

Stop TB Partnership

SUMMARY SHEET		
Agenda Nr. 2.05-13.0	Subject	European Action
For Information	For Discussion	<u>For Decision</u>
<p>Introduction</p> <p>A recent planning process by the Stop TB Partnership shows that the targets of halving TB prevalence and death could be achieved by 2015 globally and in all regions of the world, except for in Africa and Eastern Europe. In Europe, this is mainly due to high rates of (multi)drug-resistance, lack of political commitment, health system barriers, insufficient human resource capacity, concentration of TB in vulnerable risk-groups and an increasing overlap between the HIV/AIDS and TB epidemic. In western European countries, the majority of those suffering from TB and MDR-TBs are born in countries with high TB and MDR-TB prevalence. Thus, as long as tuberculosis remains a major health problem in large parts of the European region, TB control remains a shared responsibility of all European countries.</p>		
<p>Summary</p> <p>The global targets for TB control in Europe could only be met if all components of the new Stop TB Strategy are implemented immediately, including the introduction of new drugs and diagnostic tools when these become available. The optimal scenario combines all these different technical interventions with firm and sustainable political commitment at the country level, an investment of at least US\$11.7 billion and massive technical assistance by technical agencies. Special attention should be paid to effective coordination and collaboration with HIV/AIDS programmes. In addition, there is the need to anticipate for the consequences of ongoing health sector reforms, while ensuring the conditions for adequate TB control within overall health systems. All European countries should make a joint effort to increase awareness and commitment of donor agencies to the emergency of TB and MDR-TB in Europe (including plan-based costing), whereas western European Governments should offer both technical and financial support to high prevalence TB countries within the region.</p> <p>Enclosed is a background paper outline the key constraints and opportunities and a draft action plan (DOC 2.05-13.1) for Intensified Action to Control TB in Europe - including specific recommendations for action from governments, technical agencies and the Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board.</p>		
<p>Decisions requested from the Stop TB Coordinating Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Coordinating Board is requested to discuss and to decide whether to support the Plan of Action for Intensified Action to Control TB in Europe. <p>In particular to implement the recommendations to the Coordinating Board outlined in the plan of action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase awareness and commitment of donor agencies to the emergency of TB and MDR-TB in Europe ● Support the development of a detailed blueprint for intensified action to control TB and MDR-TB in Eastern Europe and eliminate TB in Western Europe ● Endorse the organization of a European high-level ministerial forum to ensure Regional collaboration in the fight against TB and MDR-TB and increased financial contributions ● Facilitate and support the establishment of a Regional Stop TB Partnership. 		

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Next steps and time frame			
WHAT	WHO	WHEN	FOCAL POINT
1. Form a task force to implement European related TB control issues.	Board and DOTS Plus Working Group	By January 2006	DOTS PLUS WG