

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 October 2008

1. European Parliamentarians adopt Brussels Declaration on “The Future of Parliamentary Involvement in Global Health and Development”

On Monday, 20 October 2008, the Belgian All Party Parliamentary Group on the MDGs in collaboration with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF) organised an International High Level Conference on: “The Future of Parliamentary Involvement in Global Health and Development”. The Conference, held in the Palais d’Egmont in Brussels, Belgium was opened by Mr. Charles Michel, the Belgian Minister for Development Cooperation.



Bringing together more than 80 participants, including Parliamentarians, health experts and representatives of leading global health actors such as the GFATM, UNFPA, UNAIDS, the WHO, RBM, Stop TB Partnership, French and Belgian Government Officials, European Commission representatives, representatives of innovative finance mechanisms such as UNITAID and Debt2Health, as well as civil society organisations, the Conference enabled Parliamentarians to have a better understanding of the new development aid landscape as well as a clear picture of the current aid volume and effectiveness. Participants were able to exchange views and best practices on global health, sexual and reproductive health, and development aid issues leading to a comprehensive and structured dialogue to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and meet ODA Commitments for global health while entering a period of financial crisis. It was highlighted how Parliamentarians can play a key role in making their Governments accountable to their International ODA commitments and in advancing health issues on the political agenda at national, European and international level.

As a key outcome of the Conference, Parliamentarians adopted a Declaration reaffirming that as the world's largest donor, it is Europe's responsibility to honor its commitments and highlighting the need for a continued, predictable and sustainable support for Global Health and Development. With this in mind, Parliamentarians called for a strong support to the new financing mechanisms aiming to mobilise additional resources for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and sexual and reproductive health and rights, and specifically pointed out the necessity to enhance and increase the involvement of Parliamentarians and Parliamentary structures in the national, European and international decision-making settings in order to ensure that commitments are respected and turned into practice. To this extend, EPF will be bringing a 10 member Parliamentary Delegation to the Global Fund's Partnership Forum, one of the governing bodies of the Global Fund, which be held on the 8-10 December in Dakar, Senegal.

The Brussels Parliamentarians' Declaration is available in English and French at www.iepfpd.org. The report of the Conference will be available by the end of November.

For more information, please contact Silvia Theodoridis at silvia@iepfpd.org

2. EPF Council welcomes four new All-Party Parliamentary Groups

During EPF's recent Council Meeting held on 19th October 2008, participating Parliamentarians, Members of the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF), welcomed four new All-Party Parliamentary Groups from:

- Armenia: Parliamentary Group on Population Health and Development, headed by Hon. Ara Babloyan, MP
- The Netherlands: Multi Party Initiative on HIV/AIDS of the Dutch House of Representatives, headed by Hon. Ewout Irrgang, MP,
- Poland: Polish Parliamentary Group on Population and Development, headed by Hon. Zdzislawa Janowska MP,
- Romania: Subcommittee on Demography, Population and Development, headed by Senator Dan Sabau.

In addition, Members of Parliament re-elected EPF's Executive Committee President and elected two new Executive Committee Members:

- Hon. Anne Van Lancker, MEP, Chair of the European Parliament's Working Group on Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS and Development (EPWG), was re-elected as EPF President until 2011
- EPF is pleased to welcome two new Executive Committee Members: Hon. Chantal Gill'ard, MP (Labour Party), the Netherlands, Member of the Multi Party Initiative HIV/AIDS of the Dutch House of Representatives and Hon. Danielle Bousquet, MP, (Socialist Party), France, Member of the Assembly's Delegation on Women's Rights and Gender Equality.

Council Members also reviewed the progress achieved since the last EPF Council Meeting in Bangkok (2006) on diverse initiatives, such as European involvement in the G8 Process, results of participation at

international conferences and forums, progress in the fight against malaria as well as the Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in South Caucasus (RHIYC). Discussions centred around the achievements on policy and funding for ICPD issues as well as the work plan for the year 2009 and beyond.

