



EU role in Global Health

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16 October 2009



TREATY OF AMSTERDAM

ART.152

2. The Community shall encourage **cooperation** between the Member States in the areas referred to in this Article and, if necessary, lend **support** to **their action**.

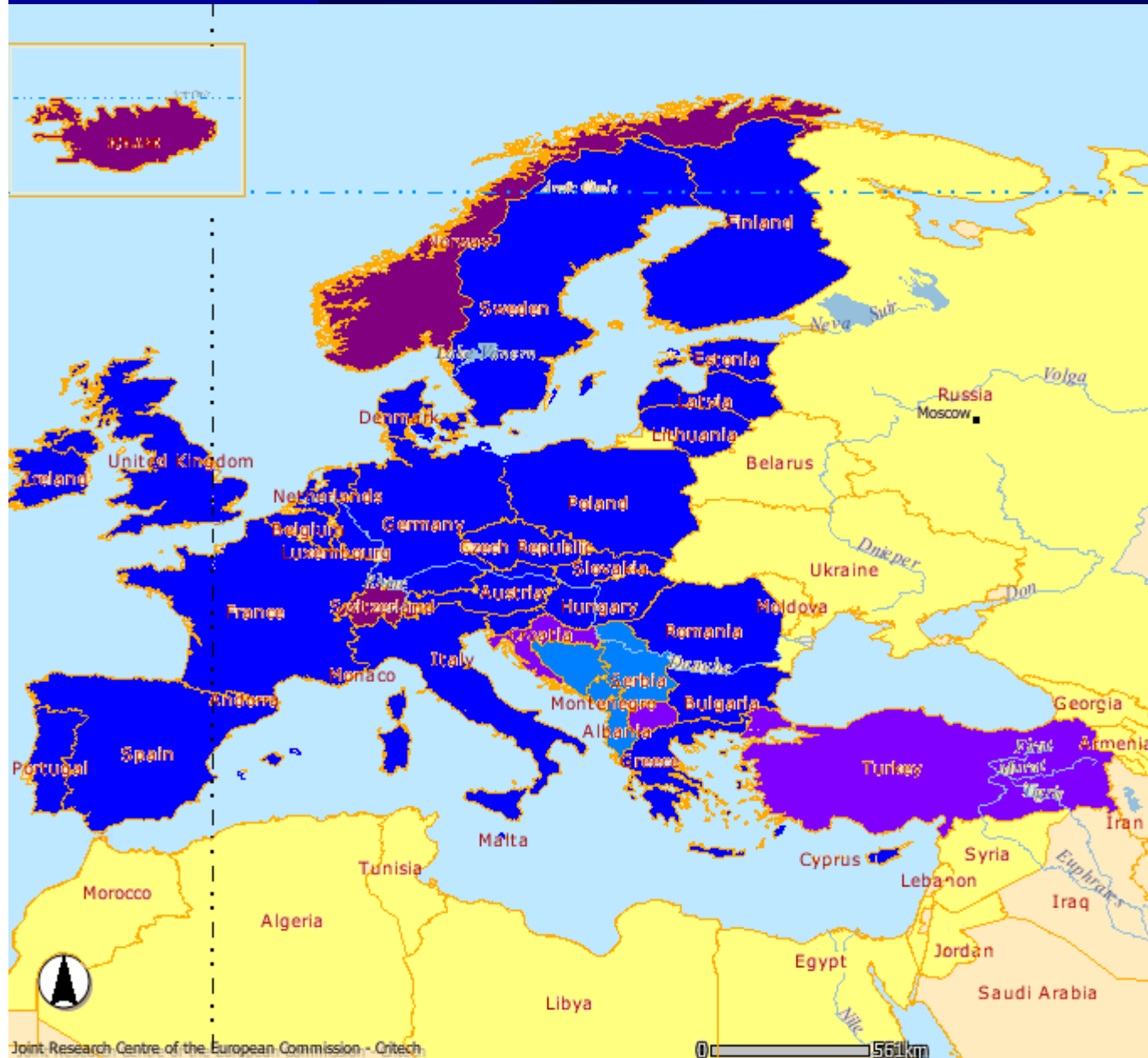
3. The Community and the Member States shall **foster cooperation with third countries** and the competent **international organisations** in the sphere of public health.



