Resolution on HIV/AIDS: "Time to deliver"

2006/2591(RSP) - 06/07/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on HIV/AIDS: Time to Deliver.

The resolution was tabled by the EPP-ED, PES, ALDE, Greens/EFA and GUE/NGL groups.

MEPs welcome the commitment to a massive scale-up of HIV prevention, treatment and care, made at the 2005 meeting of the G8 nations and the September 2005 United Nations World Summit by world leaders and reconfirmed at the 2006 High-Level meeting on AIDS.

The Parliament welcomes the UN General Assembly declaration of 2 June 2006, in particular its references to promoting access to medicines for all, which includes production of generic antiretroviral drugs and other essential drugs for AIDS-related infections. However, it regrets that the declaration lacks any global targets or timelines on treatment, resources and prevention, and does not provide a viable action plan to back up the goal of providing universal access for all HIV-affected people by 2010.

MEPs express concern at the fact that half of all new HIV infections occur among children and young people and are disappointed that there are still no effective programmes in operation for providing clean needles to drug addicts in many countries. They are also deeply concerned by the overall expansion and feminisation of the pandemic and the fact that women now represent 50% of people living with HIV worldwide and 60% of people living with HIV in Africa.

In order to effectively halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, MEPs consider it essential to target key vulnerable groups with specific measures. The resolution also calls for measures to be taken to reduce the level of needlestick and medical sharp injuries received by health-care workers.

The Commission and partner countries are urged to prioritise broad prevention strategies in Country Strategy Papers, including programmes promoting the use of condoms and HIV/AIDS education geared towards young people.

MEPs criticise the Commission's poor track record in development fund spending in the healthcare sector (in 2003, only 5.2% of the EDF was earmarked for health spending and only 4% in 2002). They deplore the fact that the Commission intends to propose that only 6% of development funds within the new development cooperation instrument be allocated to human and social development, covering not only healthcare, HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, but all other aspects of social development.

The Commission is called upon to double its budget for healthcare in developing countries within the Development Cooperation Instrument and to aim for at least 50% of all ODA (Official Development Assistance) to be spent on achieving the Millennium Development Goals.