For more information, please visit: www.iepfpd.org

II. Parliamentary Leadership

1. Lithuanian Parliamentary Group discusses situation of Georgian women and families

On 4th October, the Lithuanian All-Party Parliamentary Group and representatives of the Lithuanian Family Planning Association met with a community of Georgians living in Lithuania to discuss the situation of women and families in the country that was recently engaged in a war with Russia. In the discussion that was also attended by the Georgian Ambassador to Lithuania, H.E. George Kerdikoshvili as well as by a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jolanta Balčiūnienė a documentary and pictures of devastated Georgian towns and the current situation many families find themselves in were portrayed. The discussion was followed by a concert by pianist Andrius Vasiliauskas.

During this month's International Donors' Conference for Georgia that was held in Brussels, almost 3 billion Euro were collected to reconstruct destroyed infrastructure and buildings. Prior to the donors' conference, Hon. Neena Gill, MEP, Hon. Kirsten Brøsbol, MP and Hon. Wolfgang Wodarg, MP who have participated in the EPF fact-finding mission to Georgia approached their governments to contribute to this donors' conference especially in light of the RH needs of the population.

2. Chair of the Swedish All-Party Parliamentary Group questions Swedish Minister of Gender on abortion as a human right

Hon. Carina Hägg, MP, Chair of the Swedish APPG and EPF Vice-President has put forward a parliamentary question (PQ) on "Abortion as a Human Right" to the Swedish Minister of Integration and Gender Equality, Nyamko Sabuni. In her PQ MP Hägg argues that "abortion should be legal, safe and accessible for all women", and that "abortion should be seen as part of international conventions on human rights". She urges that abortion must have a self-evident place during the Swedish EU presidency and at the same time at UN level. Therefore, Hon. Carina Hägg, MP is asking Minister Sabuni if she plans to take any actions to ensure that abortion should be seen as a part of the European Convention on Human Rights as well as international conventions on human rights. The answer provided by Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Carl Bildt, highlights that access to safe and legal abortion is one of the prioritised issues within Sweden's work on SRHR. The minister emphasises that the Swedish government intends to strengthen its work to achieve MDG 5 through additional initiatives within the development cooperation framework that aims to increase the access to safe and legal abortion for women.



For more information, please contact: Julia Schalk, RFSU Advocacy Officer at: Julia.Schalk@rfsu.se.

3. Parliament of Azerbaijan holds its First Hearing on the Draft Law on Reproductive Health

On 25 October, the Parliament of Azerbaijan under the initiative of Hon. Malahat Hasanova, MP, Chair of the Azerbaijan All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (Member of EPF) conducted the first hearing of the new draft law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Reproductive Health of the Population. The hearing was held within the framework of the EC/UNFPA Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in the South Caucasus (RHIYC), partnered with EPF. The law, drafted jointly by Hon. Malahat Hasanova MP and Hon.



Musa Guliyev, MP, Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Social Affairs introduces for the first time the notion and definition of sexual and reproductive health and rights and consists of 23 chapters.

The draft law ensures the right of the Azerbaijan population to reproductive health choice, modern family planning methods and incorporates the 12 reproductive health rights as elaborated by IPPF. It includes the right to benefit from assisted reproduction technologies, ensures the proper information of the citizens and their right to full and informed RH choice. It ensures the right of women to decide over their bodies in case of an unwanted pregnancy. It underlines the need to promote healthy lifestyles through education as well as through mass media campaigns. The last two chapters are

elaborating the role of the government and its policies in ensuring reproductive health and rights and the state budgeting and financing of activities addressing RH.

Chapter XIX on Youth SRHR ensures provision of free of charge information and counselling for young people on sexual and reproductive health by specially trained and educated personnel and the creation of a special environment for adolescents to encourage them to use modern RH services.

The hearing was chaired by Hon. Bahar Muradova, Vice-Speaker of the Parliament and prominent supporter of women's rights in the country. It was attended by 18 Parliamentarians, 4 Committee Chairs, 6 Deputy Ministers, including Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance, civil society representatives, women's rights movements, UN agencies and EPF staff. All participants welcomed the progressive draft law and considered it very timely taking into account the SRHR challenges that the country is facing with 84% young people not using contraceptives (only 16% are using modern contraceptive methods) and rocketing rates of abortions. According to the Parliamentary procedure, the law will require 3 readings of the Parliament before it can enter into force.

