

SAAWatch

The Global Health Communication

Last Month, SAA participated in the first Global Health Policy Forum – an informal monthly gathering of EU stakeholders active on global health—where the new EU Communication on “the EU’s Role in Global Health” was discussed. This new Communication is currently being drafted by the European Commission and is scheduled to be adopted by the Spanish EU Presidency in the first half of 2010. The Communication will

include some key guiding principles, which should apply to all EU internal and external actions related to global health. These include a rights approach, equity and universal coverage, and democratic governance.

In addition, the Communication will contain three different sub sections focusing on: Global health equity, global health coherence, and global health knowledge.

SAA welcomes the Communication but is raising

some critical questions such as how the Communication will be linked to current specific EU actions plans, including the European Programme for Action to Confront HIV, TB and Malaria? What kind of financing will be made available to implement the Communication? And how will the division of labour between the EC and EU Member States be applied?

The second Global Health Policy Forum will be held later this Month.

Cross-European Conference on delivering the right to health

The SAA is co-organising a cross-European conference on delivering the right to health with the health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on the 2nd of March. The conference is organized by the Action for Global Health network (AFGH), of which SAA is a partner organisation. Taking place in the European Parliament, the conference’s aim is to examine what concrete actions the EU institutions and Member States will need to undertake to ensure that

the health MDGs are to be achieved. The conference starts with a key note address by Mr. Andris Piebalgs, the new European Commissioner for Development. He will be followed by an EU presidencies panel and an EU institutions panel.

In the afternoon the conference continues with workshops that enable participants to discuss in detail issues relevant for achieving the health MDGs. The workshops address three key areas of the

AFGH’s policy and advocacy work, i.e. full funding, strong systems and fair access to health services. The goal of each workshop is to present four key recommendations to EU policy makers, which can be used by civil society actors in their ongoing advocacy efforts after the conference. The workshops have prominent resource persons from organizations both in the north and the south.

The conference will be attended by more than 200

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participants and SAA together with the AFGH network hopes for fruitful debates and idea exchanges in particular in influencing the EU’s position for the UN Review Summit on the MDGs in September 2010.

For more information on the conference and the AFGH network, visit www.actionforglobalhealth.eu

SAA event at the Joint Parliamentary meeting between EU and ACP

On March 30, Stop AIDS Alliance and GlobalSIDA, together with the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and UNAIDS, are organizing an event titled “Achieving the MDG Targets through Universal Access: Impact and responsibility” at the Africa, Caribbean Pacific – EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (ACP-EU JPA) which will be held March 28-31 in Tenerife, Spain. The aim of the meeting is to increase the parliamentarians’ awareness on the

current financial and political challenges to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment care and support and to equip them with key messages they can use with governments to ensure political and funding commitments are scaled up and universal access is included in national health plans. The event will be split in two parts. The first half of the meeting will focus on the current needs which need to be addressed in order to achieve universal access, as

a key milestone in achieving the MDGs. Magatte Mbodj from the International HIV/AIDS Alliance Senegal will also speak about the benefits of Global Fund contributions on the ground to achieve these targets. The Global Fund will highlight the impact that a fully funded Global Fund will have on achieving universal access and the MDGs. The second half of the event will focus on donor responsibility in achieving the afore-mentioned targets. Speakers will include Vanessa López, Executive Director of

GlobalSIDA, Spain, Dr. Anthony Seddoh from the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and a representative from the ACP. The aim of this part of the meeting is to mobilize MPs from the North and South to push for increased donor accountability in the achievement of the MDGs and the achievement of the interim target of Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010.