EU TASK FORCE  
(Actions since Addis Ababa)

Members of the EU Task Force:

- Martien Borgdorff (KNCV)
- Stefaan Van de Borght (Heineken)
- Risards Zaleskis (WHO EURO)
- Sheila Davie/Helen Marsh (Results UK)
- Nils Billo (IUTALD)
- Fiona Godfrey (ERS)
- Stefaan Kaufmann (Max Plank Institute)
- Marcos Espinal (Stop TB Partnership)
- Carole Francis (WHO HQ)
- Louise Baker (Partnership Secretariat)

A] The EU Task Force met by teleconference on:

1. 5th July 2005
2. 9th September 2005.

B] On the 10th and 11th of October 2005 led by Stefaan van der Borght, with the participation of Risards Zaleskis, Sheila Davie and Louise Baker a fact finding mission to European Union institutions in Brussels was undertaken.

As a result of that fact-finding mission, the EU TASK FORCE makes the following RECOMMENDATIONS to the STOP TB PARTNERSHIP COORDINATING BOARD:

- During 2006, the Partnership should establish a more significant presence in Brussels.
- The Stop TB Partnership should accept, with thanks, an offer of a 'hot desk' with the European Respiratory Society.
- An EU Group of ex-task force members, key partners and other Coordinating Board members should become a group or pool of expertise on EU affairs on the Board; supporting the Secretariat focal point with missions and meetings, as appropriate.
- The Secretariat should nominate a staff member to be the focal point of the EU Group establishing regular contacts with EU officials.
The focal point and EU group regular visit officials of the European Union and establish cordial relations with key influencers - next round to include SANCO (Luxembourg) and ECDC in Stockholm.

The focal point and EU Group would aim to 'monitor' and influence policy in four key areas:

- Development - with a focus on ACP
- European Neighborhood Policy (Eastern Europe)
- Health - with a focus on ECDC
- Research

The focal point and EU Group work with advocacy partners to secure greater awareness of TB at a general level in the institutions, particularly among MEPS.

The focal point and EU Group should broker technical assistance in proposal writing etc to key partners/consortium to secure a greater number and quality of grant proposals being submitted to the European Union (March 2006) under the poverty related disease budget line.

A tool kit be developed to help TB programmes and partners to secure a greater share for TB in EU funding available at country level.

When appropriate and feasible, EU delegations in a receiving country should be briefed by visiting TB partnership members.

An event and seminar be held in 2006 to promote and mark closer relations with the European Union - e.g. European Parliament exhibition/MEPs briefing - to coincide with a High Level Mission of the Board - to include members of the Task Force and other Partners including patient/activists.

At the end of 2006, a further assessment of progress and the decision on whether to establish a permanent office, with a full time staff member, should be made.