

Report of the 12th HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum  
Luxemburg, October 26 & 27, 2010

Meeting convened by the European Commission Health & Consumer Protection Directorate-General with co-chairing of AIDS Action Europe and the European AIDS Treatment Group



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## Introduction

The HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum (CSF) has been established by the European Commission as an informal working group to facilitate the participation of non-governmental organizations, including those representing people living with HIV/AIDS, in policy development and implementation and in information exchange activities. The Forum includes about 40 organizations from all over Europe representing different fields of activity. The Forum acts as an informal advisory body to the European Think Tank on HIV/AIDS. EATG and AIDS Action Europe co-chair the Forum. See the participant list in annex A. All annexes to this report are only available online at the CSF page on the [AIDS Action Europe website](#).

## Tuesday, October 26 2010

### 1 Opening

Opening of the meeting by the two co-chairs (Yusef Azad and Luis Mendao) starting with a brief round of introductions. For the 'any other business' agenda item at the second day of the meeting it was suggested to add: a statement drafted by AIDES about female condoms; the economic crisis and the consequences for the different countries; and the recently issued WHO [Standards for Sexual Education in Europe](#).

#### 1.1 Report and action list of last meeting

The report of the last meeting was adopted. Below is an overview of the action list and the status of the different actions.

What	Who	Status
Provide an overview of the different Commission funding schemes relevant for HIV (2 slides)	Wolfgang Philipp	Done, provided as backgrounder for this meeting
Share EU action plan table after it has been discussed in the Think Tank meeting	Wolfgang Philipp	Done
CSF members to contact their respective MoH (and permanent representatives to the EU in cc) encouraging them to provide feed-back on the EU communication to feed in to the discussion at Council level	CSF Members, CSF coordination team	Done by different countries including Spain, Greece, Italy, Portugal
An open letter will go from the CSF calling on all European countries to abolish HIV-related travel and residency restrictions. This should then be used to lobby for change, including with the European Parliament and the EU Presidencies.	CSF Co-chairs	Done
CSF members to provide input into planning of DG Sanco work-plan, of ECDC evaluation framework and to agenda of Interservice Group	CSF Members	Ongoing
The Communication on Global Health will be circulated to CSF members.	CSF Co-chairs	Done

Explore profile of MSM needs in the Sexual Health Forum.	Wolfgang Philipp	Meeting will take place on 13 December, CSF will get agenda once it is finalised. Wolfgang will keep in mind to have MSM issues on the agenda.
Disseminate links for public consultations for legislative proposals	Wolfgang Philipp	Done
DG Relex representative to be invited at next meeting	CSF Co-chairs	Invited, but unable to attend
Lobby MEPs to make sure that the public health program is appropriately funded	CSF members	Process is starting, next year is decision year
Update CSF members about Commission activities in Vienna	Wolfgang Philipp	Done
Interested CSF members to email Wolfgang about a daily slot in the Commission's Vienna booth.	CSF members	Done by some, daily slots cancelled due to too little responses
Send any comments on Matthew's presentation or information on criminalization to Matthew Weait at <a href="mailto:matthew.weait@gmail.com">matthew.weait[at]gmail.com</a>	CSF Members	Done
Send overview of Portuguese cases to Peter Weissner	Wim Vandevelde	Done
Interested CSF members to submit a 500 word synopsis on quality assurance to David Hales: <a href="mailto:dkhales@earthlink.net">dkhales@earthlink.net</a>	CSF members	Done
WHO to invite potential donors to MSM meeting	WHO	Done, meeting will take place in Kiev
Include further information on UNAIDS criminalization work & present UNAIDS policy brief on criminalization at next CSF meeting	UNAIDS	Not on the agenda but circulated
Draft 1 page briefing document on female condom prices to be circulated	Arnaud Simon	Statement drafted and presented at this meeting
Provide CSF with a list of 27 national liaison officers	FRA	Done
Send final report Madrid conference to CSF	Ferran Pujol Roca	Done
Follow-up with CSF coordination team on possibility to provide input into speech of Belgian Minister of Health in Vienna	Chris Lambrechts	Done
Inform the CSF coordination team about any actions or follow-up on EU Presidency	Gabor Vagor	When appropriate
Send additional information on the legal weight of the ILO document to CSF	Yusef Azad	ILO representative invited to the meeting to present document
Task force works on a CSF position statement on drug policy and harm reduction	Shona Schonning (lead), Vlatko Dekov, Pavel Aksenov, Arnaud Simon, Luis Mendao, Magdalena Dabkowska	Done
Aides to share results of biomedical research about acceptability of testing	Arnaud Simon	Done

Ton will send out mail about global fund eligibility criteria.	Ton Coenen	Done
Share good examples of political commitment and funding with Martine de Schutter or Shona Schonning	CSF members	Not done, but successful presentation at Vienna Conference
Share WHO country visit report in Lithuania to support action by the National network of PLHIV to alleviate the situation in Lithuania	Anna Zakovicz	Report is available, Luis will disseminate it ASAP
Share information about Global Fund replenishment scenarios	Ton Coenen	Done

## 2 Commission update on HIV-related activities and agenda Think Tank

### Wolfgang Philipp

Wolfgang gave an update of the agenda of the Think Tank meeting. (Annex B).

