

This newsletter presents monthly highlights of EPF's and our member parliamentary groups' work and gives an overview of legislative and Parliamentary initiatives on sexual and reproductive health and rights and international development in Europe and around the world on the part of the global community of Parliamentarians committed to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

Enjoy the reading!

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I. EPF Activities November 2009

1. EPF and AFPPD Conference: "Parliamentarians on ICPD +15 Eastern Europe and Central Asia", Istanbul/Turkey

On 14 November, the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF) and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (EPF) brought together 21 Members of Parliament from Europe and Central Asia, UNFPA and civil society in Istanbul. The aim of this conference was to discuss the progress made in Eastern Europe and Central Asia on achieving the ICPD Programme of Action and to develop a Roadmap of future Parliamentary activities to improve the legislative and factual situation of SRHR in the region in the next two years.



After the welcome address by **EPF President Hon. George Tsereteli, MP (Georgia)** and **AFPPD Vice-Chair Hon. Aitkul Samakova, MP (Kazakhstan)**, **Ms. Thea Fierens**, Regional Director of UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office addressed the participants in a keynote address on UNFPA priorities in the Eastern Europe and Central Asian region and the role of Parliamentarians in advancing ICPD Programme of Action. **Prof. Hakan Satiroglu**, President of the Family Planning Association of Turkey spoke to Parliamentarians and other invited guests on the role of NGOs in the implementation of ICPD Programme of Action.

In three panels, Parliamentarians reviewed the regional progress in achieving universal access to reproductive health, discussed how to enhance their involvement in advancing ICPD in the region and to mobilise political commitment and elaborated Action Points for the next 2 years of their work, focusing in three main directions:

- New regional and national partnerships
- Concrete future steps and actions within the next 2 years
- Necessary tools and research for further successful work

The Parliamentary Conference on 14 November followed the two regional UNFPA events which took place in Istanbul: the High-Level Meeting on Maternal Health and Universal Access to Reproductive Health on 11 November and the High-Level Regional Forum on the 15th Anniversary of ICPD on 12-13 November. The two events brought together Members of Government, Members of Parliament, representatives of United Nations agencies, civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, researchers and academics, young activists to take stock of regional achievements and to renew their commitment to improving maternal and reproductive health as well as to formulate key strategic actions to further accelerate the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in Europe and Central Asia.

For more information on the "Parliamentarians on ICPD +15 Eastern Europe and Central Asia" please contact: **Marina Davidashvili** at marina@iefpd.org.

For more information about two regional UNFPA events, please consult the website: www.unfpa.org

2. EPF & AFPPD bring Parliamentary Delegation to 4th GAVI Partners' Forum in Hanoi, Vietnam

The European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF) and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) were invited by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) to bring a 10 member Parliamentary Delegation to the Alliance's Fourth Partners' Forum held in Vietnam from 18-20 November 2009. The visit included a mini field visit to a Commune Health Centre. Co-hosted by the Minister of Health of Vietnam and GAVI, the Alliance Partners' Forum attracted nearly 450 immunisation experts from around the world.

This 4th GAVI Partners' Forum provided a platform for partners to discuss the role of vaccination and immunisation in achieving the health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), review lessons learned in the first 10 years of GAVI's existence, and to share best practices. It enabled participants to exchange ideas about opportunities ahead and ways towards fulfilling GAVI's mission to save children's lives and protect people's health by increasing access to underused and new vaccines in the poorest countries. By participating to the 4th GAVI Partners' Forum, Parliamentarians had a unique opportunity to learn about GAVI's key achievements and Board decisions for the years to come and to provide feedback on GAVI's policies and strategies for 2011-2015.