After the Hearing the Parliamentarians attended the official opening of the first Youth Friendly Reproductive Health Centre, opened within the framework of EC/UNFPA Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in the South Caucasus. The Centre will offer the young population of Azerbaijan medical and counselling services, RH information and will provide them with modern RH supplies.



For more information, please visit: www.iepfpd.org, www.4uth.ge and <http://rhiyc.cogels.net/joo/>.

4. Spanish Senator questions Government on HIV/AIDS following the International AIDS Conference in Mexico

Spanish Senator Elvira Velasco Morillo questioned her Government about its position towards including HIV/AIDS in the agenda of the Ibero-American summit of Heads of State. Based on the results and the achievements of the XVII International Conference on HIV/AIDS 2008, Senator Elvira Velasco Morillo asked the Government when and to which extend the funds committed by the vice-president Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega will be effectively allocated. Finally, she asked how many international cooperation programmes focussing on HIV/AIDS are supported, respectively funded by the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation (AECID) and to which extent the Government earmarked funds for HIV/AIDS prevention.



III. APPG Affairs

1. Finnish Parliamentary Group discussed outcome of Mexico Conference in Parliament

On 9 September the Finnish APPG organized a follow-up discussion in the Finnish Parliament on the UN High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in New York and the International HIV/AIDS Conference that was held in Mexico at the beginning of August this year. The discussion brought together around 60 participants, amongst them government officials, Members of Parliament, and NGOs. Speakers from the official Finnish Delegation to New York that included the National Health Institution, MFA, Väestöliitto, the Finnish AIDS Council and the Finnish Body Positive Association informed the attendants about the most important outcomes of the High Level Meeting. Hon. Minna Sirnö, MP and Hon. Heli Järvinen, MP who participated in the EPF and Väestöliitto led delegation to the Mexico Conference gave presentations about the outcomes and achievements of the event.

2. German Foundation for World Population (DSW) raises awareness about teenage pregnancies

Hon. Antje Blumenthal, MP, Member of DSW's Parliamentary Advisory Committee and EPF Executive Committee Member as well as other Members of the German Parliament participated in an event the German Foundation for World Population (DSW) organised together with Bayer Schering Pharma on the occasion of this year's World Contraception Day (WCD) on 26 September. The event, held in Berlin, highlighted the problem of teenage pregnancies worldwide with special focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. Mercy Mkaluma Maghanga, founder of a DSW youth club and a peer educator in Kenya, appealed to the attending parliamentarians, NGO representatives, private donors and media to place more attention on unwanted pregnancies among young people in Kenya, in combination with programs on HIV/AIDS.

The annual World Contraception Day (WCD) aims to raise the awareness for contraception and education regarding sexual and reproductive health. The theme for 2008 was "Your life, your body, your choice" and focused on educating young people about contraceptive options to enable them to make own choices about sex, contraception and parenthood.

More information on the WCD can be found [here](#).



3. Spanish Federation of Family Planning releases 2007 Annual Report

The Spanish Federation of Family Planning (FPFE) has released its Annual Report 2007, in which you will find a complete summary of the activities carried out by the FPFE and its members associations of family planning during 2007 concerning women, youth and its connection with sexual and reproductive health and sexual and reproductive rights.

The FPFE Annual Report 2007 is available both in Spanish and English. Both can be downloaded freely from the FPFE website (www.fpfe.org).

FPFE Annual Report 2007 – English: http://www.fpfe.org/docs/FPFE_Memoria2007_Ingles.pdf

FPFE Annual Report 2007 - Spanish: http://www.fpfe.org/docs/FPFE_Memoria2007_Espanol.pdf

IV. Young Decision Makers (YDM) – Cultivating the Leaders of Tomorrow

1. EPF discusses future of SRHR at EU level with Young Decision Makers and MEP Assistants

On 16 October Young Decision Makers active in political parties and Assistants to Members of the European Parliament came together for a working lunch in Brussels to discuss and strategise on future initiatives in support of better global health, population and development policies both on a European and global level.



2009 will be a key year for the EU: the upcoming elections to the European Parliament, the nomination and approval of a new college of EU Commissioners and finally a new treaty that is likely to enter into force in some form that will impact decision-making procedures and the EU's institutional set-up alike. The meeting presented an opportunity for young politicians and assistants to the MEPs to meet and network with their European counterparts and to discuss the New Aid Architecture and its challenges regarding Health and Population issues.