Topics include: HIV and groups most at risk (IDU and prisons); HIV in Europe; HIV reservoirs and strategies to control them; Quality improvement in HIV prevention; WHO regional consultation on Global Health Sector Strategy; HIV projects and conferences funded through the Health programme 2010; HIV in Russia; HIV affecting children in Eastern Europe and Central Asia; Dublin declaration monitoring report; M&E of EU action plan; economic crisis and HIV; World AIDS Day 2010; and EU presidencies.

Over the last 5 months these were the activities of the Commission services:

- Preparation activities for the Vienna conference:
  - The EU Commissioner Dalli gave a speech at the opening session (this was the first time that an EU Commissioner attended the IAS).  
The Commission also had an exhibition booth
  - Organisation of 4 satellite meetings on (I) funding, (II) human rights, (III) access to medicines, and (IV) at risk groups.
- The Commission provided input in the work plans of different agencies including ECDC.
- Evaluation of the policy relevance of proposals submitted to the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC).
- Contribution to enlargement negotiations with countries such as Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey making sure that HIV get on public health agenda of incoming Member States. Such discussions also took place with neighbouring countries Ukraine and Moldova.
- Participation in Interservice group making sure HIV is kept in political papers.
- Standard work such as briefings, meetings, and answering questions from CSF.

### Questions / discussion:

Renewal of the Civil Society Forum: A new call will be published end 2010 so that there will be a new composition for the next meeting. Current members can re-apply and be reselected for another term of 3 years.

The CSF is concerned about ongoing negotiations between EU and India regarding drug pricing which will limit the production of quality drugs. The CSF had already sent a letter about this to Commissioner Karel de Gucht and received a reply, however, the previous letter did not make explicit reference to the campaign and thus concerns remain about the negative impact of these negotiations and regrets that there is nobody from DG Trade attending the meeting.

#### Actions:

- Call for CSF renewal to be disseminated by the Commission end 2010
- CSF to draft a new and stronger letter to DG trade before the next round of negotiations in Brussels on 8 November and to address the EU Parliament on this issue.
- CSF to provide good notice to secure representatives from other DGs at CSF meetings as appropriate

### 3 CSF co-chairs update on advocacy and other actions

There was a good response from CSF members to the questionnaire of the Fundamental Rights Agency. Interim results were presented in Vienna and the final report will be finished and shared at a later stage. Now the CSF members are invited to provide input in the FRA work plan to make sure our issues are there. A large number of organisations signed the Vienna declaration, the CSF could not sign on since it is not an organisation. However, it will issue its own statement on drug policies and harm reduction. Several CSF letters were sent: to DG Trade regarding India negotiations on drug pricing and to Romanian authorities regarding ARV stock outs. The CSF further provided messages that were included in the speech of Minister Onkelinx at the IAC in Vienna. The CSF is also engaged in addressing the Belgian Presidency to lead the discussion on Council conclusions on EU Communication on HIV/AIDS (2009-2013). The CSF Co-chairs have requested a meeting with EU Commissioner Dalli to talk about HIV and in particular the affordability of ARVs in the EU among other issues. Other initiatives that the CSF has been involved in include: the World AIDS Day meeting organised by ECDC about HIV testing; on the occasion to which a guidance document for EU Member States will be presented, as well as; WHO regional and global strategy on HIV and AIDS which is currently being developed.

### 4 New Communication –action plan and implementation

#### Wolfgang Philipp (Annex C)

Wolfgang presented the Commission activities in 2011 to implement the Action Plan, including the available mechanisms and funding and collaboration foreseen with civil society. He highlighted five points:

- The EC foresees two HIV related conferences for 2011. One on human rights and one on drug pricing.
- The EC is supporting the implementation of the action plan through funded projects
- Monitoring and evaluation of the action plan will be done by ECDC
- The EC provides input in the EAHC work plan trying to include prevention for key populations as a key topic
- Coverage of price rebate agreements

Teymur Noori (ECDC) presented the draft framework to monitor the EU Commission Communication and Action plan on HIV/AIDS 2009-2013 (Annex D).