EU Health Strategy

4th FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE: **Strengthening the EU's voice in Global Health**

- Enhance the Community's status in international organisations
- Strengthen cooperation on health with strategic partners and countries, with a particular emphasis on the regional dimension and on candidate, potential candidate and ENP countries;
- Include health in the EU external assistance
- Promote implementation of international health agreements (FCTC, IHR)

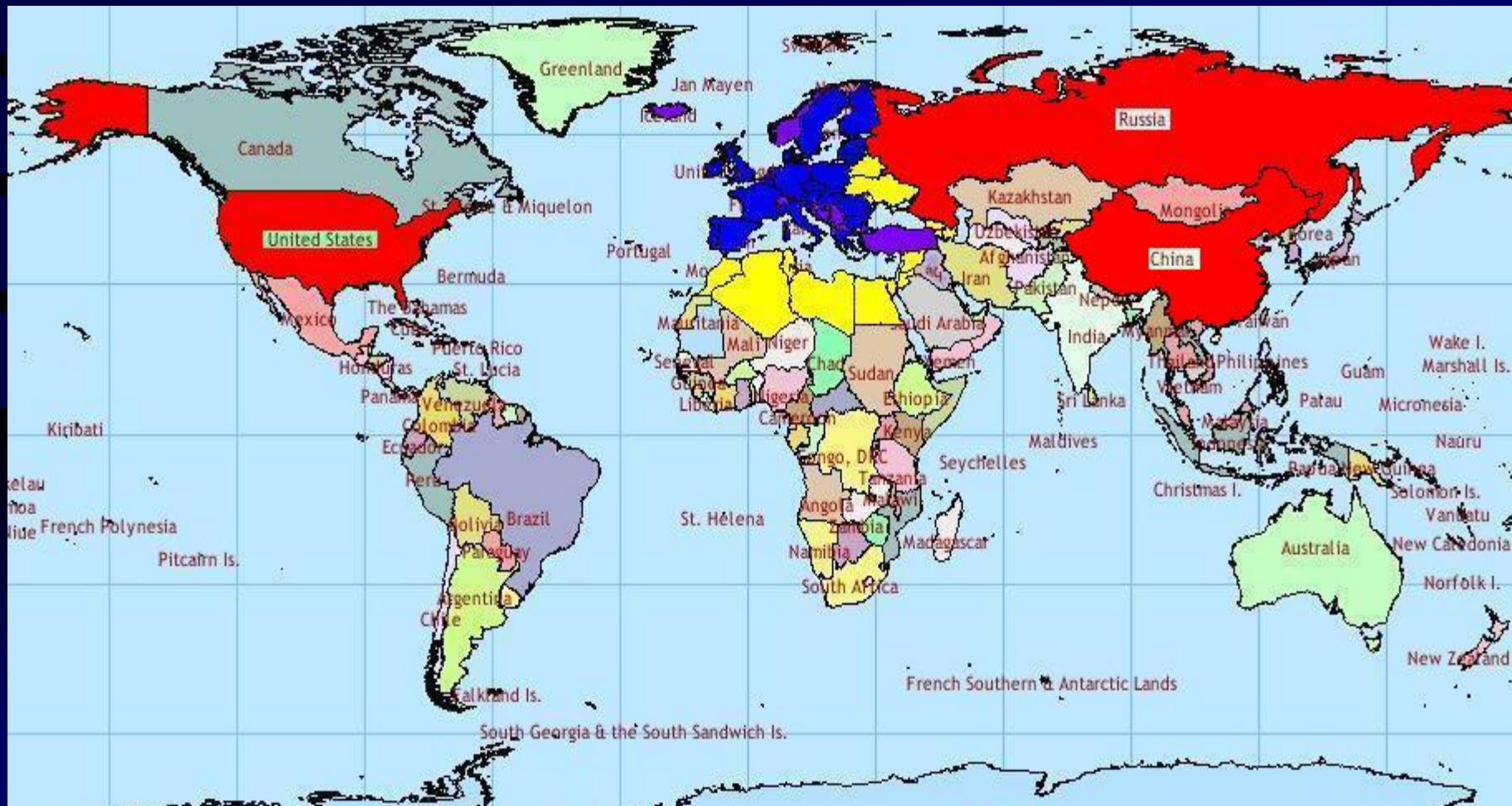


Joint Research Centre of the European Commission - Ortech

- European Union (EU) 27 Member States**
- Overseas territories (OT)**
Greenland, French OT
- Customs Union**
Andorra, San Marino, Turkey
- European Free Trade Area**
Norway, Iceland, Switzerland
Liechtenstein
- EU candidate countries (CC),**
- Croatia, Turkey, fYRoM
- potential candidate countries (PCC)**
Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina,
Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo
- European Neighbourhood Policy**
Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan,
Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel,
Jordan, Moldova, Morocco,
Lebanon, Libya, Palestinian
Authority, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine
- ENP participation under
discussion**
Kazakhstan
- Russia – ENPI & bilateral relations**



EU and global health





Look who's talking...

Recent high level of attention in :

- UN General Assembly
- World Health Assembly
- ECOSOC

Policy attention in US, BR, CH, UK, FR, NO...

- Foreign policy
- National health strategies
- Development partnerships
- Global public goods



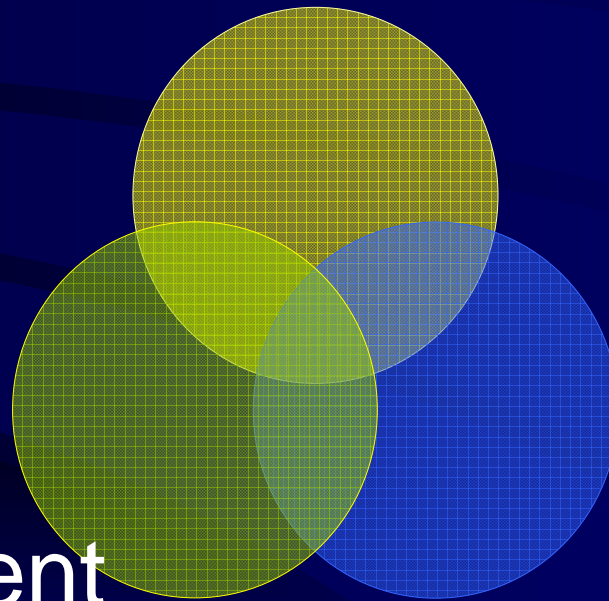
about Global Health?

- There is no standard definition.
- Global Health is an expansive multi-sectoral area that links not only the main policy areas of development, humanitarian, research and health, but also of trade and foreign policy.



