



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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"A" ITEM NOTE

from : General Secretariat
dated : 11 July 2003
to : Council

Subject : Preparation of the International Conference on support to the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, (Paris, 16 July 2003)
- Draft European Union Declaration

1. At its meeting in Thessaloniki on 19/20 June 2003, the European Council reaffirmed its commitments to combating HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria with a view to their eradication, called upon each Member State and the Commission to make a substantial contribution, on a long-term basis, to the financing of the Fund and pledged its support to the International Conference of donors and partners to be held in Paris on 16 July 2003.
2. On 10 July 2003, the Committee of Permanent Representatives agreed on the draft European Union Declaration set out in the Annex.
3. The Council is therefore invited to adopt the attached draft Declaration with a view to its presentation at the International Conference on support to the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to be held in Paris on 16 July 2003.

DRAFT

DECLARATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

to be presented at the International Conference on Support to the Global Fund for
HIV/AIDS/Malaria and Tuberculosis (Paris, 16 July 2003)

1. The European Union has defined in its May 2001 Council Conclusions on HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis its policies on the three diseases based on the Commission's Programme for Action on Communicable Diseases adopted in February 2001; the same policies were further specified in the EU Regulation on Poverty Diseases adopted in June 2003 whereby the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria is recognised as an additional financing instrument targeting these three diseases;
2. As indicated in the EU Council conclusions on the UN Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, endorsed at the European Council in Barcelona in March 2002, EU Member States collectively committed themselves, as a first significant step, to increasing their overall ODA volume in the next four years;
3. In its May 2002 Council Conclusions, the European Union agreed that a substantial share of the ODA increase should go to support for social development in developing countries with special emphasis on improving health and education outcomes, including the three major communicable diseases;
4. The European Union considers that the Global Fund can only be effective and achieve sustainable results if it builds upon and harmonises with existing systems and processes at national and international level.

5. The European Union considers that the Global Fund constitutes a significant opportunity to make progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and to advance towards the Millennium Development Goals in general. The success of this fight is highly dependent on well-functioning national primary health care systems.
6. The European Union re-affirms the urgent need to mobilise international private and public resources for the Global Fund and other channels addressing the three diseases, on a long-term sustainable, equitable and predictable basis;
7. The European Union recalls that, on an annual basis, the European Community and its Member States provide more than 50% of all current development assistance and 65% of world assistance for health, AIDS and population in developing countries. The European Community and its Member States currently provide 55% of the total pledges to the Fund;
8. As outlined in the European Council conclusions in Thessaloniki, the European Union "calls upon each Member State and the Commission to make a substantial contribution, on a long-term basis, to the financing of the Fund", which currently amounts to 2.5 billion dollars. The European Community and its Member States will, subject to their respective budget allocation processes as well as to the performance of the Global Fund, collectively continue their support, and if possible increase the contribution, in the coming years. In light of the seriousness of the situation, the European Union encourages other donors to do the same.
9. The Council invites the European Commission to follow up the outcome of the international conference of donors and partners in Paris on 16 July 2003 and the financial pledges made by the European Union at this event and to report back on the results achieved.