After these two presentations, the group split into small working groups addressing the following questions:

- Any specific points on Commission implementation plans for 2011, and how the CSF might support its work?
- Any points on ECDC's draft framework for the monitoring of the Commission's HIV Communication and Action Plan?
- What should the CSF be focussing on in 2011 to take forward the Communication and Action Plan?

#### 4.1 Comments / recommendations resulting from the small group sessions:

I. Specific points on Commission implementation plans for 2011

- The EC to connect to "UN Global Commission on HIV and the Law" and involve FRA in upcoming human rights conference.
- The EU should show political leadership in funding issues in the light of the current financial crisis, including in Eastern Europe. In this respect the EU should also strategize beyond 2013.
- The Commission should include health priorities in its negotiations with accession countries

- In the human rights conference there should be specific attention to sexual and reproductive rights
- The Commission should promote more the responsibilities of individual countries in the implementation of the action plan
- The EU needs to take leadership in preparations for UNGASS 2011
- In the selection of target groups there should not only be a focus on epidemiology but also on vulnerability
- The topics of the work plan should be broadened. e.g. not “access to ARVs” but “access to treatment and care”
- Political leadership is needed for key populations and neighbouring countries in the East.
- ENP countries involvement mechanism should ensure expanded involvement of neighbouring countries
- EC should aim for more synergies with the Global Commission on HIV and the law, CSF, UNDP/WHO Regional consultation on HIV in MSM and transgender people, UNAIDS etc.
- Pan-European networks for target population groups should be established, such as a Pan-European MSM network

## II. Specific points on ECDC's draft M&E framework

- ECDC should target civil society directly in the M&E of the Action Plan
- There are too many end points at country level, assuming that EU action can have a very direct and measurable effect on what happens in countries. This direct link will mean that you head for failure.
- The M&E framework should consider that many things are related. A sex worker can also be a drug user, etc.
- In the ‘political leadership’ section of the action plan, there should be more systematic review of where funding gaps are. Also in the sections on pricing; affordability and availability
- There is a need for more comparison between countries
- There is a need for cross-references in evaluations. e.g. the CSF should also be able to evaluate the Think Tank and vice versa
- In addition to evaluating the funding, there should also be an evaluation of the handling of funding – e.g. the bureaucratic burdens etc.
- In the M&E of the Action Plan there should be more inclusion of those implementing the project. Thus not a top-down questionnaire but bottom-up approach.
- The GIPA principle should be better included in the M&E framework.
- The Bremen initiative should be included in M&E framework.

## III. Focus for the CSF in taking forward the Communication and Action Plan in 2011

- The CSF to use its influence to argue for sufficient money to address HIV-related needs in the future
- Civil Society should pro-actively approach their Governments to get feedback about their activities in implementing the Action Plan
- CSF members should share more with each other how they collaborate with their national government in terms of implementing the Commission Communication in their local work
- The CSF should create more visibility for itself in its advocacy efforts – also with the public
- ‘Let’s keep talking about sexuality’
- Need for meaningful engagement of civil society and for focus. There are too many evaluations going on

### Actions:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECDC to take note of comments and to come back to the CSF after the Think Tank meeting</li> </ul> |
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## 5 Results survey on sexual and reproductive rights of PLHIV

### Henrik Arildsen (Annex E)

Henrik presented the results of a survey on sexual and reproductive rights of PLHIV. A report with all the main results will be published on 8 December. One of the main conclusions is that the Swiss statement has more and more effect on actual procedures in different countries, for example with regards to sperm washing. The survey also brought some discrepancies to the table, especially in countries with responses from government and civil society representatives. The government may have certain policies which are not yet being implemented 'on the ground'. The survey addressed the issue of breast feeding versus formula but did not look at the cost issue. It would be interesting to have hospitals and other groups included in the survey and to measure if the outcomes of the survey also apply to (undocumented) migrants and asylum seekers. It would also be interesting to include the regional perspective, because in Catalonia there might be different policies than in the Basque region. It was suggested to share the contact details of the respondents so that the representatives from the same country can discuss any discrepancies in response.

All in all the CSF concluded that a follow-up process and a bigger survey is needed on this topic.

