



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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COHAFA 158
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COMER 264
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PECHE 534**

NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to : Delegations
Subject: Meeting of the European Parliament's **Committee on Development (DEVE)** on 6 December 2012 - Summary record

The meeting was chaired by Ms. Joly, Verts/ALE, FR.

The Coordinators' meeting was postponed (item 1). The agenda was adopted, subject to a change (postponement of item 14 of the agenda to the next DEVE meeting on 18 December). The minutes of the meeting on 8-9 October 2012 were approved (item 3). The Chair announced the publication of a report of the Kabul Bank in Afghanistan on the website of the European Parliament (item 4) and informed the committee on the findings of her visit in Kabul. There were no announcements from (item 5) nor questions to the Commission (item 6).

7. Corporate Social Responsibility: promoting society's interests and a route to sustainable and inclusive recovery

The draft opinion (rapporteur for the opinion: Ms. Grèze, Verts/ALE, FR, responsible committee: EMPL) was adopted with a number of amendments.

8. Corporate Social Responsibility: accountable, transparent and responsible business behaviour and sustainable growth

The draft opinion (rapporteur for the opinion: Ms. Grèze, Verts/ALE, FR, responsible committee: JURI) was adopted with a number of amendments.

9. Interim agreement establishing a framework for an Economic Partnership Agreement between Eastern and Southern Africa States and the EC

The draft opinion (rapporteur for the opinion: Ms. Sargentini, Verts/ALE, NL, responsible committee: INTA) was adopted with a number of amendments.

10. Development aspects of intellectual property rights on genetic resources: the impact on poverty reduction in developing countries

The draft report (rapporteur: Ms. Grèze, Verts/ALE, FR) was adopted with a number of amendments.

11. For a comprehensive EU fishery strategy in the Pacific region

Ms Striffler briefly presented the draft opinion on behalf of the rapporteur for the opinion M. Ponga (PPE, FR) (Responsible: PECH).

Mr. Neuser, S&D, DE expressed support for the draft opinion, which he considered raised the right issues, in particular the issue of illegal fishing in the Pacific and the need to promote sustainable fishing and to ensure policy coherence across all EU actions fields and agreements.

Ms. Meissner, ALDE, DE also expressed support for the draft opinion, and concern at the increasing demand for, and pressure on, tuna fish stocks and at the threat to local and sustainable fishing created by the harsh competition between big fisheries.

The Commission representative recalled that fishing stocks were essential for the food security of the local populations and that long-term and sustainable management of fisheries was therefore key.

· Deadline for tabling amendments: 12 December 2012, 12.00

12. Advancing Development: through Trade

13. Trade and investment-driven growth for developing countries

Le rapport de M. Svensson (PPE, SV) sur la promotion du développement par le commerce (point 12 de l'ordre du jour, délai pour les amendements: 23 January 2013) et le projet d'avis au projet de rapport de Mme Saifi (PPE, FR) sur le commerce et l'investissement, moteurs de la croissance pour les pays en développement (point 13 de l'ordre du jour, délai de dépôt des amendements: 18 décembre 2013) ont été traités conjointement.

Le rapporteur M Svensson (PPE, SV) a souligné l'importance du commerce pour renforcer la réalisation des objectifs de la politique de développement. Il a estimé que le renforcement des capacités commerciales des pays en développement (PED) était essentiel pour leur permettre de participer à la mondialisation et aux échanges internationaux, mais aussi pour renforcer leur capacité à promouvoir leur propre développement, et souligné l'importance de les traiter sur un pied d'égalité et de prendre en compte leurs besoins propres. Il a insisté sur la nécessité d'exiger un processus inclusif dans les négociations pour que les bénéfices du commerce touchent toutes les populations et pas seulement les élites. Il a évoqué la nécessité de prendre en compte les risques du processus de libéralisation sur les pays les plus pauvres.

