

"The Commission will actively involve civil society, and in particular people living with HIV/AIDS, in policy development, implementation and monitoring."

European Commission Communication – December 15, 2005 COM(2005) 654 final

The EU Civil Society Forum on HIV/AIDS

The EU Civil Society Forum on HIV/AIDS is an informal advisory body established in 2005 by the European Commission to facilitate the participation of NGOs and networks, including those representing People Living with HIV/AIDS, in European policy development and implementation as well as to exchange information.

• Key facts :

- The Forum enables direct dialogue on EU HIV/AIDS policies between Civil Society and the European Commission with representatives of other key stakeholders, as appropriate.
- It is a key opportunity to follow-up on the high-level commitments on HIV/AIDS made by the European Union and Member States since 2004 (see the list below).
- The members of the Civil Society Forum represent a very wide range of NGOs which are active on HIV/AIDS prevention, support and advocacy. They originate from most of the member-states of the European Union, as well as from accession countries and neighbouring countries of the EU.
- Meetings of the Civil Society Forum take place twice a year and are open to invited guests and observers.
- DG Health and Consumer Protection of the European Commission, in close cooperation with AIDS ACTION EUROPE and the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG), established the Civil Society Forum in 2005. It complements the work of the HIV/AIDS Think Tank that has, since 2004, brought together primarily governmental representatives from EU Member States, Accession and European Economic Area (EEA) countries.

• High-level commitments on HIV/AIDS in Europe:

December 15, 2005	- Communication by the European Commission on "combating HIV/AIDS within the European Union and in the neighbouring countries, 2006-2009"
September 2004	- The Vilnius Declaration: "Europe and HIV/AIDS: New Challenges' New Opportunities" - Commission Working Paper "Coordinated and Integrated Approach to Combat HIV/AIDS in the European Union and in its Neighbourhood"
February 24, 2004	- The Dublin Declaration: "Breaking the barriers – Partnership to fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia"

These documents are available on the following link : http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_threats/com/aids/aids_en.htm

We should cite also the 2001 UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS "Global Crisis - Global Action" adopted by the Special Session of the General assembly of the United Nations, available there : (www.un.org/ga/aids/) and the Political Declaration of the 2006 UN High meeting on AIDS (<http://www.un.org/ga/aidsmeeting2006/>)

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