EP |         |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading          | T4-0543/1995<br><a href="#">OJ C 323 04.12.1995, p. 0026-0045</a>            | 15/11/1995 | EP | Summary |

## Public health and development: AIDS policy of the Community and the Members States in the developing world

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The aim of this communication from the Commission was to present the policies of the Community and its Member States on the problem of AIDS in the developing countries. According to the communication, it was expected that, by the year 2000, the virus would have infected 40 million persons, most of whom (80 to 90%) would be inhabitants of the developing countries. The communication proposed ways of helping the populations of those countries to rise to the AIDS challenge and halt the spread of the disease. The main proposed solution was to support prevention efforts as and when necessary, and to that end a number of priority objectives were set: - to enable governments to curb the spread of the disease while preventing discrimination against infected people and their exclusion from society, - to ensure that the health services had the necessary resources to enable them to combat AIDS, - to help reduce the impact of the disease on local economies, and - to increase knowledge of the ways in which AIDS was transmitted. A line in the 1994 Community budget would devote ECU 12.5 million to AIDS prevention in the developing countries.?

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The rapporteur stressed above all the link between AIDS and poverty. He quoted a Ugandan civil servant, who stated that: "Someone who has a hole in his trousers probably has a hole in his condom?". He also emphasised that this scourge was a danger that hung over the health systems of developing countries. Given that the financial resources were limited, he called for them to be used as efficiently as possible. However, the fight against AIDS was not only a question of money; information campaigns could be designed, but what impact would they have if the majority of the people affected did not even have a radio? Commissioner PINHEIRO was pleased that Parliament and the Commission had similar views on the need to combat AIDS. It was essential to integrate the preventive measures into the health and family planning programmes. He stressed that it was very important not to marginalise people with HIV. In response to Parliament's request for an action plan to combat AIDS, Mr PINHEIRO stated that this communication was a first step, a framework for reference that should form the basis of regional and national strategies to combat AIDS. The Commissioner considered that the Community's financial contribution was not insignificant: to date, ECU 160 million had been released. The Council had also emphasised the need to increase substantially the financial contribution in this area. The priorities for the future should be set in accordance with the specific nature of the various regions and countries concerned.

## Public health and development: AIDS policy of the Community and the Members States in the developing world

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In adopting the report by Mr Gerhard SCHMID (PSE, D), the European Parliament put most emphasis on the link between AIDS and poverty. It highlighted, in particular, the threat of this pandemic to the health care systems in developing countries. In a context of limited financial resources, it asked that all resources be used as effectively as possible. It hoped that all of the Community's development policies would incorporate the aspect of AIDS and, in this respect, that the Commission would propose an action programme to combat AIDS in developing countries that would be implemented through cooperation and/or collaboration with governments and local NGOs. This programme should concentrate on the following elements: - the provision of HIV-free blood supplies, combined with a ban on the uncontrolled sale of blood; - improving the systems for informing medical staff about transfusion practices; - encouraging the use of disposable syringes; - stepping up information to opinion-formers (teachers, local leaders, journalists, etcetera) as well as promoting the distribution of radio receivers so that information to the population may be improved; - increasing the population's awareness of the use of condoms; - pursuing a policy to prevent the disease among women and children; - helping to set up advisory and care facilities; - encouraging all prophylactic measures. Parliament also asked that greater attention be paid to the socio-economic situation of AIDS sufferers. All measures should be concentrated on the poorest regions in the developing countries. It was particularly important to combat all forms of "sex tourism", which encouraged the spread of the disease, and Parliament hoped that measures would be taken to put a stop to this type of tourism. It also proposed the creation of database to store global statistics on AIDS and asked that work be initiated among local populations to ensure that moral attitudes to condoms did not prevent their use. Parliament stressed that the fight against AIDS undeniably required greater coordination of the Community's policies in this area with those of the Member States. Finally, it called on the United Nations to declare a "Decade against AIDS" by means of which efforts would be coordinated to combat this disease. ?