

Bremen, 13 March 2007

Recommendations on universal access to HIV services for migrants and ethnic groups in the European Region

Taking into consideration:

- The EU efforts to address the migration issue and acknowledging the choice of this theme by the upcoming Portuguese presidency,
- The Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on combating HIV/AIDS within the European Union and in the neighbouring countries, 2006-2009,
- The Universal Human Rights Declaration adopted by UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948,
- The United Nations universal access agreement, 2005,
- The Dublin Declaration on Partnership to Fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia adopted on 24 February 2004,
- The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2000/C 364/01), particularly its Article 2 *Right to life*; Article 4 *Prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment*; para 2 of Article 19 *Protection in the event of removal, expulsion or extradition*; para 2 of Article 35 *Health care*;

Reiterating that public governance should:

- Be based on the best published evidence,
- Fill knowledge gaps and increase public health knowledge,
- Use cost-effectiveness principle and consider the long-term costs of failure to implement human rights approaches and good practice public health strategies,
- Allow emergency measures (e.g. the imposition of affordable prices for HIV/AIDS or hepatitis medications) in cases of endangerment of public health,
- Meaningful involve civil society organisations and concerned affected communities,
- Ensure that informed political decisions are taken and implemented in the shortest possible time;

Being aware that an effective response to HIV is possible only if:

- Universal access to HIV state-of-the art prevention, treatment, care and support is guaranteed for all persons living in 53 WHO Europe Region, regardless of their legal status,
- A special focus and priority in shaping strategies is given to migrants, ethnic communities and other vulnerable groups

Regretting that

- No high level representation of the EC attended the important Bremen conference of the German presidency,
- No meaningful and substantial funds are allocated to the approved EC HIV/AIDS Action Plan 2006 – 2009 and to the commitments taken by the EC, the European Parliament and the Council;

The EU HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum

Calls upon the European Parliament, the European Commission, the EU Council, Council of Europe and the Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area of CEEA (Central Europe Eastern Asia):

- Adopt concrete commitments on shared, coordinated decisions, plans and actions to ensure that universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support is guaranteed to all persons living in the EU and EEA countries and to promote these aims across Europe, regardless of their legal status or ethnic group,
- Approve a budget and a schedule for implementation of those shared, coordinated decisions, plans and actions under the leadership of the European Commission (DG SANCO),
- Agree on independent monitoring and evaluation of the implementation and results of those policies, led by UNAIDS/WHO with meaningful participation of the community.

Those activities should be implemented by the end of 2007.

These recommendations should be handled directly by a delegation of the Civil Society Forum to the President of the European Parliament and of the European Commission.