

Highlights from the 13th meeting of the HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum

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 organisations, including those representing people living with HIV/AIDS, in policy development and implementation and in information exchange activities. Below is a short overview of some of the topics that were discussed at the meeting (Brussels, June 27 & 28, 2011). The full meeting report and all presentations are soon available for download on the AIDS Action Europe website www.aidsactioneurope.org.

CSF Drugs Policy Statement: Putting Health and Human Rights first

The HIV community across Europe calls on the European Commission, European Parliament and EU member states to show political leadership in combating HIV/AIDS in the EU and neighbouring countries. To this end, a working group of the EU HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum (CSF) has developed a [Statement on Drugs Policies](#). The Statement has been disseminated in advance of the UNGASS High Level Meeting and was also shared with the Think Tank. At the CSF meeting it was agreed to link the drugs policy statement with other relevant policy papers and statements, among them the development of the new EU drugs policy

EC financing mechanisms for HIV/AIDS & drugs related projects

There are several funding opportunities for HIV/AIDS related projects and initiatives in addition to the Public Health Programme. An overview of grant opportunities within the EC is available at http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/grants_en.htm

CSF involvement in monitoring of the Commission Communication on HIV/AIDS

The CSF is working with ECDC on a questionnaire to monitor civil society activities at the regional and country level that have been influenced either by the Commission Communication or the membership of the CSF. ECDC will recollect data over summer and present draft results at the next CSF meeting.

Impact of financial cuts on drugs access and prescription

There is growing evidence, presented at this CSF meeting, that the financial crisis has an impact on the drugs being prescribed to patients. The CSF agrees to gather more evidence about the impact of the cuts on prescription, services and prevention programmes.

UNGASS High level Meeting

The CSF is concerned about the push-back on harm reduction observed in several countries. CSF members are asked to report back during the next CSF meeting on this issue and how they have utilised the meeting declaration.

And more:

Other topics that were discussed during this meeting of the CSF include:

- Joining forces to fight criminalization of HIV
- Current situation in Ukraine around ART and substitution treatment
- Preliminary results from the European MSM Internet Survey 2010
- Prison health Council Recommendations
- Results study on late presenters in Denmark

