

The fight against malaria

Gomes (PSE). - (PT) I welcome Mr Michel's statement that funding is to be increased in the fight against malaria, a disease that is intrinsically linked with poverty and a fresh outbreak of which has led to child deaths. We want more, though. We want the EU to take up the suggestion made by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, and to launch and play a leading role in a world anti-malaria programme, given that, owing to a lack of political will and of adequate public funding, there is still no vaccine and not even widespread distribution of insecticide-treated bed-nets.

The EU can make the difference in the fight against poverty if it succeeds in raising funds and taking the lead in positive and far-reaching projects, as in the malaria prevention project before us. If so, the EU will be making a decisive contribution towards achieving the millennium goals, which are in fact more than goals - they are commitments that must be honoured by the Union and its Member States.