Basic information

2001/2006(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	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	KHANBHAI Bashir (PPE-DE)	05/02/2001

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	CORBEY Dorette (PSE)	13/02/2001
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	SCHEELE Karin (PSE)	12/03/2001
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	EVANS Jill (V/ALE)	23/01/2001

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2346	2001-05-14

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Development	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
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
10/07/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0263/2001	
04/10/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0513/2001	Summary
04/10/2001	Debate in Parliament		
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 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/5/13700

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0263/2001	10/07/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0513/2001 OJ C 087 11.04.2002, p. 0159-0244 E	04/10/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0585	20/09/2000	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0096	21/02/2001	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2003)0093	26/02/2003	Summary

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

2001/2006(COS) - 26/02/2003

The European Commission issued a report on the progress made in the last 2 years in the implementation of its Programme for Action on HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis which was adopted in February 2001. The report concludes that two years after its inception the Programme for Action remains a comprehensive, forward-looking and coherent EU policy framework making a significant contribution towards improved country, regional and global action against the three major communicable diseases. The PfA is strongly supported by Council and Parliament, as well as by civil society and the private sector. The Programme for Action entailed a series of actions to increase the impact of existing interventions, increase the affordability of key pharmaceuticals and encourage research in and development of specific global public goods to tackle these diseases at the national, regional and global level. - 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 beenallocated 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 (EDCPT). 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.

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

2001/2006(COS) - 20/09/2000 - Non-legislative basic document

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

2001/2006(COS) - 21/02/2001 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

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

2001/2006(COS) - 04/10/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

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