#### Actions:

- Henrik to disseminate report of the survey once it is published
- Henrik to provide respondents with each others contact details to ensure follow up discussion

## 6 EU Presidencies

### 6.1 Belgium

#### Chris Lambrechts

HIV is not a priority. The Presidency will focus on poverty and social exclusion and the UN convention on disability. Chris and the CSF coordination team are still advocating to include HIV as topic

During the Belgian EU Presidency, these following HIV related issues were taken up:

- Belgium represented the EU at the opening of the International AIDS Conference with a speech by its State Secretary in Vienna. The CSF co-chairs provided input.
- Steps were taken in the adoption of a proposal for a European council directive on equal treatment. If it gets adopted, it would really contribute towards reduction of discrimination in Europe. Germany did object to the directive however. The Belgian presidency has sent a questionnaire to all member states to check if there is a majority that supports the German point of view, and to evaluate if there is a way to adopt the directive and still get it approved. The CSF coordination team will continue to follow-up.
- The Belgian Minister of Health Ms Onkelinx will be present during the ECDC event on December 1 where opportunity to present ECDC guidelines on testing will be presented.

The CSF co-chairs have advocated together with Sensoa for Council recommendations on the Commission Communication.

#### Actions:

- CSF representatives express to the Think Tank support to the monitoring and evaluation framework for the Communication and ask the Think Tank members to push for council recommendations on the Communication

### 6.2 Hungary

#### Andras Bodo

HIV is not on agenda. Human rights of the Roma population are addressed.



## 6.3 Poland

### Tomasz Malkuszewski

HIV is not included among the priorities. There is a chance it could be integrated via other issues, like the Eastern partnership programme. In the context of the Presidency, the National AIDS Centre plans to organise an expert group meeting regarding implementation of the 3-ones in EU and neighbouring countries.

## 7 CSF position statement on EU drug policies

### Katarina Jiresova and working group (See presentation in annex F)

The statement is being developed in the context of the upcoming EU drugs action plan and the evaluation of the EU drugs strategy, among others. The statement does not call for legalisation but rather calls upon the Commission to:

- Support evidence-based policies and respect for human rights
- Develop an impact evaluation of EU policies for the next drugs strategy
- Lead on the debate on arguments for and against legal regulation on behalf of governments, rather than sole prohibition.

The CSF members recommend to add the following to the statement:

- Call on EU member states that they support harm reduction when going to CND (UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs) meetings.
- Showcase successful approaches in the West, such as injecting rooms and heroin treatment.
- The focus of the statement is on the effects of prohibition on the health of people that use drugs. There is less focus on harm reduction as such. The balance should be more on harm reduction.

The HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum will liaise with the CSF on drugs.

#### Actions:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The working group will adapt the statement, circulate the next draft with a feasible timeline for reaction by the CSF and finalise it. If CSF members don't react within the given timeframe, agreement with the statement is assumed.</li></ul> |
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## 8 Coordination on TB across Europe

### Paul Sommerfeld, Member TB Europe Coalition and Chair, TB Alert & Charlotte Goyon, Co-ordinator of TB Europe Coalition (See presentation in annex G)

The TB Europe coalition intends to engage TB and TB/HIV advocates across the European region. Europe and Central Asia are high on the list of most affected countries. There is a 2007 Berlin Declaration on TB, but progress is slow.

TB Europe Coalition efforts:

- Create a European Parliament working group on innovation, access to medicine and poverty related diseases.
- Proposition to the EC to create a CSF and TT on TB.
- The European Parliament written declaration of resolution didn't go through: will try again in 2011.
- Field visits to include more Eastern European partners.

Possible collaboration mechanisms:

- Working group on TB/HIV
- Yearly meeting or participation in CSF as observer.
- Common campaign
- Joint presentation to inter-service group

All CSF members are invited to sign on to the TB listserv: contact Charlotte Goyon at [cgoyon@ghadvocate.org](mailto:cgoyon@ghadvocate.org)

There are TB-related actions included in the Commission action plan on HIV which can serve as framework for future collaboration.

The CSF agrees to open up the future agenda of the CSF to include attention to linkages with TB, Hepatitis and sexual and reproductive health. In view of the upcoming CSF renewal process, the CSF recommends to the EC to consider reserving seats for groups that work on related issues like TB.

**Actions:**

- Ensure attention within the CSF on TB and other HIV-related conditions and include it in the agenda of future meetings
- Commission will consider the recommendation to reserve seats for HIV-related conditions in the upcoming CSF renewal selection process
- CSF co-chairs, Commission and TB Europe follow-up on key issues to take on in the context of the Communication

## 9 The HIV/AIDS response in Russia: role and challenges for civil society

**Pavel Aksenov, Russian Harm Reduction Network (See presentation in Annex H)**

Russia is a country of high national response to HIV, as indicated by UNAIDS. There is an increased donor role of Russia in the Global Fund. A worrisome development is that national budget allocations for prevention have been reduced to zero in 2010. The Global Fund was the only source to support harm reduction and HIV prevention among vulnerable groups. The lack of prevention – among vulnerable groups- is the biggest problem why the epidemic is still on the increase. The national anti-drugs strategy was adopted in June 2010. Substitution therapy is prohibited. The harm reduction perspective is not good. There is lack of domestic funding while external donors leave the country. Civil society has limited access to planning and decision making processes. There are no indications for financial support for continuation of services programme at RHRN.

