

# POST

THE TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT

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## EC to help Pakistan counter AIDS

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ISLAMABAD: The European Commission (EC) Tuesday reiterated its pledge to continue its support to Pakistan in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and asked the government to expedite its plans for combating the disease.

"The prevention and control of HIV/AIDS is amongst the top priorities of the EC as the EC has always funded projects for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS," said Michael Dale, head of the EC and head of the operation while addressing the concluding session of a two-day national dialogue 'One Soul Movement', organised by the Pakistan National AIDS Consortium here.

The dialogue which was organised in collaboration with the UNAIDS was attended by a large number of representatives from the civil society and other stakeholders as well as representatives of the Provincial AIDS Control Programme. The dialogue aimed at bringing together eminent scholars, intellectuals, representatives of the vulnerable and



marginalised groups, professionals, support organisations, civil society organisations and media on a common platform to develop strategies for integrating HIV/AIDS issue in all the developmental activities as HIV/AIDS is just not a health issue but a multi-dimensional problem.

"There should be a political will either from the government or politicians to take concrete measures for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and everybody should come forward to fight the deadly disease," Dale said. He said the EC was already funding Tareer Project that was a unique funding of its kind aimed at deployment of Rights Based Approaches in the society and also the capacity building of the civil society organisations to work on the HIV/AIDS. He said the population of the country would be in a critical condition if appropriate measures were not taken to fight the deadly disease. Dale expressed the hope that One Soul Movement would play an important role not only in creating awareness about HIV/AIDS in general public but also in integrating HIV/AIDS in developmental initiatives.