



Geneva Health Forum 2008

Strengthening Health Systems and the Global Health Workforce

PS025

Global Health: A European Perspective

Wednesday May 28 2008
14:00-15:30
International Conference Centre Geneva
Room 3

Session outline

The recognition of the need for policy coherence and strategic direction in relation to global health is only just beginning to emerge in Europe - both within countries and at the level of the European Union (EU). An important new signal is the new Health Strategy of the European Commission, "Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-2013" which introduces "Strengthening the EU's voice in global health" as one of the four basic principles of its integrated approach. Also in a recent Communication "EU as a global partner for development", the Commission proposes a number of actions to encourage Member States to increase the volume and the effectiveness of aid as well as areas where EU policies could be better coordinated to support the Millennium Development Goals. The Commission maintains that European values should drive its efforts in global health - as does a briefing document produced by the European Foundation Center "European perspectives on Global Health - A policy glossary». The panel will discuss what a European perspective on global health can mean from a range of perspectives including the Commission, the European NGO network Action for Global Health, a European reproductive health NGO and Switzerland, the host country to many global health organizations. The panel will also provide the opportunity to discuss a new initiative for a European Council on Global Health.

Background documents

A European council on global health, The Lancet, 2008
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608607412/fulltext>
[This paper from the Lancet requires a subscription]

European perspective on global health: A policy glossary European Foundation Centre, 2006
http://www.eldis.org/UserFiles/File/GHF/European_perspective_2.pdf

Swiss health foreign policy: Agreement on health foreign policy objectives Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland, 2006
http://www.eldis.org/UserFiles/File/GHF/European_perspective_3.pdf

Together for health: a strategic approach for the EU: 2008-2013
Commission of the European Communities, 2007
http://www.eldis.org/UserFiles/File/GHF/European_perspective_4.pdf