**Actions:**

- Key points from Pavel's presentation to be raised as appropriate during the Think Tank session on HIV in Russia

## 10 ILO recommendation on HIV/AIDS and the world of work

**Anna Torriente, Senior Legal Officer, ILO/AIDS (See presentation in Annex I)**

The ['Recommendation concerning HIV and AIDS and the world of work'](#) is part of international law, and the first international labour standard on HIV and AIDS. Everything the ILO does involves governments, employers and workers organisations. ILO will send a letter in the following week transmitting the recommendation to the parliaments and the governments who have to determine what measures to take to bring national legislation into conformity with the recommendation. Civil society can support and facilitate its implementation, this is the right time. Implementation of the recommendation is through national policies and programmes. The recommendation also covers sex workers and migrant workers. A global action plan will be developed next year.

To support implementation of the recommendation, civil society can:

- advocate for human rights at work to be incorporated into European legislation and policy
- form alliances with ILO constituents at national level
- mainstream recommendation's principles in civil society actions
- use it as a tool for internal policy for NGO as workplace

**Actions:**

- CSF coordination team will forward the letter to CSF members and the list of national contacts to which it was sent
- CSF members are advised to contact their governments after the letter is sent
- CSF members are asked to share through the CSF mailing list the results of their advocacy with the government

## 11 Civil society and the Global Fund: replenishment conference and 'Here I am campaign'

Maria Bordallo Gil, International Civil Society Support (See presentation in [Annex J](#))

The objective of the 'Here I am Campaign' is to sensitize support from donors to the Global Fund by presenting human stories and demonstrating the impacts of Global Fund on the ground. It is a civil society owned campaign, independent from the Global Fund. Next step is the evaluation of the campaign to determine if it will be continued, to create an online global movement of people telling their stories.

## Wednesday, October 27

## 12 Update WHO Europe

Smiljka DeLussigny (See presentation in Annex K)

Smiljka presented the HIV/AIDS activities of WHO Regional Office for Europe. She briefly touched upon the following issues: Universal Access progress report 2010; Work with MSM; Global Health Sector Strategy on HIV/AIDS 2011-2015 and European Action plan on HIV/AIDS 2011-2015; and ART guidance for the European Region.

### Questions / Discussion:

WHO plans to involve other stakeholders in the development of its European Action Plan on HIV/AIDS in three ways: (1) through web consultations; (2) in country consultations and (3) regional consultations. There is a plan for clear synergies with other plans including the EU Action Plan and the UNAIDS strategy. Both the WHO Global Strategy and European Action Plan are being developed upon request by the member states.

The regional work on MSM should result in a strong set of recommendations. The regional consultation in Kiev aims to raise awareness (it is the first time anyone does this in Eastern Europe on this topic) but it should also result in a set of recommendations and come up with an advocacy platform to support implementation of these recommendations in the region.

### Actions:

- WHO to connect to the organisers of the Commission-funded Swedish meeting on MSM
- WHO to connect to EACS regarding the treatment guidelines

## 13 Update UNAIDS

Henning Mikkelsen

2010 is the year of Universal Access. Although we have made fantastic progress much still needs to be done. UNAIDS therefore aims to mobilise towards a renewed commitment by 2015. In June it is hoped that there will be a high level meeting in New York. This is 5 years after the 2006 high level meeting that presented the [political declaration of commitment on HIV/AIDS](#) and exactly 30 years after the first HIV cases were discovered. Therefore, this would be a good moment for renewed commitment. In its new strategic plan UNAIDS identified its ambitions around the three zeros: 0 AIDS-related deaths; 0 stigma and 0 new HIV infections. The strategy is built around 3 pillars: (1) Treatment 2.0 (2) prevention revolution and (3) human rights of PLHIV. UNAIDS plans to issue its Global AIDS Report in November. On 1st December UNAIDS plans to start mobilising for the high level meeting with its Lights for right campaign. This will be done in Brussels but it would be good to do it in other European cities as well.

## 14 Update UNAIDS PCB

Rhon Reynolds (See presentation in annex L)

Rhon presented the work of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, which is the governing body of UNAIDS.