According to new data released during the 2009 GAVI Partners' Forum, over the last 10 years, an additional 256 million children under five were immunised and 4 million future deaths averted. Thanks to various workshops and briefing sessions with GAVI officials, and its implementing partners WHO and UNICEF, parliamentarians could gain a first overview of GAVI's role, mission and achievements, with a specific highlight on Vietnam as key example of success story. Parliamentarians could observe how Vietnam drastically reduced its child mortality rates through strong political commitment to basic immunisation and child health interventions, thus putting the country well on track to reach MDG 4 (Reduce Child Mortality) by 2015. Other briefings, including with the Sabin Vaccine Institute provided a large overview of mechanisms and opportunities of concrete actions for innovative and sustainable immunisation financing such as through the Advance Market Commitment (AMC) and the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm), emphasizing the key role recipient Governments and Parliamentarians play in implementing immunisation programmes at country level. In addition, the mini field visit to the Commune Health Center of Thien Pho (130 km north of Hanoi), enabled Parliamentarians to attend a monthly immunisation session for newly born babies, to visit the rural Health Center and to discuss with the local doctor.



At the final plenary session, and on behalf of the Parliamentary Delegation, **Hon. Katia della Faille, MP** (Belgium) acknowledged the key role played by GAVI in increasing immunisation coverage, improving health systems, training health workers, reducing vaccines' prices and engaging recipient authorities and partners. She warmly welcomed GAVI's commitment to involve Parliamentarians from both aid donor and recipient countries within its stakeholders' discussion as they play a key role as watchdogs and agents of political change towards the achievement of the MDGs. Finally, she mentioned that once back, the members of the Parliamentary Delegation would advocate and engage their Governments in supporting GAVI.

The Parliamentary Delegation included **Hon. Marta Alos Lopez, MP** Catalan member of the Committee on Women's rights (Liberal Party), **Hon. Jean Cornil, MP** member of the Belgian Federal Parliament and substitute for the Committee of Foreign Affairs (Socialist Party), **Senator Alain Destexhe**, Chair of the Belgian All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) "Parliamentarians for the MDGs" (Liberal Party), EPF's Malaria Taskforce members **Hon. Katia della Faille, MP** member of the Belgian APPG "Parliamentarians for the MDGs" (Liberal Party) and **Hon. Heli Järvinen, MP** member of the Finnish APPG on Population and Development (Green Party), **Hon. Francine John-Calame, MP** member of the Swiss APPG Cairo + (Green Party), **Hon. John Pandazopoulos, MP** member of the Australian APPG on Population and Development (Labour Party), and **Hon. Lynne Pillay, MP** member of the New Zealand APPG on Population and Development (Labour Party). The accompanying staff included **Ms Angela**



Nielsen from the Family Planning International of New Zealand which provides the Secretariat to the APPG, **Mr Tormod Simensen** from GAVI, as well as **Ms Silvia Theodoridis** and **Mr Vincent Villeneuve** from EPF.

For more information, please contact **Ms Silvia Theodoridis**, EPF Advocacy Officer at silvia@iepfpd.org or **Mr. Vincent Villeneuve**, EPF Advocacy Assistant at vincent@iepfpd.org

II. Parliamentary Leadership

1. Young Decision Maker Jan van Run makes SRHR campaign focus in Liberal Youth elections



Young Decision Maker Jan van Run, Member of the Young European Liberals (LYMEC), runs for treasurer candidate for the International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY), an international political umbrella organisation promoting cooperation among youth and student organisations to spread liberal values. In the latest IFLRY newsletter he puts forward his

candidacy with an article on sexual and reproductive health and rights. In the article he sets out the responsibility of youth in regards to SRHR:

"Since youth, between 15-24, are the number one victim of a lack of SRHR, we are the generation that should stand up for these rights. As liberals we should believe in the right of each individual to engage in safe sexual contacts when he or she wants to and feels ready for it. We also, however, believe that a person should always be able to say no! Also, people should have a free choice in contraceptives and a medically healthy and safe abortion, or birth, if needed or wanted. Finally, everything starts with education, youth should be taught how to use contraceptives in general and condoms in particular. In order to obtain this, we will have to get rid of the taboo on sex and SRHR. Let your politicians know and take your own responsibility!"

