## Basic information

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

## Key players

### European Parliament

| Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| DEVE Development and Cooperation | SANDBÆK Ulla Margrethe (EDD) | 09/07/2003 |

| Committee for opinion | Rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy | CORBEY Dorette (PSE) | 11/06/2003 |
| ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy | The committee decided not to give an opinion. | |
| FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities | VALENCIANO Elena (PSE) | 11/06/2003 |

### European Commission

| Commission DG | Commissioner |
|---|---|
| Human Resources and Security | |

## Key events

| Date | Event | Reference | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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 | | |

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| 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 55 |
| **Stage reached in procedure** | Procedure completed |
| **Committee dossier** | DEVE/5/19839 |

Documentation gateway

**European Parliament**

| Document type | Committee | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | | A5-0474/2003 | 02/12/2003 | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading | | T5-0020/2004<br>OJ C 092 16.04.2004, p. 0127-0307 E | 14/01/2004 | Summary |

**European Commission**

| Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| Non-legislative basic document | COM(2003)0093 | 26/02/2003 | Summary |

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

2003/2146(INI) - 26/02/2003 - Non-legislative basic document

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 onevoice 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 (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.

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

2003/2146(INI) - 14/01/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Ulla Margrethe SANDBAEK (EDD, DK) sstressing 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.