EPF – EU News Supplement Election Update

To keep our members and readers up to date, EPF will issue a regular news supplement on the upcoming elections to the European Parliament to be held in all EU Member States from 4-7 June 2009.

The supplement features amongst others reports about the latest developments, initiatives and facts with regard to the pre-election period and intends to provide views and background information in the run-up to this event.

Enjoy the reading

1. First ever British female EU Commissioner approved by EU Parliament

Deputies meeting in Strasbourg on Wednesday voted 538 in favour of Catherine Ashton's appointment as new Trade Commissioner, with 40 against and 63 abstentions. Ashton, a Labour party member of the British House of Lords previously held junior ministerial positions in the departments of Education and Skills, and Constitutional Affairs and Justice, including responsibility for international trade in legal services. She replaces Peter Mandelson, who stepped down after four years in the job to become the new business secretary in the UK.

Ashton faced a hearing in parliament on Monday in which she is generally thought to have given a good account of her grasp of the notoriously difficult trade portfolio. Ashton will be commissioner until the end of the current executive's mandate in 31 October 2009.



2. Chinese Political Activist Hu Jia awarded this year's Sakharov Prize

Hu Jia is a prominent human rights activist and dissident in the People's Republic of China. He has embraced a wide range of causes, including environmental issues, HIV/AIDS advocacy and a call for an official enquiry into the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. He has also acted as a coordinator of the "barefoot lawyers movement".

The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, named in honour of the Soviet physicist and political dissident Andrei Sakharov, has been awarded by the European Parliament every year since 1988 to individuals or organisations who have made an important contribution to the fight for human rights or democracy. To mark the 20th anniversary, a special event to which all previous winners of the prize are being invited will be held in Strasbourg on Tuesday 16 December. This year's prize will be awarded in Strasbourg the next day, Wednesday 17 December.



3. "More women in leadership positions needed", says EU Commissioner for External Relations

Benita Ferrero-Waldner knows what she is talking about. The Austrian was her country's first female foreign minister, the first female head of UN protocol and is currently the first female EU Commissioner for external relations.

In the latest edition of the Parliament Magazine she sees the creation of a possible women's envoy "clearly worth serious consideration" but cautions that many who do not want to incorporate gender into their work might use this as an "easy opt-out" for not bothering about women's rights.

Despite hailing the efforts by the French EU Presidency to get new EU human rights guidelines on discrimination and violence against women adopted by the end of the year, she emphasises that "we need to do more, especially on implementation".

Ensuring that women's rights stay at the top of the agenda is vital for her but she ends on the sober note that "unfortunately, women often have to do more to climb the career ladder and sometimes they do not even try or dare to do it".

Click [here](#) for the whole article.



V. EPF – United Nations Relations:



1. UN Secretary-General releases report on Women, Peace and Security

The 2008 open debate of the Security Council on women, peace and security will take place on 29 October 2008. In advance of the meeting, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon released his report (S/2008/622), entitled Women and peace and security, which stresses that countries need to take more action to increase the role of women in the search for peace and justice and enhance their input in decision-making, even though positive steps have been made in recent years.

More information, and the report, can be found [here](#)

VI. EPF – Council of Europe Relations



1. EPF Fact Finding Mission Results used as basis for PACE follow up actions on the consequences of Georgia-Russia conflict

At its Fourth Part Session, which took place from 29th September – 3rd October, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly debated and adopted the Report, the Opinion and the Resolution on the consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia. EPF has cooperated closely with Parliamentarians in providing the latest and up to date information on the situation of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and their reproductive health needs. Parliamentarians considered, debated and included the Main Findings of the EPF Fact Finding Mission on reproductive health needs of IDPs into the Committees' exchanges of views, Assembly Debate and adopted texts.

After visiting the affected territories, Hon. Corien Jonker, MP (European People's Party, the Netherlands) and Chairperson of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, drafted an Opinion on "The consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia" highlighting the situation and drawing recommendations on the situation of IDPs. The Committee Members discussed and adopted the Opinion during their meeting on 1st October. The Opinion, amongst others, deals with the issues of humanitarian assistance, accommodation, children and health needs of IDPs, based on the EPF Fact Finding Mission Report.

