



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DG DEVELOPMENT

Director-General

Brussels, **31 -03- 2005**  
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Dr. Marcos A. Espinal  
Executive Secretary  
Stop TB Partnership  
20, Avenue Appia  
CH - 1211 Geneva

**T9-87-47**



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2005-04-06  
**TBP**

Your references: T9-372-25

**Subject: Invitation to the meeting of the Stop TB Coordinating Board,  
3 - 4 May 2005 in Addis Ababa**

Dear Dr. Espinal

Thank you for your letter of 25<sup>th</sup> February, containing information on the Stop TB Partnership. I am aware of the important work of the Stop TB Partnership and understand that the Partnership already has regular contact with DGDEV, which is appreciated.

You will be aware of the importance that the Commission attaches to global efforts to tackle TB, and I know that the Partnership participated in the recent consultation on the Commission's communication: A Coherent European Policy Framework for External Action to Confront HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. You are also aware, I am sure, that the Commission provides considerable financial support to global efforts to tackle TB, through our financing of the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), and that TB is one of the issues highlighted in the strategic partnership developed between the Commission and WHO. I hope, therefore, that the Commission is already recognised as a strong partner in this global fight against TB.

I have discussed the possibility of Commission participation in the board meetings of the Partnership with Dr. Fransen, but existing commitments of her unit make participation in the Addis Ababa meeting difficult. We are content however, that as several EU Member States will be present at the meeting, the coherent EU approach to TB will continue to be well reflected in the work of the Partnership, and the Commission will continue to be kept informed of the Partnerships activities.

Please rest assured that Commission remains strongly committed to global efforts to tackle TB, is significantly and strategically engaged in the global response, and as indicated in our framework for external action, will remain a champion for this cause. Whilst limited capacity within the Commission may prevent participation at board level in many valued

global partnerships, we are confident that our views will continue to be reflected in the international debate through out Member States and our existing partners, when the Commission is not able to participate directly.

We look forward to receiving a report of the outcomes of the May meeting.

Yours Sincerely,

Stefano Manservigi

DIRECTOR-GENERAL ABSENT	
SIGNED BY:	A. Theodorakis
DATE:	30/3/05