

Jean-Claude Boidin
Head of Unit, Human development, social cohesion and employment
DG Development, European Commission

Brussels, 09 December 2009
Ref: B927

Dear Mr. Boidin,

**Amnesty International final comments on the European Commission (EC)
consultation on the EU role in Global Health**

Further to Amnesty International's initial written contribution to this public consultation sent on 30 November (Ref: B921), please find attached final comments.

Amnesty International reiterates that we welcome this public consultation. We underline that the concept of global health should be explicitly addressed as a human rights issue.

As stated in our previous correspondence, our comments outline how the consultation process and the subsequent Communication present an opportunity for the EU to acknowledge the invaluable role of human rights in achieving all of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including those directly related to health. Human rights principles and standards should underpin both the processes and the objectives in the fight against poverty and all efforts towards meeting the MDGs should be consistent with protection and fulfillment of all human rights.

Moreover, the upcoming 2010 UN Summit on the MDGs provides an occasion to promote a human rights-focused approach to the MDGs and the eradication of poverty. In the preparation for this summit, the Communication can play an important role in placing human rights at the centre of the EU review on the MDGs.

In this context, it is crucial that the EU's approach to global health should be underpinned by the framework of international human rights law on the right to the highest attainable standard of health. The EU health policies must also promote empowerment and the right to participation, and prioritizing vulnerable groups to achieve human rights impact.

We remain at your disposal to provide any further information which might be helpful to you.

Yours sincerely,



Natalia Alonso
Acting Director
Amnesty International EU Office