GH Traditional view

Governance



Development

Security



GH ...EUPH view

EU Public Health Programme 2008-1013

Fostering
Good Health
In An
Ageing Europe

Protecting Citizens
from
Health Threats

Supporting
Dynamic Health Systems
And New Technologies

Shared Health Values

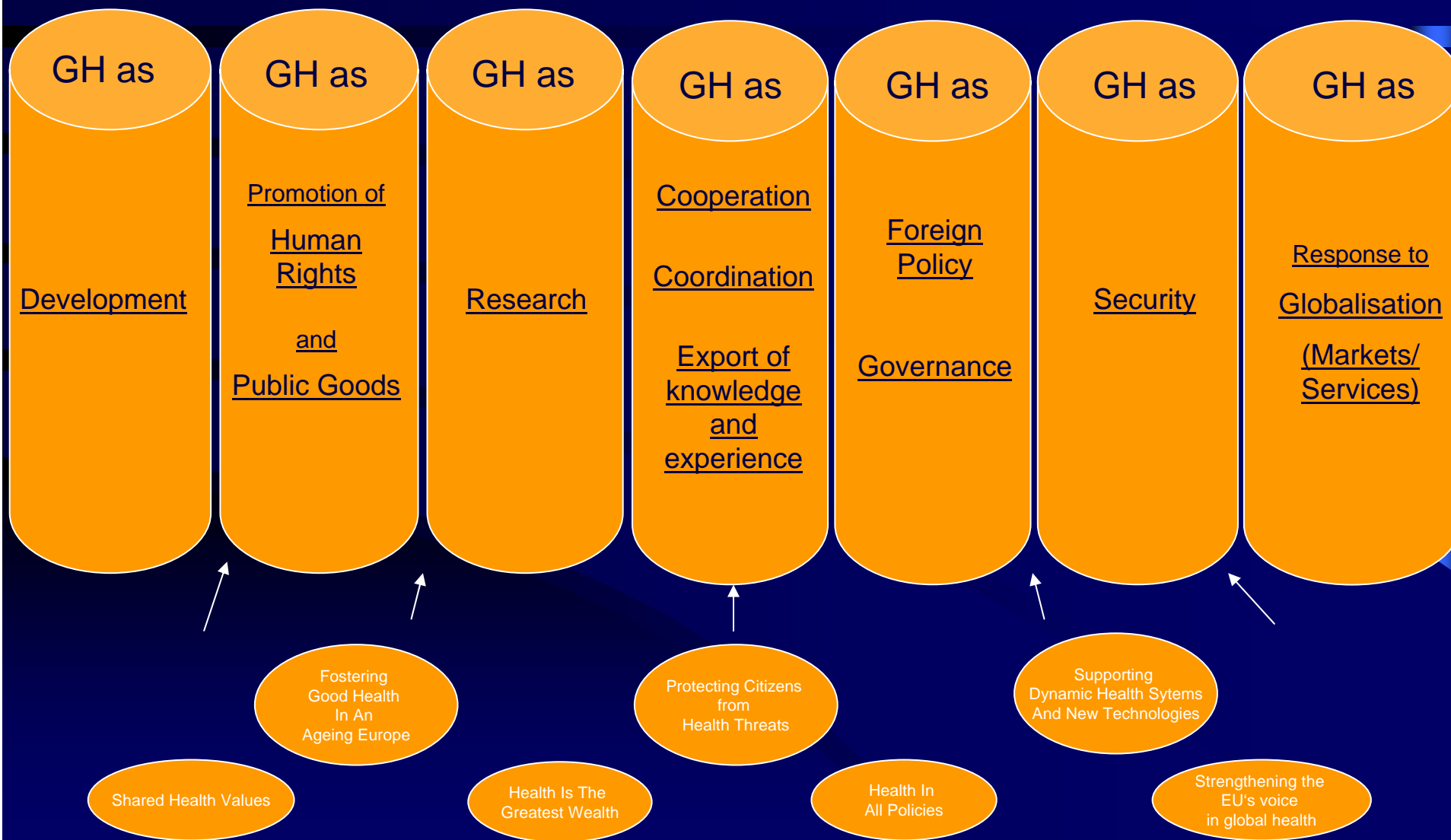
Health Is The
Greatest Wealth

Health In
All Policies

Strengthening the
EU's voice
in global health



Metaphoric view





Challenges

Major and growing health **inequity**

- availability of national resources varies greatly across countries
- weak health systems neglecting the poor, and some health priorities

Need to strengthen **coherence** in external and internal policies

- Global factors subject to global market dynamics
- Global governance and security

Weak equity and ownership of global health **knowledge**

- biased by market forces
- neglect diseases and communities from low-resource contexts



Inequity

- WHO Commission on Social Determinants
- Wide variations across EU
- But what about Sub-Saharan Africa?
 - at least 20 million people die prematurely (half of them under 5) in developing countries due to inadequate *access to basic healthcare*
- International aid to health
 - *tripled* in the last decade
 - increased fragmentation and opportunity cost
 - access to basic health care remains low

Fragmented and increasing global- and country-level demand for data in a Country



Global Alliance to Eliminate Leprosy (GAEL)

Initiative on Public-Private Partnerships for Health

Concept Foundation

Accelerating Access Initiative

President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)



SECURE THE FUTURE[®]



US Presidential Initiative

FIGHTING MALARIA

SAVING LIVES IN AFRICA



The Micronutrient Initiative



Pediatric DENGUE VACCINE INITIATIVE



Fragmentation

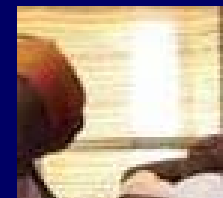
- 100+ global initiatives
- Advocacy by problem, funding gap, vertical approaches, duplication and opportunity cost

- Basic service for a safe delivery



- or...