### Questions and discussion:

- ICASO initiated a Universal Access project that measures the involvement of civil society in the process. EHRN leads the project in our region.

- The UNAIDS strategic plan addresses all UN agencies; how will UNAIDS deal with different approaches between agencies, in particular UNODC regarding the issue of criminalizing drug users?
- UNAIDS decriminalizes drugs and will keep on pushing on this issue with other agencies. UNODC seems to have a reputation from the past but has over 150 staff dedicated to harm reduction.
- Some CSF members said that the vision of three zeros is unrealistic and bound to fail.
- In response UNAIDS said that the mission is aspirational. But UNAIDS believes zero discrimination is important and can be tackled.
- What are the concrete steps towards the high level meeting and plans for collaboration with EU? What will be the role of the Hungarian EU presidency?
- The process of the high level meeting starts in December. Civil society will be involved. The role of the EU is important. UNAIDS is now working with the Belgium presidency for a statement on WAD.
- The CSF stresses working on a joint statement is not sufficient and urges that more strategic collaboration between the EU and the high level meeting is needed

**Actions:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNAIDS to try to strategically involve the EU in the June high level meeting</li> </ul> |
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## 15 Update EMCDDA

### Claudia Palczak (See presentation in Annex M)

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) presented its activities related to infectious diseases among injecting drug users.

**Questions / discussion:**

- Does the EMCDDA do research as to overdose related mortality? EMCDDA collects data at country level around five epidemiological indicators relating to the subject.
- Does EMCDDA collect data on TB and drug use? It is in the centre's mandate, but currently it doesn't work on this topic. Next year the EMCDDA plans to collect data per country, and will work with Portugal on this.
- How to overcome limited mandate of EMCDDA to work only in the European Economical Area? This is difficult to overcome, but the centre is trying to cover more countries.
- There is strong collaboration between EMCDDA and UNODC on epidemic and data collection. EMCDDA was also involved in the development of UNODC's toolkit for prisons.
- Does EMCDDA address the application of current drug law and its impact on health? The centre doesn't do research, but only collects it. It does have a policy department that looks into policy at national level and its effect on different issues.

## 16 Update ECDC

### Mika Salminen

ECDC is currently developing its 2011 work plan. This includes the development of a guidance document together with EMCDDA that should be ready in June 2011. Secondly the ECDC will do a project on modelling on HIV in Europe. The aim is to produce more realistic and easier to use estimates to describe the epidemic in the region. Thirdly, the ECDC will work on a project on prevention among MSM, which will include evidence based review work. The work feeds into the MSM conference that is being organised by Sweden. On World AIDS Day ECDC will present the results of their development of guidance on HIV testing in European settings. It will be presented in the European Parliament with attendance of the Commission as well as guests from civil society and the ECDC director. The event is being coordinated with the Belgian presidency. During this event ECDC will also present the Dublin Declaration Progress Report 2010 published in September 2010. A fourth document providing an evidence synthesis on which the testing guidance builds on won't be published on time due to technical reasons.

Mika further presented the key findings of the Dublin declaration monitoring report (**Annex N**)

### Questions / discussion

- Will the Dublin Declaration Progress Report 2010 document be discussed in-depth with the Think Tank?
- In the section on sex work the data is not representative of the real situation; conclusions don't include other sources of information. It was agreed that we need to have stronger monitoring of data; including data from NGOs.
- In the data collection process ECDC needs to add more recent data and consult civil society for this.
- Report shows that diagnosis is often too late. In the guidance chapter that deals with where to test community testing should be included.
- How will the report be communicated to the European Parliament? During the 1<sup>st</sup> December WAD event.
- Monitoring the Commission Communication & Action Plan on HIV/AIDS 2009-2013. We cannot exclude testing and diagnosis from markers of success. Crucial to monitor when we diagnose infection.
- ECDC is preparing a follow up process to see what is happening in Europe in the future, this will include the monitoring of the EU action plan. There is a strong role for member states. There will be a discussion on the need to have regionalisation of international monitoring.

### 16.1 Actions:

- ECDC to thoroughly discuss the findings of the report with the TT.
- CSF members to use the report as a tool for benchmarking in their own countries.

## 17 Female condoms statement

**Arnaud Wasson-Simon**

Arnaud presents a draft statement (see annex O). The statement is adopted.

### Action:

- Send CSF statement on female condoms to Commission and Think tank.

