

Global Health Policy Forum, 22 March 2012

- Summary of discussions -

28 participants (see list in annex)

Meeting organised and chaired by DG DEVCO, taking over the coordination of the GHPF throughout 2012.

The first part of the meeting consisted of a round of information on past events and forthcoming initiatives of interest to the group.

1) Update by the Commission

- DG SANCO: information on the recent Senior Officials Meeting between the WHO and the European Commission (Brussels, 6-7 March) which objective was to take stock of and take forward the collaboration between both institutions on main strategic elements; information on the World Health Assembly, scheduled to meet in Geneva from 21–26 May 2012.

- DG RTD: information on the upcoming Conference on "Innovation in healthcare without borders" (Brussels, 16-17 April - http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/events-13_en.html).

- DG DEVCO: information on its intention to propose a Communication in 2013 on a 'programme for action' (PfA) on Global Health. Formal approval is still needed from SecGen and the Collège in order place the item in the 2013 Commission Work Programme which is due for adoption by December 2012.

If confirmed, the Commission will launch a consultation process (on the basis of an issues paper to be released before the summer) in order to allow interested stakeholders to contribute to the preparation of this PfA.

Questions were raised on the implementation of the 20% spending benchmark for "human development and social inclusion" (as stated in the EU Development Policy Communication 'Agenda for change') and on its consequences for health programming. Recalling the principle of country-ownership which must guide EU programming, DEVCO indicated that it will support EU Delegations to consider EU support for health in their dialogue with partner countries.

2) Tour de table

Participants informed the rest of the group of ongoing and foreseen activities related to Global Health.

Activities presented touched upon issues such as: immunisation, nutrition, research and innovation, private-sector involvement, innovative financial mechanisms, HIV/AIDS and the GFATM, access to medicines and health services, health-related MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda, etc.

The second part of the meeting was focused on discussing ideas of topics for future meetings of the GHPF.

3) Discussion on topics for future meetings

A number of participants had sent their suggestions in written; others raised them during the meeting. Suggested topics include:

1. Social Determinants of Health:
 - a. follow-up to the 2011 Rio conference
 - b. linking it with other issues such as nutrition, sanitation or equity
2. Global Health and Research & Development
 - a. ensuring the new EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation ('Horizon 2020') fully integrates financing of research for global health
 - b. strengthening policy coherence for development (esp. links between EU Research and Development policies and programmes)
3. Private sector involvement: defining the private sector and its role in healthcare delivery and health sector development
4. The problem of sub-standard pharmaceutical products
5. The comprehensive approach to health systems strengthening and its consequences on the fight against communicable diseases
6. The Multi-annual Financial Framework and the 20% benchmark
7. Global Health and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

There appeared to be general interest and concurring views on the particular relevance of two topics: Private sector involvement; R&D and Global Health.

There was also agreement on DEVCO's proposal to dedicate one of the next meetings to discussing some key issues related to the preparation of the PfA on Global Health (this could for instance include topics 5 and 6, and/or others).

4) Format of the next meetings of the GHPF

Drawing on the lessons learnt from last year, it was agreed that discussions should focus on specific themes with very concrete issues to be discussed. The number of presentations will also be limited so as to allow more interaction and focused discussion. If need be, the length of the meetings could be slightly extended.

=> Tentative dates & topics for next meetings of the GHPF

- 21 June 2012: Private sector involvement in healthcare delivery
- 20 September 2012: Follow-up of consultation process in view of PfA on Global Health
- 6 December 2012: R&D and Global Health

Participants will be informed in due time (3-4 weeks prior to the meetings) of the exact date, chosen topics and questions for the debate.

=> Further information on the GHPF is and will continue to be available here:
http://ec.europa.eu/health/eu_world/events/index_en.htm#anchor0 **more**

=> Should you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to:
europaaid-global-health@ec.europa.eu