- MDG 4 : reduce neonatal death
- MDG 5 : improve maternal health
- MDG 6: AIDS, malaria, TB etc





Trend

- MDG targets unlikely to be achieved
- Inequalities are increasing between and within countries in the main health indicators
- The effects of climate change, increasing burden of NCDs, financial crisis and H1N1 don't help



Consequences

- > 100 million people in developing countries fall into poverty each year
- Poor health reverberates
 - in the economy
 - prospects of future development
 - social cohesion
 - security and stability



EU GH equity

- Strengthen health systems through a Primary Health Care approach.
- Increase the collective EU support levels (linked with the EU Agenda for Action on MDGs and its prospects beyond 2010, and the existing commitments in ODA: 0.7% GDP)
 - cross-country equity of health ODA (linked with the need to apply the division of labour to key sectors, as health).
 - increase level of alignment (as committed in Paris and Accra) behind comprehensive national strategies,

Adhering and progressing on the « global compact principles » of the IHP and its links to the global initiatives ad GFATM and GAVI.
based on coordinated and effective health policy dialogue (as recommended by the Court of Auditors).



Coherence - globalisation

The effects of globalization in health increasingly affect the health of all countries

- Exponential growth of communication and digital information enabling progress in knowledge and tools to better health
- Increasing and expanding flows of people, goods and potential health risks (infectious agents and toxic substances) mean opportunities but also threats to all countries
- The net effects on globalization are often negative on the poor economies and countries with weaker institutions

...exacerbating the global health inequalities



Coherence - migration

- The crisis in human resources for health is a global one
- Growing brain drain...
- A disproportionate share of workers moving to developed countries are college-educated
- Despite many bilateral and regional agreements, the pull effect of growing economic gaps continue to drain and undermine knowledge, skills and social commitment from developing countries
- Within the European Union some of Member States suffer from the internal and external brain drain
- Are we ready for a midwife crisis?



Coherence - trade

- Liberalization of flows of *trade of goods and services*
- Market alone cannot address the needs of developing countries.
- TRIPS has provided a framework for patents
- But TRIPS framework is now facing new challenges



Coherence - threats

- International travel, migration and trade increase risks
- Need to better prevent, predict, detect, and react to the international spread of disease and other health risks
- But developing countries face limitations to improve their surveillance and response capacities and
- H1N1 shows inequities for vaccines and medicines: how to reconcile equity with market dynamics?



Governance

- Expect UN and its specialised agencies to lead on global health
- Non-inclusive initiatives (there are over 140 global health initiatives at present) risk undermining GH governance
- There is thus an urgent need to
 - find shared values and approaches in the area of global health that would be embodied in the relations between countries.
 - Increase the democratic governance and the effective leadership of multilateral agencies and the UN
- Role of EC/EU in the process/UN agencies



Knowledge - CxHRD

Commission on Health Research for Development (1990)

- 5% of funds addressed developing countries, with 93% of global disease
- Called for targets of 2% of national health expenditures, 5% of international health ODA, more effective coordination, and compliance with the principles of "essential national health research" (ENHR) addressing ownership, participation and pertinence of health research)

The last decade has witnessed

- Increasing levels of resources and actors
- Diversity and fragmentation of the research funding architecture raising the issues of critical mass, thematic overlap, accountability and transparency



Knowledge - CxHRD

- Progress of CxHRD:
 - Very few countries have progressed towards the 2% target
 - 90/10 gap while health disparities widen
 - > 50 developing countries are using the ENHR strategy but effective participation is marginal
 - Local ownership, training and retaining human resources for research need to be addressed
 - Health research agendas are often dominated by basic science
 - Need increased attention to implementation science and health service R&D
- The problems of global health research mirror those of health systems:
 - Volume
 - Equity
 - Ownership
 - Links to evidence-based decision-making



EU GH knowledge

- EU Global Health Research requires
 - greater levels of (bio-medical and public health) research from and for developing countries,
 - greater equity and pertinence to the priorities in developing countries;
 - improved ownership of the national institutions and participation of civil society
 - a more structured and effective link with evidence-based decision making; closely linked with the EU challenge of enhanced health sector policy dialogue.
- The global research funding architecture needs to be harmonised and aligned.
- The EU will recall the international attention to the *global public good for health* and call for global investments in the advance of humanity in health, beyond and in addition to development and research efforts.