Jan Van Run participated on behalf of LYMEC at the High Level Conference on: "Climate and People: To what extent are climate change and population dynamics interrelated and what can European policy makers do

about this?" organised by EPF and its Norwegian member organisation "Sex and Politics" in Oslo/Norway in March 2009 with the generous support of Countdown 2015 Europe.

2. Hon. Chantal Gill'ard, informs party and press about her trip to Nicaragua and Ethiopia in October 2009

Upon invitation from several Members of Parliament from Nicaragua, **Hon. Chantal Gill'ard, MP** and EPF Executive Committee Member joined them at a conference on safe motherhood, organised to address the problematic situation regarding abortion in the country. The origins of this conference was the interparliamentary conference concerning safe motherhood (MDG 5), hosted by Hon. Chantal Gill'ard in November 2008. During her time in Nicaragua she spoke with judges of the supreme court, political parties, with the Minister of Public Health, with gynaecologists and doctors in hospitals, with woman rights activists and NGO's, as well as with local politicians. Chantal Gill'ard reported to her party that "Every person with whom I have spoken has a role to play in the solution of this problem. Concretely, the conference produced a Final Declaration that includes various proposals on how to achieve safe motherhood. At the moment, the MPs of Nicaragua are working on a bill to include sex education in school curricula."



Furthermore, she informed her party about her participation to the IPCI/ICPD conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in October 2009. In her report, she highlighted that the Netherlands was praised for its leadership and has inspired countries to renew their commitment. The conference generated a 'sense of urgency' and notion that without a healthy and stable population, poverty will continue. She also praised Minister of Development Cooperation Bert Koenders for his great support and commitment regarding MDG 5. Finally, Hon. Chantal Gill'ard shared the "Addis Call to Action" with her party members.

3. Dutch Minister of Development Cooperation promotes MDG 5 at European and International level.

In a letter to the Parliament, Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation Bert Koenders, promises to bring the outcome document adopted during the high-level conference on MDG 5 held in Addis Ababa on 26 October to the attention of his "EU-colleagues and together with UNFPA Executive Director, Ms Obaid, to distribute it widely among other UN-Member countries". This is vital in the run-up to 2010 - the year in which progress is examined internationally with respect to the MDGs. Minister Koenders will also ensure that the Netherlands in 2010, together with partner countries, UNFPA and other stakeholders, will report on the results achieved regarding the MDGs. Furthermore, as Chair of UNAIDS and member of the Executive Committee of GAVI and the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria he will ensure that the Netherlands underlines the need for integration of SRHR in the policy and the application of funds of these organisations which is vital for HIV prevention.



4. Finnish MP Heli Järvinen questions Foreign Minister on mainstreaming SRHR into all development aid policies

On 13 November 2009, **Hon. Heli Järvinen MP** member of the Finnish APPG on Population and Development and EPF Malaria Taskforce, asked the Finnish Minister for Foreign Affairs how Finland is planning to integrate SRHR into all development aid policies. Recalling the social and economic status of women in developing countries, particularly sub-Saharan Africa and emphasising the existing links between women's access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and the improvement of promoting gender equality, poverty reduction, as well as population growth and environment, **MP Heli Jarvinen** highlighted the importance of integrating women and girls' health and rights as a cross-cutting issue into all Finnish development cooperation policies. She recalled that women's full and equal participation in development depends directly on the respect of their rights and their chances of obtaining the necessary sexual health services. She finally stressed that investing



in women's sexual health and guaranteeing them access to sex education, health services and contraceptive methods is key for improving women's status and accelerating the social, economic and ecological sustainable development of recipient countries. The answer of the Minister is expected in a couple of weeks.