The full text is available at:

<http://assembly.coe.int/Documents/WorkingDocs/Doc08/EDOC11730.pdf>

The health and reproductive health situation of IDPs in Georgia as a result of the Georgian-Russian conflict was also debated in the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee. The main results of the EPF Fact Finding Mission to Georgia served as a briefing note for Parliamentarians during the meeting. Hon. Wolfgang Wodarg, MP (Social Democrats, Germany), Chairperson of the PACE Health Sub-Committee and participant of EPF's Fact Finding Mission made a report during the Committee Meeting. Mr. Wodarg highlighted the impressive work conducted by young volunteers at UNFPA in preparing and handing out "dignity kits" that entail hygiene items to IDPs at the collective centres and the Tent City in Gori. Mr. Wodarg also informed PACE Members about UNFPA's work and presence in Georgia and how they reach and meet the needs of IDPs via their so-called Mobile Reproductive Health Teams of which currently four

exist. These teams provide ultrasound examinations, family planning counselling and provision of reproductive health supplies.



During its Assembly Debate on 2nd October, Hon. Christine McCafferty, MP (Socialist Party, UK) and Chairperson of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee gave a speech on the situation of maternal and reproductive health needs of IDPs in the aftermath of the conflict between Georgia and Russian Federation¹. Hon. Christine McCafferty, MP stated that Parliamentarians and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe have the "immediate duty to find the funding to enable the victims of the conflict to receive the health care they need, to return to school and work, and to return to their homes."

The full text of the PACE Resolution on the "The consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia" Resolution 1633 (2008) is available at:

<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta08/ERES1633.htm>

2. Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe participate in the 7th International Dialogue on Population and International Development

Hon. Christine McCafferty, MP UK and Chair of the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health and Hon. Wolfgang Wodarg, MP Germany, both members of numerous EPF Study Tours participated in the 7th International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development, an annual two-day conference that was held in Berlin on 15 and 16 October.

The Objective of this forum is to provide a platform to exchange strategies on population issues and sustainable development, to reinforce implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and to contribute to accelerating achievement in progress towards the MDGs.

For more information on the conference, click [here](#).

VII. EPF Visibility:

1. EPF discusses future of SRHR issues at EU level during Väestöliitto Conference

Global Good Health – is it possible? This question was addressed during the closing seminar of a three year project entitled "Raising Awareness on Global Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights" that was held at the Väestöliitto Offices in Helsinki, Finland. The project, focussing on sexual and reproductive health rights and needs of young people, was funded by the European Commission and the Finnish and Latvian Ministries of Foreign Affairs. In addition to Väestöliitto, project partners included the Latvian Association for Family Planning and Sexual Health – Papardes zieds -, the Family Planning Association of India and the Georgian Association HERA XXI.

Nadine Krysostan, Senior Advocacy Officer at EPF provided insights into how SRHR issues are dealt with at EU level, especially within the European Parliament and how parliamentary advocacy can be used effectively to raise awareness for SRHR issues among Parliamentarians. Various challenges such as the upcoming elections to the European Parliament, a changing European political landscape that is likely to see a centre-right party dominance as well as opportunities and methods of how to keep SRHR issues on the EU agenda were discussed with the approximately 40 participants.

¹ The full speech is accessible under "verbatim records"

<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/Records/2008/E/0810021000E.htm>

2. EPF provides insights in parliamentary advocacy during IPPF EN Advocacy Capacity Building Workshop

During a half-day session, Neil Datta, Secretary of EPF, Marina Davidashvili, Network and Knowledge Sharing Facilitator and Nadine Krysostan, Senior Advocacy Officer provided insights and practical examples of how to work with Parliamentarians to the approximately 40 participants of the workshop. The representatives of IPPF EN Member Associations from more than 12 Eastern and Central European Countries were introduced to the methodology of parliamentary advocacy, received practical advice on how to raise awareness amongst decision-makers for SRHR issues and what it takes to make SRHR a political priority. Generating understanding about what Parliamentarians need to advance ICPD, brainstorm on national objectives and resources needed to engage Parliamentarians on SRHR and identifying practical activities which Member Associations can use in their national context to engage with Members of Parliament and to strengthen their relations with them were the main objectives of this session.