Le représentant de la Commission européenne (DG TRADE) s'est félicité des convergences de vues avec le rapporteur sur plusieurs points tels que l'importance du bon fonctionnement des marchés locaux, la gouvernance ou encore l'appropriation, et a ajouté les remarques suivantes:

- sur les Droits de l'homme (DDH), il a rappelé que les principes et objectifs de l'UE en la matière s'appliquent à toutes les politiques, y compris commerciale et de développement et que la promotion des DDH est donc partie intégrante de cette politique;
- sur les Accords de Partenariat Economique (APEs), il a affirmé que la Commission se montre souple et traite ses partenaires sur un pied d'égalité, mais que la finalisation des négociations était subordonnée à la volonté politique de les conclure;
- sur le SPG et les questions tarifaires liées, il a réfuté l'idée selon laquelle le nouveau système de SPG risquerait de priver les pays les moins avancés (PMAs) de perspectives d'exportations.

Il a estimé au contraire que le nouveau SPG offre de nouvelles perspectives en permettant moins de compétition dans les secteurs où les PMA sont déjà producteurs, et en offrant la possibilité de diversifier l'économie et de profiter des réductions tarifaires dans les secteurs où il y a compétition avec les pays développés. Concernant les importations, il a souligné que les PMA, à l'exception du commerce des armes, ne connaissent pas de restrictions aux produits importés, et que les règles concernant les produits d'origine pour les bénéficiaires des APE ont été assouplies.

- Sur l'accaparement des terres, la Commission européenne a estimé que les investissements en la matière pouvaient contribuer au renforcement de l'efficacité des secteurs agricoles, tout en jugeant essentiel que de tels investissements soient gérés de manière responsable et durable, et en soutenant les initiatives nationales et internationales visant à définir des codes de conduite en la matière.

Il a exprimé son accord avec le rapporteur sur la responsabilité sociale des entreprises et insisté sur leur caractère volontaire. En revanche, il n'a pas partagé son évaluation négative sur "processus de Kimberley". Concernant la sécurité alimentaire et les biocarburants, il a rappelé la proposition de la Commission visant à limiter les réaffectations de terres fertiles pour les biocarburants, qui sera limitée à 5% (correspondant au niveau actuel) tout en maintenant l'objectif de 10%, pour la part des énergies renouvelables, le restant provenant de biocarburants de deuxième génération.

Le représentant de la DG DEVCO a souligné l'importance d'une croissance inclusive et efficace dans plusieurs secteurs pour contribuer à réduire la pauvreté et a suggéré une formulation plus nuancée du paragraphe 5. Il a souligné que les instruments d'aide au commerce de l'UE, ne se limite pas au commerce entre l'UE et les PED, et que la diversification de la production dépend surtout de l'environnement des affaires et de la bonne gouvernance, l'influence extérieure des bailleurs de fonds étant assez limitée en la matière. Concernant les efforts en matière de paradis fiscaux, il a affirmé que la Commission était déjà active dans ce domaine depuis plusieurs années, mais qu'il s'agissait d'un domaine où il n'était pas facile d'obtenir des résultats.

Enfin, concernant la sécurité alimentaire, il a suggéré d'éviter le malentendu selon lequel la sécurité alimentaire dépendrait uniquement de la production locale, alors qu'elle est également liée à la capacité de se procurer des produits disponibles sur les marchés.

Le représentant de l'ONG CONCORD a regretté que la politique commerciale de l'UE soit surtout offensive et défensive, et tende surtout à garantir les intérêts de l'UE. Il a souligné l'importance de l'appropriation et de l'élaboration de leurs propres programmes de développement par les pays bénéficiaires afin d'éviter que les programmes d'aide aux commerce ne reflètent par trop les priorités des pays donateurs. Il a estimé en outre que le SPG réformé était moins généreux. Concernant les APE, il a invité la Commission européenne à se montrer plus souple dans son approche.

Lors de l'échange de vues qui a suivi,

M. Mitchell (PPE, IE) a insisté sur la nécessité de promouvoir des politiques d'accès à la propriété, via un système bancaire adapté et des programmes d'accès aux assurances, les politiques d'accès à la propriété étant un moyen de faciliter l'activité commerciale.

Mme Joly (Verts/ALE, FR) a souligné l'importance des recettes provenant de la perception des droits de douane dans les budgets des PED (40% du budget en Afghanistan, 50% à Madagascar), et a estimé essentiel de permettre aux PED de s'adapter et de se développer par ce biais en ne leur imposant pas un abaissement de leurs tarifs douaniers. Contrairement à la position de la Commission, elle a insisté sur la nécessité de rendre obligatoires des mesures de responsabilité sociale des entreprises via leur maison mère, pour éviter que certaines multinationales ne viennent piller les ressources des pays en développement en laissant un environnement détruit derrière elles.

