

Aid for policies and actions on reproductive and sexual health and rights in developing countries

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The committee adopted the report by Ulla SANDBAEK (EDD, DK) amending the proposal under the codecision procedure (1st reading). The main amendments were as follows: - the measures carried out under the regulation should be aimed at reducing the toll not only of maternal mortality but also of maternal morbidity, given that an estimated 50 m women a year are left with serious complications; - operations eligible for Community funding should target the poorest and most vulnerable populations in both rural and urban areas; - specific operations should include HIV/AIDS prevention and diagnosis; the provision of voluntary confidential counselling and testing; education programmes for young people highlighting the relationship between family planning, sexually-transmitted diseases and the impact of HIV/AIDS on partnerships; combating practices such as sexual violence, child marriages and early marriages; providing quality ante-natal care, care during childbirth and post-natal care; reducing the number of unsafe abortions by cutting unwanted pregnancies through better family planning; and training and equipping staff to manage under hygienic and safe conditions the complications resulting from unsafe abortion; - for the purposes of financial transparency, the Commission should be required to list in its annual report on EC development policy the sums of any contracts concluded under the regulation; - the total funding for the period from 2003 to 2006 should be EUR 73.95 million.