Global public goods for health

- There is a stagnant agenda in relation to GPGH
- Investment in GPGH globally has a direct return and benefit for all.
 - The clearest example is the eradication of diseases e.g. smallpox, polio (?) with global and generational gains
 - Development of new and improved drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, microbicides, tools for disease control, or prevention for GH priorities
 - Detection or development of basic knowledge of a priority global health problem (e.g. Alzheimer's pathogenesis)
- Investments in a globally agreed agenda of GPGH would deserve concerted global financing complementary and additional to research and development funds



Policy objectives

The overall framework of the Communication
"The EU role in Global Health" could be to

- *Lay out the present global situation and challenges regarding Global Health*
- *Examine the present EU role*
- *Determine the potential for enhancing EU added value in the global architecture*
- *Promote European principles and values for global health*



Principles

- *Subsidiarity and local ownership*
- *Equitable and universal access to good quality health care*
- *Solidarity*
- *Coherence*



On-line Consultation

The Commission has published an online consultation to garner ideas and comment in relation to the EU role on global health

<http://ec.europa.eu/health>

October – December 2009

Public Health

EUROPA > European Commission > DG Health and Consumers > Public Health

Overview of Health Strategy Health Programme Health Information Health determinants Health systems International Risk Assessment

Special Topics

- Alzheimer's disease and other dementias
- Health Security and Bio-terrorism
- Blood & Tissues
- Cancer
- Communicable Diseases
- Cross-border Healthcare
- EU Health Forum
- European Health Examination Surveys
- Extreme weather conditions
- Health Reports
- Health Indicators
- Health & Environment
- Health Workforce
- HIV/AIDS
- Injury prevention and Injury Database
- Major and chronic diseases
- Mental Health
- Nutrition
- Patient Safety
- Pharmaceutical Forum
- Rare Diseases
- Scientific Committees
- Tobacco

Commissioner **Androulla Vassiliou**

Overall mission

Together with the Member States, the European Union aims to protect and promote the health of its citizens ...

News



Open Consultation from DG Development: Issues Paper - The EU role in Global Health

[Read more](#)

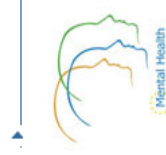


At the European Health Forum Gastein conference from 30 September to 3 October 2009 in Bad Hofgastein/Austria, a Joint Parallel Forum session on Tackling Health Inequalities in Europe was hosted by DG Health & Consumers and DG Research. **The programme outline - main aim and objectives - and all presentations were published now**

[Read more](#)



Cancer
Launch of the European Partnership for Action Against Cancer, 29 September 2009



Mental Health
EU Thematic Conference "Promotion of Mental Health and Well-being of Children and Young People - Making it happen" 29th- 30th September, Stockholm
Organised by European Commission and Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs under the auspices of the Swedish Presidency

[Read more](#)

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Title

The EU role in Global Health

Policy activity

Health in Development and External relations, health in Europe, Research

Target group(s)

Civil society related to the above areas, academic institutions, UN agencies, Private sector, key partners in Global Health

Period of consultation

14/10/2009 - 09/12/2009

Objective

Global Health has gradually and rightfully taken a priority space in the areas of foreign policy, national health strategies, development partnerships and global public goods. The dimensions of equity and the global factors affecting health are challenged by the globalization and require an enhanced and inter-disciplinary and coherent approach of internal and external policies and strategies. In view of the above mentioned challenges, there is a need to better identify the role and strategy of the EU in the present global health challenges.

How to submit your contribution

Comments are sent to a functional mailbox: DEV-GLOBAL-HEALTH@ec.europa.eu

Individuals, organisations and countries that wish to participate in the consultation process are invited to **complete the questionnaire annexed to the issues paper**.