5. French MP Danielle Bousquet advances SRHR in Parliament and French media

Following the IPCI/ICPD Conference in Addis Ababa as well as the evidence that ICPD issues are insufficiently addressed within French political debate, **Hon. Danielle Bousquet**, French MP and EPF Executive Committee Member, organised a press lunch on 24 November 2009 at the National Assembly, in collaboration with Equilibres & Populations (E&P) and the French Movement for Family Planning (MFPP). All speakers, including **Hon. Chantal Bourragué, MP** and Yves Charbit, demographer, insisted on the particular role that journalists have to play in order to put pressure on governments for the Cairo objectives to be reached at the soonest. **To listen to the interview [click here](#)**



Following the conclusions of the mission on violence against women which she chaired, **Hon. Danielle Bousquet, MP** and Vice-President of the Parliamentary delegation on Women's rights, tabled, in association with her colleague **Hon. Guy Geoffroy, MP** a legislative proposal on gender based violence and violence against women which will be included in the Assembly's agenda. This is the first step in establishing a global framework to fight forcefully against a social plague which destroys thousands of women every year.

6. French MPs put development cooperation ambitions and credibility under scrutiny

Two parliamentary studies, deriving from a governmental request, formulate strong recommendations in order to improve multilateral cooperation and gender mainstreaming within the French development cooperation policy framework. Drafted by **Hon. Henriette Martinez, MP** and **Hon. Chantal Bourragué, MP**, the studies highlight that France, which ranks 4th in terms of ODA contributions and whose priorities are mainly located in Africa, still lacks a clear and comprehensive ODA strategy on human development, especially when it comes to multilateral ODA or gender mainstreaming. Both reports therefore conclude that although France is largely involved in supporting social sectors such as health and education, French ODA does not systematically integrate its priorities, such as strengthening the gender component, within its policies and programmes as well as within its multilateral commitments.



The reports have been handed in to the State Secretariat in July 2009. While the 2010 Development Cooperation budget currently under discussion within Parliament was expected to be more gender sensitive, the reports' recommendations could also be translated into long-term orientations within the announced Development Cooperation Policy Global Framework Document (CICID June 2009).

For more information and access to the reports, contact **Vincent Villeneuve** at vincent@iepfpd.org.

III. APPG Update

1. EPWG hosts launch of UNFPA State of the World Population (SWOP) Report in the European Parliament

On 18 November, EPWG President **Hon. Sophie In't Veld, MEP** hosted the launch of the UNFPA SWOP report in the European Parliament. This year's report "**Facing a changing world: women, population and climate**" looks at how family planning, reproductive health care and gender relations could influence the future course of climate change. The report aims to "shift the abstract and technical discussions about nations' carbon emissions to the reality of how human beings influence and are affected by the warming of the earth's atmosphere". In her opening of the well-visited event, MEP In't Veld emphasized the importance

of this report that "will hopefully generate discussions in the lead up to the Copenhagen climate conference in December 2009 and beyond".

Hon. Eva Joly, MEP and Chair of the EP's Development Committee emphasized that SRHR is of crucial importance for development and the achievement of the MDGs and pointed out that women are the most vulnerable that bear the hardship of climate change effects. **Mr. Koos Richelle**, Director General of the EuropAid Co-operation Office added that land degradation and massive migration as well as other related impacts of climate change will affect poor women in poor countries the most. **Mr. Mabingue Ngom** from UNFPA gave an overview of the most important findings of the 2009 SWOP report and called for European Leadership on linking climate change and development. Finally, **Mr. Ben Vanpeperstraete** from the European Youth Forum explicitly looked at the implications climate change will have for the future generation, arguing that the world's youth has inherited climate change but "are not responsible for 200 years of CO₂ emissions". The SWOP's Youth Supplement highlights how young people can be and are agents of change bringing innovative solutions to the debate and providing strong leadership to reverse the climate trend.

To read the full report, click [here](#).



