

Eva Joly
Chair of the European Parliament Development Committee
Parlement européen
Bât. Altiero Spinelli, 08H353
60, rue Wiertz / Wiertzstraat 60
B-1047 Bruxelles/Brussel

cc: MEP Cortes Lastra, MEP Kaczmarek, MEP Charles Goerens, MEP Catherine Grèze, and Ms Anne Mc Lauchlan, head of the DEVE secretariat

5 September 2012

Dear Ms Joly,

We write to you on behalf of the European Immunisation and Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (EIVAC), a network of organisations that strive to ensure European Union (EU) institutions adequately address child health and immunisation in developing countries.

Following the adoption of Written Declaration 004/12 on 'continued and increased support for vaccinations in developing countries', we would like to request that the DEVE Committee of the European Parliament hold an exchange of views on access to health care and immunisation at the earliest opportunity for the Committee.

While the negotiations are on-going regarding the multiannual financial framework for 2014-2020 and the 11th EDF, we believe it is vital that the DEVE committee considers the added value of access to primary healthcare including immunisation in order to meet the EU development objective of ultimately eradicating poverty.

The European Consensus on Development, the Council conclusions on the EU Role in Global Health (May 2010) and the Council conclusions on an Agenda for a Change (May 2012) recognised health as integral to equitable and sustainable growth and development, including poverty reduction. Furthermore, investments in expanding equitable coverage of essential cost-effective interventions should be pursued in a sustainable way through nationally owned strategies, an approach fully in alignment with EU development priorities.

As you may be aware, according to the World Health Organisation, globally more than 7.6 million children under the age of five die every year. Over two-thirds of these early child deaths are due to conditions that could be prevented or treated with access to simple, affordable interventions. Thanks to global efforts and strong political will, significant progress has been made since 1990 when child mortality exceeded 12 million. Yet despite this progress, challenges remain. As stated by the UN, at the current rate of progress, the average global under-five death rate will have dropped only by one quarter by 2015, far below the

goal of a two-thirds reduction. To accelerate progress, one of the best methods we have to save children's lives and to improve their health is immunisation.

Given the impact of investments in child health including immunisation on improving global health, the policy priorities set by the EU, and the future challenges ahead, we hope the Committee will consider this request, and we look forward to engaging with you should you decide to hold an exchange of views.

Yours sincerely,

The European Immunisation and Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (EIVAC)

List of signatories:

- ACTION - Kolleen Bouchane, Director
- Agence de Médecine Préventive - Dr Benjamin Schreiber, Chief Operating Officer
- European Vaccine Initiative - Dr Odile Leroy, Executive Director
- Global Health Advocates France - Patrick Bertrand, Executive Director
- ONE - Eloise Todd, Brussels Director
- PATH - Rachel Wilson, Senior Director of Advocacy and Public Policy
- RESULTS UK - Aaron Oxley, Executive Director
- Save the Children EU Office - Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Director and EU Representative
- World Vision Brussels & EU Representation - Marius Wanders, EU Representative & Executive Director

The logo for ACTION, featuring the word "ACTION" in a bold, black, sans-serif font with a stylized arrowhead pointing to the left.The logo for amp (Agence de Médecine Préventive), with "amp" in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font and "AGENCE DE MEDECINE PREVENTIVE" in a smaller, blue, uppercase font below it.The logo for GLOBAL HEALTH ADVOCATES, featuring a green circular graphic with a white crosshair and the text "GLOBAL HEALTH ADVOCATES" in green, uppercase letters to the right.The logo for EUROPEAN VACCINE INITIATIVE, featuring a stylized black 'X' shape and the text "EUROPEAN VACCINE INITIATIVE" in black, uppercase letters to the right.The logo for PATH, featuring a stylized red and black starburst icon and the word "PATH" in a bold, red, sans-serif font.The logo for RESULTS, featuring the word "RESULTS" in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a dark red background, with the tagline "the power to end poverty" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.The logo for Save the Children, featuring a red silhouette of a child with arms raised and the text "Save the Children" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.The logo for ONE, featuring the word "ONE" in a bold, white, sans-serif font inside a black oval.The logo for World Vision, featuring the text "World Vision" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, "Brussels & EU Representation ivzw" in a smaller, orange, sans-serif font below it, and "A Global Capital of World Vision International" in a very small, black, sans-serif font at the bottom. To the right is an orange graphic element resembling a stylized sun or star.