In order to submit your contribution, you will be requested to register by introducing some information allowing us to know who you are and how to contact you. Moreover, this will allow you to access your own contribution at any time in order to modify/suppress it. It is important for us to be able to contact, if necessary, the contributors to continue the dialogue or ask for additional information.

Consolidated contributions might be published. If you object to the publication of your contribution, please let us know. In such cases the content will not be published.

See the specific Privacy Statement attached to this consultation for information on how your personal data and contribution will be dealt with.

SEARCH I

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Questions

- Question 1:** In your opinion, does the proposed concept 'global health' cover the most relevant dimensions? If not, which other essential factors would you suggest?
- Question 2:** Are the effects of globalisation on health, on the spread of diseases (whether communicable or life-style non-communicable) and on equitable access to health care sufficiently described?
- Question 3:** Do you consider the health-related MDGs a sufficient framework for a global health approach? If not, what else should also be considered?
- Question 4:** In your opinion, which are the main strengths and weaknesses of the current EU policy on health and development cooperation, and which dimensions should be given greater attention in order to face the challenges ahead?
- Question 5:** Could you identify health problems that have been neglected by the EU and international health research agenda and propose the best means to support innovation to address them, especially in low- and middle-income countries?
- Question 6:** Do you think that ODA commitments for health should increase, and how do you think that other sources of financing could contribute to addressing global health and universal access?
- Question 7:** How do you think fragmentation of aid for health could be reduced, with a view to increasing aid effectiveness and preventing detrimental health spending?
- Question 8:** In the context of aid effectiveness and alignment of financing to national priorities, what can be done to make sure that adequate attention is paid to health priorities and to strengthening health systems?
- Question 9:** What are your suggestions for striking the right balance between addressing health priorities and providing support for developing health systems?
- Question 10:** What are the main opportunities for increasing the level and enhancing the effectiveness of health aid from the EU?
- Question 11:** In your opinion, what are the links between health, governance, democracy, stability and security and how could the right to health be put into operation?
- Question 12:** What impact will the global crisis (climate change, food prices and economic downturn) have on global health and what could be done to help mitigate their ill effects?
- Question 13:** What should be the role of civil society in the health sector, at national and local levels?
- Question 14:** Which action do you think the EU should take to stem the brain drain of health workers, while respecting their freedom of movement?



Questions

- Question 15:** What role do you see for new technologies (including telemedicine) in enabling developing countries to provide access to care even in remote areas and to allow better sharing of knowledge and expertise between health professionals, and how can the EU support this?
- Question 16:** What are the keys to ensuring equitable access to medicine and how could the EU help to do more on this, including by supporting innovation and management of intellectual property rights?
- Question 17:** What could the EU do to improve the research funding for global health?
- Question 18:** How, in your opinion, could the EU research funding effectively address the systemic weaknesses of health systems worldwide?
- Question 19:** How do you think national capacity and local scientists in low-income countries could be empowered to conduct research relevant to their countries' priorities?
- Question 20:** Which kinds of global public goods for health should be given priority and how should they be financed and managed?
- Question 21:** Which do you think are the priority areas for coherence on global health policies, and how should they be addressed?
- Question 22:** How could the legitimacy and efficiency of the present global health governance be improved and which role should the EU play in this?
- Question 23:** Do you think a definition of a universal minimum health service package would facilitate a rights approach and progress towards more equitable coverage of services? If so, how could such a universal minimum standard be defined?
- Question 24:** What, in your opinion, should be the main principles guiding equitable social protection for health?
- Question 25:** Which fair financing principles and mechanisms should apply to health system financing to ensure equitable and universal coverage of basic health care?
- Question 26:** What is the role of civil society in global and national health governance and how can potential conflicts of interest between advocacy and service provision be avoided?
- Question 27:** What, in your view, is the main added value offered by the EU in the field of global health?
- Question 28:** Do you think that an EU social model could inspire global health equity?



Event

Final stage of consultation is
11-12 February 2010

High-level event in Charlemagne Building

This paper was produced for a meeting organized by Health & Consumers DG and represents the views of its author on the subject. These views have not been adopted or in any way approved by the Commission and should not be relied upon as a statement of the Commission's or Health & Consumers DG's views. The European Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this paper, nor does it accept responsibility for any use made thereof.