

· **Baltic Positive Network** · Балтийское Позитивное Содружество ·

· **Baltimaade Positiivne Ühendus** · **Baltijas Pozitīvā Sadraudzība** · **Baltijos Pozityvus Susivienijimas**



To:

The Presidents of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
The Parliaments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
The Governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
International organizations and funds

the XIV Summit of the “Baltic Positive Network”

Svetciems, **Latvia**

August 30, 2009

POSITION PAPER

We, the representatives of ten non-governmental HIV/ AIDS organizations, gathered at the XIV summit of the “Baltic Positive Network” are addressing you.

By voicing our position we draw your attention to what is happening in the Baltic States in HIV/ AIDS prevention and treatment under the crisis.

The economic crisis should not provoke worsened health and decreased availability of medical services for people living with HIV.

The spread of HIV in our countries may go out of control provided the following actions are not implemented:

1. Prevention programmes for high- risk groups (harm reduction programmes inclusive) should become a priority, since HIV prevention costs much less than HIV infection’s treatment and fighting its effects.
2. Treatment of HIV infection should be performed only according to medical indicators, based on the World Health Organization European Region Clinical protocols, since treatment of HIV infection is its best prevention.
3. In order to use effectively the resources available, services provided should be patient- friendly and integrated.
4. In order to financially support prevention, treatment and care programmes for people living with HIV/AIDS, International structures and foundations should be requested, since the States’ resources are cut down.
5. Laws of municipalities should include the responsibility to decrease the transmission of HIV infection in their territories, as a governmental function.

We, on our part, are ready to support our States in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care, and to participate in the process of reducing the costs of antiretroviral medication in our countries.

Signed by the representatives of the following organizations: Lietuvos Pozityvųjų Grupe, Pozityvus Gyvenimas, Demetra, Convictus Eesti, ESPO Ühing, Eesti HIV positiivsete võrgustik, Apvienība HIV.LV, AGIHAS, DIA+LOGS, Феникс Плюс

A. Molokovskis, Latvia's Focal Point, apvieniba@apvienibahiv.lv, +371 26062077