



Member of the European Parliament

**URGENT OPEN LETTER**

Lady Catherine Ashton  
High Representative of the Union for  
Foreign Affairs and Security Policy  
BRU BERL 12/207

Concerns: High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in New York, 8-10 June 2011

Ref: 010611/RRS

Brussels, 1 June 2011

Dear High Representative,

As you will know, thirty years into the AIDS epidemic, and 10 years since the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS, the world will come together to review progress and chart the future course of the global AIDS response at the 2011 UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AIDS from 8-10 June 2011 in New York.

Over the past decade, the AIDS response has demonstrated its value as a high impact investment which has yielded returns for HIV, as well as larger goals of health, development and human rights

The EU collectively has greatly contributed to the above achievements and has played a strong leadership role in the global AIDS response, which it needs to strongly uphold to ensure that the progress and investments already made will not erode.

However, we are deeply concerned by the ongoing negotiations on the Draft Outcome Document for the UNGASS. This "Zero Document" initially had high ambitions as outlined by the UN Secretary General's Report of March 2011 entitled "Uniting for universal access: towards zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths". As of yet, the draft fails to meet any of its targets.

Though the EU is supporting the UNAIDS Strategy 2011-2015 and the strengthening of health and community systems, its overall position and its sense of leadership is worryingly weak. More confusingly, it seems the EU is preventing any progress on an ambitious outcome.

The EU is refusing to concretely take forward the six goals for 2015 called for in the Report of the UN Secretary-General. It is reconsidering the financing of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria as well as curbing any negotiations on access to medicines, affordable generics and TRIPS and additional innovative financial mechanisms.



I trust you will agree that the EU's positioning on these issues, together with strong policy coherence on development, is key to achieving Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, and meeting the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

We therefore urge you to do all you can to get the EU to reconsider its position while its representatives continue the negotiations on the Outcome Document, and most importantly, to ensure that the EU is seen as strengthening and leading the global AIDS response.

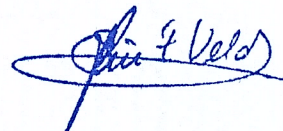
Now is the time to redouble our pledge to a strong, targeted and sustainable global AIDS response, to research and development of a vaccine and to further advances in the treatment of people living with AIDS and HIV. At a time when governments across the world are looking for excuses to cut their commitments to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 we must keep up the pressure to ensure that we multiply our efforts, not reduce them.

All eyes will be on the High-Level Meeting on 8-10 June 2011, and the EU should re-establish its leadership role.

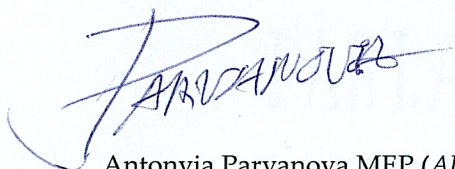
Yours sincerely,



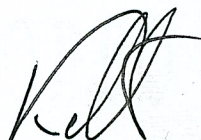
Michael Cashman MEP (S&D)



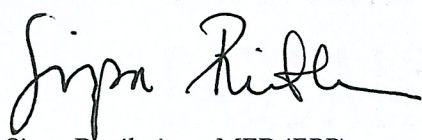
Sophie In't Veld MEP (ALDE)



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*Ambassador, Acting Head of the Delegation of the EU to the UN*