



Action against AIDS Germany

Life is a human right  
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## Questions for the European Parliamentarian elections

Questions to the leading candidates

### 1. Financial contribution to the Global Fund

*The European Commission supported the GFATM during the last replenishment period (2017-2019) with € 475 million. More financial commitment is needed, if we want to achieve the sustainable development goals to end AIDS, TB and malaria by 2030. The world is not on track and donors need to increase their over-all contributions investments with at least 20% if we want to achieve the goals set.*

- Would you, as an elected European Parliamentarian, support an increase of 20% by the Commission for the Global Fund?

### 2. Access to medicines in Europe

*High prices in many middle-income countries (MICs) of the EECA region affect the availability of and the access to affordable quality medicines, notably antiretroviral drugs. National laws do not always allow direct public procurement via competitive tenders. Monopolies of pharma companies lead in some EU countries to enormous price differences. For instance, Poland and Latvia pay twenty respectively 19 times as much for a HIV drug (Abacavir) than Georgia that can make use of the GFATM Pooled Procurement Mechanism.*

*For many countries, another barrier to affordable quality assured medicines is the WTO – TRIPS agreement.*

*The fact that on the occasion of association agreements negotiations with low-middle income countries (LMICs) the EU tries to limit conditions regarding the use of TRIPS flexibilities Conclusion: National laws have to be adapted to allow for public procurement of medicines via competitive tenders. The EU has to safeguard the access of MICs and LMICs to affordable quality assured generic medicines:*

- How could you, could the EU – Parliament and the Commission influence national legislation to open the door for the procurement of indispensable drugs via competitive tenders?
- How can the EU Parliament, the EC and the EU member states contribute to a revision of the TRIPS agreement to avoid in the future negative effects for many countries to provide their populations with the drugs and treatments needed?

### **3. Mechanisms at European level to address stigma, discrimination and human rights violations**

*HIV is growing in many EECA countries. We have to face an increase of 30 % since 2010. However, stigma and discrimination, significant legal and cultural barriers within healthcare systems are continuing throughout the EECA region. Key populations are kept away from HIV prevention services. Some countries in Europe deny the needs of people living with HIV and human rights violations take place. Furthermore, HIV-Programs are often not based on scientific evidence, and punitive laws against groups affected by HIV and TB are in place, leading to stigma and discrimination. Decriminalization of drug use is also an important measure as it leads to low rates of HIV infection as was proofed in Portugal and in the Czech Republic among people who inject drugs. To achieve the SDG 2030 targets and end HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria, we have to put an end to criminalization and stigmatisation.*

- What do you deem necessary to undertake to accomplish the goal to achieve the SDG 2030 targets and to end stigma and discrimination?

- Which will be your personal contribution as an elected European Parliamentarian to end criminalisation and stigmatisation in Western Europe and the EECA region?
- Does it require structural provisions within the EU - Parliament, it's committees and the EU - Commission to avoid criminalisation and stigmatisation of at-risk groups? Which could that be?

#### **4. The EU financial transaction tax to support global development and global health**

*The European Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) got a new chance to come true. While some EU member states like Sweden and Ireland are unlikely to support the measure, 10 countries support the implementation of FTT. The FTT could be the means to close the financing gap, which we face and to bridge the 20 % shortfall of what is needed to reach the 2020 midterm and attain the 2030 targets to end HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria as epidemics for good. The vast majority of the Members of the European Parliament are in favour of the FTT, but a unanimous endorsement of the EU – governments is required.*

- Would you as an elected European Parliamentarian support the idea to support global development, including global health with income generated by the FTT?
- If yes, what are in your perspective the best arguments to advocate for the FTT?
- What will you as an elected European Parliamentarian undertake to champion the FTT and reduce the reservations among EU – governments?

#### **5. The position of the Global Fund within the SDG III framework and the value of unilateral global health approaches**

*A lot is currently happening within the global health architecture. The WHO got the mandate to create a Global Action Plan to reach the SDG III targets of*

*the United Nations and we all have to speed up our efforts to achieve the ambiguous goals. Politicians and global health experts ask for more and stronger multilateral efforts in order to achieve the SDGs. However, at the same time we experience growing tendencies that challenge global agreements and solidarity favouring unilateral instead of multilateral approaches.*

- Would you as a European Parliamentarian support a stronger mandate for multilateral global health entities, such as, for example, the WHO, the Global Fund, UNAIDS and GAVI?
- How would you position the Global Fund within the SDG III framework and a new global health architecture?

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