

## **ACTIVISTS IN INDIA HAND OVER INTERNATIONAL SIGN-ON LETTER TO EU COUNCIL PRESIDENT, MR.HERMAN VAN ROMPUY DURING A PUBLIC LECTURE**

10 February 2012, New Delhi. As part of the Global Week of Action on the EU-India FTA, activists in India intervened at a public lecture given by the EU Council President here to hand over an international sign-on letter expressing concern over the EU's continuing pressure on India to accept provisions in the FTA that are likely to harm access to medicines not just in India but across the developing world.

The India international Centre in New Delhi and the Delegation of the European Union to India jointly organised a Public lecture on 'The European Union in a Changing World' on Friday, 10 February. The public lecture was delivered by H.E. Mr.Herman VaN Rompuy, President of the European Council who is currently leading the delegation from Europe for the EU-India Summit which was held earlier in the day. The EU delegation met with the Indian Prime Minister this morning to talk about several issues including the EU-India FTA.

The lecture was chaired by former Attorney-General of India, Shri. Soli Sorarbjee. The lecture was followed by a Question and Answer (Q&A) session where the audience was encouraged to ask questions.

Anandi Yuvaraj, from International Community of Women living with HIV/AIDS - Asia Pacific (ICW Asia-Pacific) along with other activists working on HIV, agriculture and development attended this meeting and made an intervention during the Q&A session.

Anandi carried with her the final version of the international sign-on letter posted by the Lawyers Collective HIV/AIDS Unit and requested the President of the European Council to accept the sign on letter that articulates concerns over the EU-India FTA negotiations that impede access to medicines and the right to health.

During her intervention, Anandi said:

“I am Anandi Yuvaraj, a women living with HIV for the past ten years and taking antiretroviral drugs that saved my life and millions of lives around the world. I have a sign on letter that articulates some clauses of the current EU-India FTA trade negotiations that challenge our constitutional right to health and access to medicines. May I request His Excellency to accept the letter signed by hundreds of civil society groups, human rights organizations and individuals.”

The President of the European Council, who was on the stage, agreed to receive the letter and it was handed over to him by Anandi at this meeting. The audience applauded this intervention.