EPF Member Group in France hosts launch of UNFPA 2009 State of the World Population report

Upon the invitation of **Hon. Danielle Bousquet, MP** and EPF Executive Committee Member, UNFPA presented its SWOP 2009 report in Paris. Parliamentarians, political leaders, French government representatives and International Organisation representatives along with many gender, environment and development-focused NGOs took part in the event co-organised with the French Movement for Family Planning (MFPF). In her introduction, Hon. Danielle Bousquet insisted on the importance of adopting a clear rights-based approach in tackling the population issue through a gender equality perspective, "specifically focussing on women's rights, rather than trying to impose any fashionable Malthusian vision that inevitably leads to detrimental coercive population regimes". Yves Bergevin, UNFPA Maternal Health Coordinator, highlighted the existing interactions between global population dynamics and climate change, notably underlining the critical position and role of women and calling government to urgent action.

Portuguese Government announces increase of core funding to UNFPA during SWOP launch

During the SWOP launch in Portugal on 18 November, the Portuguese Minister for Co-operation and Foreign Affairs, João Gomes Cravinho, announced that Portugal will increase the core funding to UNFPA in 2010 by 80% compared to 2009. In dollar amounts that means an increase from 200.000 dollars in 2009 to 375.000 dollars in 2010.

During the launch, the Minister stated that: "In 2005, the Portuguese annual contribution to UNFPA was only 40 000 US dollars; last year our support stood at 200 000 US dollars. It's with great satisfaction that I can announce today that, in 2010, we will increase our financial contribution to 250 000 Euros, which represents an increase of about 80% compared to 2009 and it is twelve times higher than the contribution in 2005. The reason is simple: working with UNFPA produces results that are visible and measurable in human lives and that make sense if we look at the main challenges that the humanity is facing."

2. Romanian Chairman of the Subcommittee participated at the High Level Meeting on MDG 5 Maternal Health and Universal Access to Reproductive Health, in Istanbul

Upon the invitation of Ms. Thea Fierens, UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, **Senator Tudor Udristoiu, Chairman of the Subcommittee for Population and Development** participated at the High Level Meeting on MDG 5 Maternal Health and Universal Access to Reproductive Health which was held on 11 November 2009, in Istanbul.

As a first step in the follow-up process at the level of the Subcommittee for Population and Development, **Senator Tudor Udristoiu** made a Political Declaration in the plenum of the Senate. The Declaration focused on the objective, contents and main recommendations of the



Istanbul High Level Meeting. The main purpose was to increase awareness among senators and the general public about the importance of maternal health for a sound and sustainable national development, and of the meeting's recommendations that are of relevance for Romania.

3. Romanian APPG Members assessing the implementation of the UNFPA Country Programme for Romania 2005-2009

On 26 November 2009, **Senator Tiberiu Gunther**, member of the Subcommittee, together with **Prof. Dan SABAU**, honorary member and former Chairman of the Subcommittee, participated to the UNFPA Country Office meeting for assessing the implementation of the UNFPA Country Programme for Romania 2005-2009.



In his presentation on the topic "The Parliament of Romania and the population and development issues", **Senator Gunther** mentioned the main initiatives and activities of the Subcommittee, at various levels: at legislative level, the Subcommittee played a key role in revising the health sector's legislation, examining legislative proposals regarding the social protection of minors and children's rights, and the financial support for the newborn. In terms of parliamentary oversight, **Senator Gunther** mentioned the use of written questions and political declarations regarding, among others, Romania's policy for international development cooperation in support to health. Finally, he highlighted the importance of the Parliamentary involvement at international level and developing international relations, mainly thanks to the participation in meetings and other activities organised by or with the support of EPF and UNFPA.



In addition to this presentation, **Prof. Sabau** highlighted the Subcommittee's activities during his chairmanship, in 2007 and 2008. He emphasised that the 2007 International Conference "Romania's population: where to?" prepared the ground for a comprehensive evaluation of the demographic and social risks facing Romania. As a result, in September 2009, a committee of academics and experts published the first part of a detailed report on this topic; its findings and recommendations are currently under public debate.

