



Bertrand AUDOIN (France) *Executive Director of the International AIDS Society (IAS)*

Bertrand Audoin is Executive Director of the International AIDS Society (IAS), a post he took up on February 1, 2011.

Bertrand has been working in the HIV field for almost 20 years, and first became involved in the response to the epidemic at grass roots level in the early 1990s. While working at the Alliance Française in Auckland, New Zealand, Bertrand was motivated to volunteer in HIV prevention programmes in Auckland's gay community by the disastrous consequences that he saw the epidemic was having on the family, work and social lives of men and women living with HIV in the local area.

Immediately before joining the IAS, Bertrand was based in Paris as the General Director of Sidaction, a leading French HIV/AIDS NGO. Bertrand worked with Sidaction for 15 years, implementing local prevention and care programmes, and increasing Sidaction's funds from around 7 million euros in 2000 to more than 21 million euros in 2010. Under Bertrand's leadership, Sidaction secured long-term commitments on implementing programmes where they are needed most on both national and international levels. This included support for more than 60 young scientists every year; prevention and care programmes in French prisons; new and efficient local prevention programmes with men who have sex with men both in France and in French-speaking African countries; more and higher-quality social science on HIV in France; training for professionals in low- and middle-income countries; or increased access to care and treatment for HIV infected and affected children in Africa, for example.

Bertrand also works with the Pierre Bergé and Yves Saint Laurent Foundation as coordinator of its "Fonds de dotation Pierre Bergé" committee for HIV/AIDS programmes, an organization led by the former founder and co-owner of Yves Saint Laurent company, which supports health projects with a specific focus on HIV/AIDS.

Bertrand's goal over the next few years is to use his role at the IAS to emphasize the importance of multidisciplinary efforts and to harness the organization's unique power of bringing very different people together to conceive the future of the fight against HIV/AIDS at global and local levels. Bertrand sees the IAS as an instrument to make the "think globally, act locally" motto work, and states that, in a world where many leaders tend to erase the fight against HIV/AIDS from their list of priorities, the IAS is here to make clear that this would be a big mistake for the future of humanity as a whole.