



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 23 November 2007

**15338/1/07
REV 1**

SAN 211

REVISED NOTE

from : Presidency

to : Delegations

No. prev. doc.: 14803/07 SAN 197

No. Cion prop.: 15925/05 SAN 218

Subject : **Combating HIV/AIDS within the EU and in the neighbouring countries**
“Translating principles into action”
- *Progress report*

Delegations will find in the annex a Progress report from the Presidency on the meeting of the National AIDS Coordinators from the European and Neighbouring countries and States from the WHO Europe and Central Asia Region on “*Translating principles into action in the European Region and EU Neighbouring countries*”, held in Lisbon on 12 and 13 October 2007.

1. In December 2005, the Commission adopted the Communication on combating HIV/AIDS within the European Union and in the Neighbouring Countries, 2006-2009, and the related Action Plan.
2. In April 2007 the European Parliament adopted a Resolution on combating HIV/AIDS within the European Union and in the Neighbouring Countries, 2006-2009.
3. In May 2007, the Council of Ministers of Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs adopted Council Conclusions on combating HIV/AIDS within the European Union and in the neighbouring countries which confirmed all declarations and commitments as well as strategic and political initiatives related to HIV and AIDS agreed and taken by the European Union as well as individual initiatives of the Member States, the European Parliament and the European Commission.
4. To implement all declarations and commitments, there is a need for complementary and coherent national strategies, programmes and technical solutions in all Member States and Neighbouring countries.
5. With its AIDS strategy, in 2004, the Commission created a Think Tank with representatives of the Member States, neighbourhood countries, Russia, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), international organisations, and civil society. This is the main body of coordination and discussion in implementing the AIDS strategy, and in sharing information and good practice on national HIV/AIDS strategies.

6. At the meeting organised by the Portuguese Presidency for the National AIDS Coordinators from the European and Neighbouring countries and States from the WHO Europe and Central Asia Region on "*Translating principles into action in the European Region and EU Neighbouring countries*" (Lisbon, 12 and 13 October 2007), it has been suggested to establish a technical working party of the HIV/AIDS National Coordinators that should meet, at least every two years, in order to:
- a) Agree on practical definitions, interpretations and priorities when translating principles into action;
 - b) Facilitate Member States Governments the analysis and decision on best practices and technical solutions for tackling the AIDS epidemic in Europe, involving relevant Multilateral and Civil Society Organizations;
 - c) Agree and provide information on collaborative, complementary and coherent national strategies and programmes.