3. EPF presents latest research tools at Annual EuroNGOs meeting in Lyon

This year's meeting of the European NGOs for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Population and Development (EuroNGOs) was held on 2 and 3 October in Lyon, France. More than 120 participants from 21 European Countries as well as from Canada, the USA, Kenya, Japan and New Zealand participated. Representatives from the Family Planning and SRHR constituency as well as from the environmental sector, gathered together with environmental, development and demographic experts, stakeholders from private European and US-Foundations as well as from UNFPA in order to discuss how to respond to the growing attention to environment and a changing global economy.



EuroNGOs participants in Lyon, France

In the framework of the EuroNGOs Annual General Meeting (AGM) following the public conference, DSW and EPF presented their joint research project EuroMapping 2008 to the participants. EuroMapping 2008 monitors the financial flows and their allocation, particularly the ODA spending on health, including sexual and reproductive health and family planning, in order to follow up on the government's international commitments.

In addition, EPF launched the pocket guide version of its year-long research project Political Party Mapping (PPM) during the AGM Meeting. Political Party Mapping has mapped political party positions of 86 parties in 14 European countries including the European Parliament on the issues of same-sex marriage, ODA and abortion. PPM offers a snapshot of European Political Landscape and can be used as an evidence based tool for more effective and targeted advocacy in favour of SRHR.

For more information on Political Party Mapping contact Saskia Pfeijffer at Saskia@iepfpd.org. For more information on the EuroNGOs Conference contact their website at: www.eurongos.org.

VIII. Upcoming Activities: Outlook 2008

1. IPCI Steering Committee Meeting, 14 – 15 November 2008, Tunis, Tunisia
In preparation of the upcoming IPCI Conference that will most likely be held in Cairo, Egypt towards the end of 2010 EPF will be bringing two Parliamentarians to represent the Europe Region at the IPCI Steering Committee Meeting. Interested Parliamentarians should have experience of previous IPCI Conferences (Bangkok 2006).
2. EPF Study Tour on Malaria Research, 16 - 22 November 2008, Tanzania
EPF will organise a week-long study tour with a specific focus on Malaria Research and vaccines. This study tour aims to provide Parliamentarians with an overview of malaria research projects and a better understanding of the recent developments in Malaria Research in Tanzania, and particularly malaria vaccines. This study tour will also be the opportunity to emphasise the existing linkages between malaria and SRH.
3. Joint Meeting of Council of Europe's Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, UNFPA Geneva Office and EPF, 25 November, Palais des Nations, Geneva
The Seminar on "Interaction between Population Decline in Europe, Global Population Growth and Migration" will encompass three sessions: on fertility, on ageing and on migration, where participants will have an overview of the existing policies and take a closer look at country examples from Eastern Europe/Central Asia, Southern Europe and Northern/Western Europe. The Seminar will be concluded by roundtable discussion on three topics and elaborating future policy options to be recommended by PACE.
4. Burkinabé Theatre Group and presentation of the 2008 UNFPA State of the World Population Report in the European Parliament, 3 December 2008, Brussels
On December, 3rd EPF together with E&P and the EWPG will be hosting the Burkinabé Theatre Group in the European Parliament. The group's plays will emphasise the dialogue between parents and children when it comes to education and sexual and reproductive health and contraception as well as the awareness-raising on malaria. This event will be combined with the presentation of the 2008 UNFPA State of the World Population Report.
5. EPF Delegation to the Global Fund Partnership Forum, 8-10 December 2008, Dakar/Senegal
In cooperation with the Global Fund, EPF will be able to bring up to 10 Parliamentarians to the Global Funds' Partnership Forum which is a component of the Fund's governance structure.

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.iepfpd.org.

As of 1 December, 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 European Alliance against Malaria
- Countdown 2015 Europe
- The Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in the South Caucasus (RHIYC)
- The Steering Committee of the International Parliamentarians' Conference of the Implementation of the IPCI Programme of Action (IPCI/ICPD)

EPF

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