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World AIDS Day 2010

ECDC seminar

1 December 2010

Room A1G-3, Altiero Spinelli Building

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Agenda

1 December 2010
European Parliament
Room A1G-3, Altiero Spinelli Building

12:30 Reception and buffet

13:00 Welcome

Marina Yannakoudakis, MEP

Key note speech

John Dalli, Member of the European Commission

Key note speech

Laurette Onkelinx, Minister of Social Affairs and Public Health for the Belgian EU Presidency

Launch of the ECDC guidance on HIV testing in Europe

Marc Sprenger, ECDC Director

HIV testing – evidence and practices in Europe

Marita van de Laar, ECDC

Reflections from the civil society

Nikos Dedes, EATG

14:00 Questions and discussion

HIV testing: the key to early diagnosis, treatment and prevention

On 1 December, the commemoration of World AIDS Day focuses on the ongoing AIDS pandemic caused by HIV – which remains of major public health importance in the EU/EEA as well. Despite the development of effective therapies which improve life expectancy for people diagnosed with HIV, a significant proportion of HIV-infected Europeans remain undiagnosed and are diagnosed at a late stage of infection.

As late diagnosis leads to a significantly higher risk of unwittingly spreading the virus, this is one of the key problems leading to a continuing rise of HIV infections across Europe.

On World AIDS Day 2010, Europe's leading HIV experts and EU policy makers meet in the European Parliament to discuss the importance and benefits of the increased uptake of HIV testing. The European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC) will launch its evidence-based HIV testing guidance to support countries to improve their national HIV testing strategies. It outlines a strategic approach to develop effective national HIV testing interventions and to ensure access for all Europeans to HIV testing and counselling services.