4. New DSW Parliamentary Advisory Committee convenes its first session after parliamentary elections

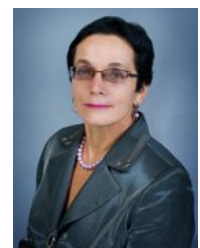
Hon. Sibylle Pfeiffer, MP and newly elected EPF Executive Committee Member will enter in her second term of the Parliamentary Advisory Committee (PAC) of the German Foundation for World Population (DSW). The first meeting of the PAC after the German Parliamentary elections on 27 September of this year will be held on 3 December. DSW is providing the Secretariat to the PAC that is at the same time a German Member of EPF. The new Parliamentary Advisory Committee will have 21 members. **Hon. Holger Haibach, MP** who is also a member of the PAC has, in addition, been elected the new spokesperson on development cooperation of the centre-right CDU/CSU Group in the German Bundestag.



For more information on the DSW PAC, please contact **Ms. Maike Schliebs**, DSW Advocacy Officer at: Maike.Schliebs@dsw-hannover.de.

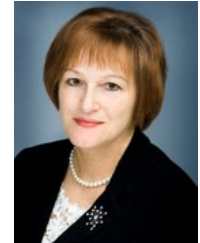
5. Lithuanian Women NGOs network „ReGina“ and Parliamentarians review Lithuania's ICPD Commitments

On October 20, 2009, the conference "We do not ask, we demand" was held in the Lithuanian Parliament organized by women NGOs network „ReGina“. It celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of the ICPD Programme of Action. Over 120 representatives from various Lithuanian non-governmental organizations, public educational and medical institutions and Parliamentarians working on human rights, reproductive health and rights, on the prevention of violence against women, and for women's employment participated in the conference. In addition, representatives of the Ministry of Health, the National Health Council, the European Commission Representation and the Equal Opportunities Office were



present at the discussions.

Finnish Ambassador Marja-Liisa Kiljunen welcomed the participants of the conference. In her speech she emphasized that Finland was the first country which already in 1906 granted political rights to women. The Ambassador noted that thanks to the women's movement in Finland gender equality, gender rights and reproductive health rights have been achieved. During the conference, presentations were made by **Hon. Marija Aušrinė Pavilionienė, MP** and President of Family Planning and Sexual Health Association; **Hon. Birutė Vėsaitė, MP** Chair of the Parliamentary Group on Development, Reproductive Health and Rights and EPF Executive Committee Member; Esmeralda Kuliešytė, Director of Family Planning and Sexual Health association; alongside other experts on SRHR.



The objective of the conference was to review the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action in Lithuania, to remind the Government of Lithuania about its international commitments, and to discuss the obstacles which hinder the full implementation of the Programme of Action. Participants and speakers stated that in the past 15 years the implementation of the Programme of Action has been very slow, the main commitments have not been realized, and the Catholic Church and conservative politicians deliberately delay and prevent progressive strategies and laws in the spheres of human rights and family health, as well as population development. In Lithuania, the conference concluded, a reproductive health law and reproductive health programs have yet to be developed and reproductive health has not been a (political) priority so far.

The network of women NGOs „ReGina“ has prepared recommendations to ameliorate the SRHR situation in Lithuania and demands the Lithuanian Parliament and Government to implementing the Cairo Programme of Action in the coming five years.

IV. EPF – Council of Europe Relations

1. ICPD + 15 Report backed by the members of the PACE Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee

On 13 November, the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe held an external session at the Council of Europe Offices in Paris. Amongst various draft reports that members had to consider was the report of the Committee Chair and Chair of the UK APPG **Hon. Christine McCafferty, MP** on “Fifteen years since the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development”. The report commemorates the 15th anniversary of the ICPD Programme of Action - a landmark document that focuses on improving the lives of individuals by urging the empowerment of women and increasing the respect for their human rights. Members had to vote on a number of anti-ICPD amendments to the report that were tabled by conservative Italian member Hon. Luca Volonte, MP. Deciding that the majority of these did not improve the report and were redundant to the text, these were rejected by a large majority of members present. The final vote on the report as a whole has been scheduled for January 2010.



2. Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly discusses the problem of unregulated use of conscientious objection

On the basis of a preliminary draft report on “Women’s access to lawful medical care: the problem of unregulated use of conscientious objection” authored by **Hon. Christine McCafferty, MP**, the Committee on Social, Health and Family Affairs held an exchange of views with experts on this matter. Christina Zampas from the Centre for Reproductive Rights and Dr. Christian Fialla, Director of the Gynmed Clinic in Vienna gave an overview of the scope of the issue. Ms Zampas highlighted that in the majority of the Member States of the Council of Europe, the practice of conscientious objection in the medical field is inadequately or largely unregulated. The absence of effective legal and policy frameworks in some Council of Europe Member States

means that individuals are unable to access the healthcare services that they are entitled to receive, undermining their rights to healthcare services and to privacy, among other rights. Therefore, the preliminary draft report recommends, amongst others, that Member States should enact strong regulations that balance the right of the healthcare provider to conscientiously object to the performance of a procedure, and ensure that patients can exercise their right to access lawful health services. A second hearing on this issue is scheduled for January 2010. A finalised version of the report including amendments will also be considered in January 2010.

V. EPF – Visibility

1. EuroMapping discussed in presence of UK Parliamentary Under State Secretary for International Development

On 9 November, the UK launch of the joint DSW/EPF EuroMapping was held. It included a public presentation of EuroMapping 2009 by EPF and its UK member, the UK APPG on Population, Development and Reproductive Health in the presence of the Parliamentary Under State Secretary (PUSS) for International Development. The session was hosted by Hon. Christine McCafferty, MP and Chair of the UK APPG. The PUSS specifically welcome EuroMapping and highlighted UK leadership in ICPD funding and stated his intention to use UK influence to get other EU donors to step up their involvement. After the presentation of EuroMapping by EPF Secretary Neil Datta, the almost 40 participants from NGOs and academic institutions had the time to get a deeper insight into the EuroMapping study during a Q&A session.

During the second part of the meeting, a strategy session was held to determine a financial ask of the UK government in relation to SRHR. This debate centred around a presentation by Mat Lindley of IPPF analysing the 4 recent costing exercises for ICPD related matters and if and how they could be used to develop a "UK ask".

2. Launch of EuroMapping in France generates significant media attention

The French launch of EuroMapping 2009 was held in the format of a press conference at the Centre Agence Presse Etrangère (CAPE) in Paris. In a "talkshow" format EPF Secretary Neil Datta introduced the main findings of the EuroMapping study. This was followed by a presentation of the French performance by Serge Rabier, Executive Director of the EPF partner Equilibres et Populations (E&P). The approximately 12 journalists and association representatives entered into lively discussions and were very interested in learning more about French ODA going to sexual and reproductive health. As a result of this presentation, a one-page article appeared in "Le Quotidien du Médecin" and will be featured in the December edition of "The New African".

For more information about EuroMapping 2009, contact **Miguel Ongil**, EPF Programme Officer at: Miguel@iefpd.org or visit <http://www.euroresources.org/euromapping>.

VI. EPF – EU Affairs



1. New European Commission unveiled

On Friday, 27 November at noon, EU Commission President José Manuel Barroso announced the portfolios and responsibilities of his new team. The new College will have 7 Vice-Presidents, including Vice-President Baroness Catherine Ashton who will, at the same time, be the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December next. Three of the Vice-Presidents will be women. The new College will have 27 members, including President Barroso, one

from each Member State, including 9 women. The members of the College come from different political families, with a clear dominance of centre-right and liberal Commissioners. In fact, only 14 members, including the President, were already members of the outgoing College. **Former Commissioner for Energy, the conservative Latvian Andris Piebalgs was given the Development Cooperation portfolio.** For more information about Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, click [here](#).