## 18 Risk reduction among drug users in Spain

**Tomás Hernandez Fernandez (Secretary of the National AIDS Strategy, Ministry of Health and Social Policy, Spain) and José Manuel Arroyo Cobo (Deputy Director of Health in Prisons, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Spain) (See presentation in Annex P)**

The heroin epidemic started in Spain in the eighties. Since the mid nineties needle exchange and methadone treatment have been available. Evidence shows that harm reduction did not lead to increasing drug use in Spain. Future strategies are to adapt needle exchange facilities to new realities of where drugs are being sold and used, strengthen drug users' participation, develop a more holistic approach and monitor changes in drug use habits. HIV prevalence in Spanish prisons has gone down significantly. Prisoners have the same access to treatment as persons outside prisons. They have access to testing and condoms and needle exchange programmes.

### Actions:

- Recognising the importance of the experience in Spain, the CSF recommends that in Eastern Europe the lessons learned should be taken into consideration. Leadership from Spain is needed.
- The CSF suggests that workers association of prisons officers in Spain share with labour unions across Europe their experience that harm reduction does not endanger their working conditions.

## 19 HIV in Prisons within the Northern Dimension area - are we missing opportunities?

Zaza Tsereteli, International Technical Advisor, The Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being – NDPHS (See presentation in Annex Q)

One of the biggest problems especially in the Baltic countries is that the Ministries of Health and of Justice and Internal Affairs do not coordinate their work relating to prison health. Health care in prison settings generally falls under responsibility of the Ministry of Justice or Internal Affairs.

It was suggested that the Commission should bring together DG Justice and DG Health with professionals from the Ministries of Health, Justice and Internal Affairs from member states. The Northern dimension is working on getting these ministries together. The Commission has already sponsored 2-3 conferences on prison health, but these focused on the Ministries of Health. The Commission does tend to involve DG Justice in such discussions. It might be possible to get this issue on the agenda of the Committee of the Regions. WHO reminded participants that there is already an existing platform to take on these issues. The 'Health in Prisons project', supported by WHO Europe, is bringing together different Ministries, uniting over 30 countries.

### Actions:

- DG Sanco will try to involve DG Justice and bring the presentations on the Spanish example and the Northern Dimension to the attention of the Committee of the Regions.
- All actors involved are advised to connect to the Health in Prisons project of WHO Europe.

## 20 The HIV in Europe initiative: an update

Ton Coenen (See presentation in Annex R)

An update was presented on the four HIV in Europe projects: definition of late diagnosis; indicator disease guided testing; people living with HIV stigma index; and criminalisation of HIV transmission. . The initiative does face a funding challenge. HIV in Europe is advocating for council conclusions to promote early diagnosis and earlier care. The CSF suggests to advocate for council conclusions based on the forthcoming ECDC guidance document on testing in order to engage member states across the EU to reduce the number of late presentation and improve early diagnosis and early care throughout the EU.,

### Actions:

- The CSF and HIV in Europe will continue to advocate for council conclusions on testing and earlier care under the upcoming presidencies, supported by the Commission.
- Ferran will share results of national meeting in Spain on testing.

## 21 Any other business

Henrik will produce a report on the mapping exercise on sexual and reproductive health needs of people living with HIV. HIV Europe would like to invite other initiatives to develop a shared approach. He will follow-up with Chris to check involvement of the Eurosupport project.

### 21.1 Suggestions for the agenda of the next CSF meeting:

- Standards for sexual education and HIV prevention in schools (BZgA and WHO)
- Migrants and mobile populations (focus on sub-Saharan migrants)
- TB and HIV
- Quality insurance initiative (WHO, BZgA, AIDS Action Europe)
- Advocacy around UNGASS:
- Consequences of economic crisis for HIV in the region. The Commission is asked to provide information on the response to the TT questionnaire. Jaroslav informed that the Czech Republic has no funding any longer from the Ministry of Health

for HIV prevention. Central Europe and the Baltic States are starting to have problems due to the financial crisis. This results in almost zero funding for harm reduction programmes.

