

**As representatives of HIV civil society from across the European region, meeting together on 6 December 2011 at the HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum, we call on all governments and those with relevant responsibilities in Europe to live up to their commitments in the response to HIV.**

**We note the current financial crisis and the pressures it is placing on all budgets, but we also note that HIV treatment is immensely cost-effective and that denying treatment is in fact more costly for society - in increased transmission, in serious ill-health, in increased mortality, in drug resistance.**

**The WHO reports only 23% access to HIV treatment for those who need it in Europe and Central Asia, despite the government commitments at the United Nations General Assembly June 2011 to universal access to ARV treatment by 2015. Progress to universal access to treatment must be maintained and accelerated in the European region.**

**We therefore state the following principles for HIV treatment in this time of financial crisis and call on all governments and authorities in Europe to adhere to them:**

- **universal and uninterrupted access to HIV treatment, care and support**
- **no discrimination on access to HIV treatment on any ground whatsoever (including gender, race, sexual orientation, drug use, citizenship/residency status)**
- **the primacy of the doctor/patient relationship in establishing best care for the individual in the context of the European treatment guidelines**
- **no patients on treatment experiencing a deterioration in their health or quality of life as a result of treatment changes required by financial cuts**
- **testing and treatment services of a consistent quality so as to maximise access and adherence to HIV treatment for all people with HIV**
- **fair drugs pricing across the European region and within the EU**

**With regard to fair pricing for drugs, we also call on the European Commission and EU member states to revive the initiative, begun in Bremen, to make progress on this essential**