THE EU IN GLOBAL HEALTH

EU IN GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE

How the EU interacts with health processes at global level

The EU supports the World Health Organisation as the leading authority on global health in the United Nations system.

- The EU speaks with one voice in WHO's governing bodies. The Commission and the Member States establish a single EU position for delivery at WHO. The Commission cooperates with WHO Secretariat on health security, R&D, non-communicable diseases, health inequalities, as well as health systems and health information.

- The EU supports other global health multilateral processes and in particular the UN Human Rights Council, the UN General Assembly initiative on Non-Communicable Diseases, the health related Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, as well as the Post-2015 development agenda.

EU AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE FOR HEALTH

How EU global policies impact health

EU TRADE POLICY AND HEALTH

The globalisation of markets for health products, devices and services, a sector where the EU is a world leader, brings significant market opportunities but also challenges for quality and safety standards. This is why:

- The EU promotes its standards and norms to become global through regulatory cooperation;

- The EU integrates health concerns in multilateral and bilateral trade agreements and does not compromise on safety.

- With regard to access to medicines, the EU is committed to preserving access and affordability to essential medicines in line with the principles of the Doha Declaration.

EU DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND HEALTH

EU development aid to third countries aims at reducing health inequalities and at improving social cohesion through increasing equitable and universal access to quality health services and improving financial protection against excessive health expenditures.

- The EU provides support to countries to develop national health policies and to strengthen their health systems, including the availability of qualified health workers, the provision of safe, effective and affordable medicines, and the adequate financing of the sector.

- With €50bn per year, the EU is by far the biggest donor in the world: 56% of global public aid.

- Over the last 7 years, around 3.2 billion EUR have been spent in bilateral aid contributing to strengthening health systems and facilitating access to quality basic health services for all.

- In the Communication 'An Agenda for Change[1]' on the EU development policy, the EU commits to allocate at least 20% of the 2014-2020 aid budget to human development, including health.

- The EU complements country-level support through global health initiatives such as the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and GAVI – the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation.

EU AND GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

An interconnected world increases the risks of diseases emerging and spreading globally: emergence and spread of new pathogens; globalization of travel; rise of drug-resistant pathogens; bioterrorism and accidental release of pathogens. Therefore:

- The EU cooperates with the WHO and the G7 countries within the Global Health Security Initiative on preparedness and responses to the global health threats.

- The Commission and the Member States, within the EU Health Security Committee, address in coordination the main sources of health threats.

EU GOVERNANCE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

The principles and mechanisms of EU action for global health

The EU global health policy was defined in 2010 in two documents[2] that highlight the main challenges and set the principles for a stronger EU vision, voice, and action on global health: leadership, universal coverage, coherence of EU policies and knowledge.

- The EU strives for policy coherence between its internal and external policies. A comprehensive Global Health policy requires work across many sectors of government (trade, financing, development aid, migration, security, climate change, etc). It also implies working in partnership with all interested stakeholders.

- The EU promotes the values of solidarity towards equitable and universal coverage of quality health services as a basis for the EU policies.

- The EU has a central role to play in accelerating progress on global health challenges, including the health MDGs and non-communicable diseases.

- The EU and its Member States promote effective and fair financing of research that benefits the health of all. Towards that aim, the EU will ensure that innovative products are safe, effective, accessible and affordable.

More information: *http://ec.europa.eu/health/eu_world/global_health/*

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[1] COM(2011)637, Brussels 13 October 2011

[2] Commission Communication on Global Health COM(2010)128 Brussels, 31 March 2010 and Council conclusions on the EU role in Global Health 3011th FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council meeting Brussels, 10 May 2010