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*for the South East of England*

Commissioner Michel  
DG Development and Humanitarian Aid  
The European Commission  
200 Rue de la Loi  
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July 17<sup>th</sup> 2008

Dear Commissioner,

Last month I understand that the Heads of EU member states committed to spending an extra 8 billion Euros providing 21 million trained birth attendants helping to prevent deaths in childbirth. This will help make progress towards the Millennium Development Goal concerning maternal health and is to be warmly welcomed. Of the 535,000 maternal deaths worldwide in 2005, 99% occurred in poorer countries, mainly due to inadequate clinical services.

I also note that the EU has announced plans to conduct a review of its role in advancing the Millennium Development Goals and to identify areas for improvement. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage the Commission to pay particular attention to maternal health in its review and consider the international community's goal of reducing maternal mortality by 75% by 2015. I would also like to enquire about when the extra money pledged by member states will be available to financially under resourced nations and where it will be targeted.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.