President Barroso has given a new look to the College of his second mandate. He has announced a number of new portfolios: Climate Action; Home Affairs; Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship. He has reconfigured a number of other portfolios: Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth; Health and Consumer Policy; Industry and Entrepreneurship; Research and Innovation; International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response. There will be a new emphasis on inclusion in the Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion portfolio, and a renewed focus with the Digital Agenda portfolio.

The new Commission must gain approval from the European Parliament before it takes office for a term of office running until 31 October 2014. **Commissioners-designate will appear in individual hearings before Parliamentary committees from 11-19 January. The vote of consent on the new Commission as a whole is foreseen to take place on 26 January.** On the basis of the vote of consent, the Commission shall be appointed by the European Council. Then it can start working.

For a complete list of the new College of Commissioners, click [here](#).

VII. EPF Activities – Outlook 2009/2010

2009

1. **COP 15 Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen/Denmark, 13-16 December 2009.** The Danish All Party Group on Reproductive Health, the Danish Family Planning Association, the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF) and the Population and Climate Change Alliance will organise a '**lunch and discuss'- meeting on the issue of population and climate change** for members of Parliament **on 15 December**. The event is kindly supported by Countdown 2015 Europe.

2010 Preview

1. **Parliamentary Conference on Global Health, 1-3 March, Brussels/Belgium in co-operation with Action for Global Health (AfGH).** EPF will organise a one-day Parliamentary event on 1 March bringing together European MPs and Members of the European Parliament to discuss the role of MPs/MEPs in global health.
2. **EPF Delegation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW), 1-12 March, New York/USA.** In the framework of the EPF Taskforce on the UN, EPF will bring a small parliamentary delegation to participate in the UN CSW and to learn more about how SRHR is being dealt with at UN level.
3. **Women Deliver 2nd Global Conference, 7-9 June, Washington D.C./USA.** EPF will bring a parliamentary delegation to this high-level meeting in Washington D.C. to participate in a parliamentary side event.
4. **G8/G20 Parliamentarians' Conference on Reproductive Health Supplies, 10-11 June 2010, Ottawa/Canada.** This 6th International Parliamentarians' Conference will bring together numerous MPs from around the world to discuss on Reproductive Health Supplies featuring in the G8/G20 Meeting of Heads of State and Government.
5. **World AIDS Conference, 18-23 July, Vienna/Austria.** EPF will bring a parliamentary delegation to the World AIDS Conference and is currently exploring the possibility of organising a parliamentary side event around the World AIDS Conference.

Please note that the 2010 preview of activities can be subject to change.

The EPF Secretariat

The EPF secretariat is based in Brussels and is responsible for implementing all EPF activities. EPF maintains a website with information about its activities and a monthly News Update on the activities of Parliamentarians, SRHR and development policy and related items. It can be found at www.iefpd.org.

The EPF Secretariat staff is composed as follows (in alphabetical order):

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EPF's Mission

The European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development believes Parliamentarians have the opportunity and the responsibility to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender equality, which are core elements of human dignity and are central to human development.

About EPF

The European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development is a Brussels-based Parliamentary network that serves as a platform for cooperation and coordination for the 25 all-party groups in Parliaments throughout Europe that focus on improving sexual and reproductive health and rights at home and abroad through national and regional health and foreign aid budgets.

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EPF is a member of:

- The Steering Committee of the International Parliamentarians' Conference of the Implementation of the IPCI Programme of Action (IPCI/ICPD)
- Countdown 2015 Europe
- The Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in the South Caucasus (RHIYC)
- The European Alliance against Malaria
- The Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition
- The Women Deliver Advisory Group

EPF

- has Special Consultative Status with the United Nation's Economic and Social Council
- has Participatory Status with the Council of Europe
- is an Associate Member of EuroNGOs