



**EUROPEAN UNION**

Delegation of the European Commission  
to South Africa

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

.../for immediate release

### **EU seeks to improve its support to southern Africa in the fight against HIV and AIDS**

***In the face of the continuing challenges posed by HIV and AIDS in the southern African region, ten European Commission delegations to the region have assembled in Pretoria for the past few days to find ways to better support national Government and regional strategies to confront HIV and AIDS. This is the third such meeting convened to perform a detailed re-evaluation of current EU-funded strategies in the southern African region.***

This model of tailoring the southern African regional EU responses to HIV and AIDS is complimented by EC Headquarters' improved responsiveness in the world's worst affected region. It is hoped that this initiative could be replicated in other regions.

The past days have been devoted to in-depth discussions on human resources, mainstreaming, as well as prevention, with the following crucial outcomes:

- An expanded regional prevention strategy in support of southern African Governments' directives.
- A mainstreaming manual, developed regionally, that will give clear guidelines on how the EC should respond to deal with the HIV and AIDS challenges as they appear in different sectors. In essence the manual provides advice on how to address the pandemic as well as on how not to worsen it.
- A realistic assessment of the current human resource crisis in health in the region.

Currently a wide range of EU-funded initiatives, close to R10 billion at today's exchange rates, in the region, have an HIV and AIDS component. EU Ambassador Lodewijk Briët notes: "We can and will no longer conceive of any EU-funded projects that ignore the reality of this scourge. We are deeply committed to achieve a maximum impact through our wide ranging county programmes in the region."

For more information:  
EC Delegation, Frank Oberholzer – 082 786-6223