## 21.2 Action plan

What	Who	When
Send updated DG Sanco work-plan 2011 to CSF mailing list	Wolfgang	ASAP
CSF members to provide input into planning of DG Sanco work-plan, of ECDC evaluation framework and to agenda of Interservice Group	CSF members	Ongoing
Explore profile of MSM needs in the sexual health forum and share agenda of the 13 December meeting with CSF	Wolfgang Philipp	Before 13 December
Lobby MEPs to make sure that the public health program is appropriately funded	CSF members	Throughout 2011
Provide CSF with a list of 27 national liaison officers (FRA)	Martine de Schutter	ASAP
Share WHO country visit report in Lithuania to support action by the National network of PLHIV to alleviate the situation in Lithuania	Luis Mendao	ASAP
Call for CSF renewal to be disseminated by the Commission end 2010	Wolfgang Philipp	End 2010
CSF to draft a new letter to DG trade before the next round of negotiations in Brussels on 8 November and to address the EU Parliament on this issue.	Nicole Heine	Before 8 November
CSF to have good notice to have representatives from other DGs when needed	CSF co-chairs	When appropriate
ECDC to take note of comments on the M&E framework and to come back to the CSF after the Think Tank meeting	Teymur Noori	After TT
Henrik to disseminate report of the sexual and reproductive rights survey once it is published	Henrik Arildsen	8 December
Henrik to provide respondents with each others contact details to ensure follow up discussion	Henrik Arildsen	ASAP
Express support to the Think Tank relating to the monitoring and evaluation framework for the Communication and suggest that TT members support council conclusions on on the EU Communication	CSF representative s at TT	TT 27-10-10
Incorporate feed-back by CSF members to the draft CSF statement on EU drug policies, circulate the next draft with a feasible timeline for reaction by the CSF and finalise it.	Working group	ASAP
Ensure attention within the CSF on TB and other HIV-related conditions and include it in the agenda of future meetings	CSF coordination team	Next CSF meeting
Ensure appropriate reflection in CSF participants and agendas of related conditions such as TB and Hepatitis C	Commission	CSF selection process
Follow-up on key issues in relation to TB in the context of the Communication	CSF co-chairs, Commission and TB Europe	ASAP
Forward to CSF members ILO letter and the list of national contacts to which it was sent	Yusef	ASAP
Contact your government on the ILO recommendation on HIV and work	CSF members	ASAP
Share through the CSF email group the results of advocacy with the government on ILO recommendation	CSF members	ASAP
WHO to connect to the organisers of the Commission-funded Swedish meeting on MSM	Smiljka deLussigny	ASAP

WHO to connect to EACS regarding the treatment guidelines	Smiljka deLussigny	ASAP
UNAIDS to try to strategically involve the EU in the June high level meeting	Henning Mikkelsen	ASAP
The Commission to play an active role in ensuring a successful outcome for the planned UNGASS meeting in 2011	Wolfgang Philipp	Ongoing until UNGASS 2011
ECDC to thoroughly discuss the findings of the Dublin monitoring report with the TT and communicate the outcome back to the CSF.	Mika Salminen	After TT meeting
CSF members to use the Dublin monitoring report as a tool for benchmarking in their own countries.	CSF members	Ongoing
Send CSF statement on female condoms to Commission and circulate among CSF members and Think tank	CSF co-chairs	ASAP
Spanish Ministries and Commission to share lessons learned about harm reduction and HIV in prisons with Eastern Europe	Spain and Commission	ASAP
CSF members look into possibility of sharing of good practice between Spanish prison officer trade unions and those of other countries	Spain	ASAP
Involve DG Justice and bring the presentations on the Spanish example and the Northern Dimension to the attention of the Committee of the Regions	DG Sanco	ASAP
Liaise with the Health in Prisons project of WHO Europe	DG Sanco, DG Justice, Northern Dimension Partnership	Ongoing
Invite representative of the Health in Prisons project to the next CSF	CSF coordination team	Prior to the next meeting
Work on Council conclusions on testing and earlier care	ECDC, Commission, HIV in Europe	ASAP
Share results of national meeting in Spain on testing	Ferran Pujol I Roca	ASAP
Share outcomes on TT questionnaire on the economic crisis	Wolfgang Philipp	ASAP

## 22 List of annexes

- Participants list (Annex A)
- Agenda 15th HIV/AIDS Think Tank Meeting (Annex B)
- Implementation of the HIV action plan (Annex C)
- Monitoring the Commission Communication and Action Plan (Annex D)
- Sexual reproductive right and health mapping of PLHIV in Europe (Annex E)
- Draft Drug Policy position paper (Annex F)
- Engaging TB and TB/HIV advocates across the European Region (Annex G)
- The HIV/AIDS Response in Russia: Role and Challenges for Civil Society (Annex H)



- Recommendations concerning HIV and AIDS and the world of work (Annex I)
- Here I am campaign (Annex J)
- WHO Regional Office for Europe HIV/AIDS activities highlights (Annex K)
- PCB NGO Delegation to UNAIDS board, Overview of work (Annex L)
- EMCDDA activities related to infectious diseases among injecting drug users (Annex M)
- ECDC Responding to the Epidemic Key findings of the Dublin Declaration monitoring report (Annex N)
- Draft statement Female Condoms (Annex O)
- Harm reduction among drug users in Spain (Annex P)
- HIV in Prisons within the Northern Dimension area (Annex Q)
- HIV in Europe Initiative, Optimal testing and earlier Care (Annex R)