

Stop TB Partnership

EU TASK FORCE (Actions since Addis Ababa)

Members of the EU Task Force:

- Martien Borgdorff (KNCV)
- Stefaan Van de Borght (Heineken)
- Risards Zaleskis (WHO EURO)
- Sheila Davie/Helen Marsh (Results UK)
- Nils Billo (IUTALD)
- Fiona Godfrey (ERS)
- Stefaan Kaufmann (Max Plank Institute)
- Marcos Espinal (Stop TB Partnership)
- Carole Francis (WHO HQ)
- Louise Baker (Partnership Secretariat)

A] The EU Task Force met by teleconference on:

1. 5th July 2005
2. 9th September 2005.

B] On the 10th and 11th of October 2005 led by Stefaan van der Borght, with the participation of Risards Zaleskis, Sheila Davie and Louise Baker a fact finding mission to European Union institutions in Brussels was undertaken.

As a result of that fact-finding mission, the EU TASK FORCE makes the following RECOMMENDATIONS to the STOP TB PARTNERSHIP COORDINATING BOARD:

- During 2006, the Partnership should establish a more significant presence in Brussels.
- The Stop TB Partnership should accept, with thanks, an offer of a 'hot desk' with the European Respiratory Society.
- An EU Group of ex-task force members, key partners and other Coordinating Board members should become a group or pool of expertise on EU affairs on the Board; supporting the Secretariat focal point with missions and meetings, as appropriate.
- The Secretariat should nominate a staff member to be the focal point of the EU Group establishing regular contacts with EU officials.

- The focal point and EU group regular visit officials of the European Union and establish cordial relations with key influencers - next round to include SANCO (Luxembourg) and ECDC in Stockholm.
- The focal point and EU Group would aim to 'monitor' and influence policy in four key areas:
 - Development - with a focus on ACP
 - European Neighborhood Policy (Eastern Europe)
 - Health - with a focus on ECDC
 - Research
- The focal point and EU Group work with advocacy partners to secure greater awareness of TB at a general level in the institutions, particularly among MEPS.
- The focal point and EU Group should broker technical assistance in proposal writing etc to key partners/consortium to secure a greater number and quality of grant proposals being submitted to the European Union (March 2006) under the poverty related disease budget line.
- A tool kit be developed to help TB programmes and partners to secure a greater share for TB in EU funding available at country level.
- When appropriate and feasible, EU delegations in a receiving country should be briefed by visiting TB partnership members.
- An event and seminar be held in 2006 to promote and mark closer relations with the European Union - e.g. European Parliament exhibition/MEPs briefing - to coincide with a High Level Mission of the Board - to include members of the Task Force and other Partners including patient/activists.

At the end of 2006, a further assessment of progress and the decision on whether to establish a permanent office, with a full time staff member, should be made.