



## HIV EUROPE

Report of an informal meeting held at the Sheraton  
Hotel, Place du Rogier, Brussels  
on 27 November 2007

This meeting was possible only through member organisation representatives also being participants at the HIV in Europe 2007 conference which was supported by Gilead Sciences Limited.

### Participants:

#### Member organisations

Henrik Arildsen*	Chairman	HIV Europe	Denmark
Jurgis Andriuska		Posityvus Gyvenimas	Lithuania
Andreas Berglof		HIV Sverige	Sweden
Margherita Campania		NPS Italia	Italy
Bernard Forbes*			UK
Kimmo Karsikas		Positivset ry	Finland
Wojtech Tomczynski*		SIEC Plus	Poland
Nikos Dedes		EATG	(Greece)
Wim Vandavelde		GAT	Portugal

\* = steering group member

#### Prospective member organisations

Igor Sobolev	Estonian Network of PLWH
Sandris Klavins	AGIHAS Latvia
Ivo Prochazka	Czech Republic

The meeting was convened during the lunch break from the formal proceedings of HIV In Europe 2007. Henrik Arildsen had to leave almost immediately in order to prepare for the afternoon workshop sessions.

Bernard Forbes and Wojtech Tomczynski gave an update from a meeting of the steering group which had taken place earlier.

Everyone was pleased with the profile of HIV Europe at the HIV in Europe 2007 event, with many member organisation representatives taking speaking roles, moderating or presenting during sessions throughout the conference.

#### 1 Funding

Henrik had difficulties in obtaining funding for the proposed autumn 2007 meeting in Copenhagen at WHO Europe. The steering group had agreed to postpone that meeting to spring 2008 while potential funders were approached with a two year proposal.

2 Planning for 2008

The proposals for 2008/9 included trying to hold two stakeholder meetings, inviting WHO, EATG and AIDS Action Europe for dialogue in who is doing what, to avoid duplication and ensure cooperation on issues of shared concern. Additionally there would be two member meetings of HIV Europe and steering group meetings prior to all meetings.

It was hoped to hold meetings in the order agreed at Zurich in May (Denmark, Portugal, Finland, Croatia, Iceland) if possible.

A review of UNGASS 2006 was due. HIV Europe was committed to assisting by highlighting failures to deliver on the commitments, not exclusively but in particular on GIPA, access to treatment, and prevention.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Eastern European and Central Asian Conference was due in Moscow during 2008.

IAS Mexico – discussions continuing on how HIV Europe would participate, perhaps the same as last time sharing a stand in the Global Village with NorPol. Depends on funding and on member representatives funding their own attendance at the International AIDS conference.

3 Website

Discussion about publishing minutes or reports of HIV Europe meetings on the website. Question: do individuals have a problem with assumptive disclosure of HIV status (not that all participants actually are HIV positive, but anyone reading the list of names could make the assumption they are).

4 Steering Group

There was a need to elect a representative for the vacant Eastern Europe post. Efforts are continuing to involve more Eastern European, Balkan and Baltic states.

Additionally, the existing Southern Europe representative was Rosario Iardino from NPS Italia – Margherita Campania was substitute in Rosario's continued absence. Bernard Forbes was the representative for Western Europe, but his organisation was in liquidation, thus there was a potential vacancy here too.

The steering group thought it might be time to re-elect all the steering group members and suggested a term of office of four years.

5 Potential new members

Wojtech had been in contact with a Catalan organisation in Spain who may like to be represented at HIV Europe. Also in line were the Czech Republic, Estonia and Romania. Serbia was a “maybe” and nothing had been heard from the Belarus Positive Movement.

6 Travel Restrictions against people with HIV infection

The list of countries and restrictions on entry and/or residence by people with HIV was now hosted on the EATG website – a link to this data had been placed on the HIV Europe website. The steering group were pleased that EATG had stepped up to continue having this information available and updated.

There was a possibility that the law change promised by President Bush on 1 December 2006 might actually be debated sometime soon.