M. Goerens (ADLE, LU) a invité à ne pas surestimer ni sous-estimer l'importance du commerce comme facteur de développement et vecteur de redistribution. Il a estimé qu'il convenait de faire mention de l'économie informelle dans les pays africains compte tenu de son importance et du fait qu'elle constituait souvent une étape pour les acteurs économiques vers le passage à une activité économique déclarée. Il a cité le problème du dumping monétaire pratiqué par la Chine, y compris en Afrique, et la nécessité de trouver des moyens de protéger ce continent contre ces pratiques. Concernant les APE, il a estimé qu'il fallait y intégrer davantage la dimension du développement.

Mme Sargentini (Verts/ALE, NL), s'est référée à l'article 208 du Traité de Lisbonne, selon lequel les activités de la politique étrangère de l'UE ne devaient pas aller à l'encontre de l'objectif d'éradication de la pauvreté, et appelé le Parlement européen à ne pas ratifier les APEs.

M Neuser, S&D, DE s'est rallié aux orateurs précédents et souligné l'importance de renforcer les capacités commerciales des PED en tenant compte de critères qualitatifs liés à l'impact du commerce sur le développement de ces pays. Il a estimé que le rapport devait être complété concernant les APEs et le SPG.

14. A strategy for Policy Coherence for Development - Exchange of views with the new Standing Rapporteur for Policy Coherence for Development

Ce point a été reporté.

15. Preparation of the multiannual financial framework regarding the financing of EU cooperation for African, Caribbean and Pacific States and Overseas Countries and Territories for the 2014-2020 period (11th European Development Fund)

Le rapporteur M. Tirolien (S&D, FR) a rappelé que pour la période 2014-2020, le FED n'a pas été budgétisé, de telle sorte que le Parlement européen n'était pas associé à sa négociation, et a exprimé le souhait que la situation change en 2020. Il a jugé la proposition du Président Van Rompuy décevante, avec une diminution de 11% de l'enveloppe proposée par la Commission, et a regretté que la politique de développement soit la plus touchée par les coupes budgétaires proposées, alors même qu'elle bénéficie d'un large soutien de la part des citoyens européens. Il s'est dit raisonnablement optimiste sur le maintien du principe de différenciation et sur l'impact à attendre du recours au nouveau mécanisme de mixage prêts-dons dans le cadre du soutien au secteur privé.

M Goerens (ADLE, LU), a déploré que le Conseil transforme l'engagement en faveur du développement en une variable d'ajustement du budget de l'UE, et a condamné ce qu'il a estimé être une "trahison" du socle doctrinal que constitue le consensus européen pour le développement.

M. Mitchell, PPE, IE, a souligné l'importance de la cohérence et de la coordination des politiques comme les deux socles d'appui d'une bonne politique de développement.

16. Report from the Foreign Affairs Council, session on development cooperation of 15 October 2012 - Presentation by Dr Erato Kozakou-Markoullis, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cyprus (on behalf of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy)

The Chair referred to the committee's concerns as to the gap between statements and actions by Member States with regard to the EU's ODA commitments and announced that the committee would invite some Ministers to attend the committee to explain the position of their government on this issue.

The Minister speaking on behalf of the High Representative delivered the speech in Annex.

MEPs warmly thanked the Minister for the overview of the Foreign Affairs' Council's outcome.

Questions and concerns by MEPs largely focused on the issue of the EU's long-term budget for development for the years to come, the contradictions between statements and actions by Member States, and on how Member States could ensure coherence between their statements and commitments on financing for development on the one hand and the reality of development budgets on the other, both at national and EU level (Kaczmarek, EPP, PL, Berman, S&D, NL, Goerens, ALDE, LU).

M. Berman considered it ironic for Ministers to be aware of the need for the EU's development policy to contribute to reducing social inequalities in developing countries, and at the same time not to do anything about the increasing inequalities within the EU and within the Member States as a consequence of the current economic crisis. M. Goerens expressed deep concern at development budgets' cuts across the EU, at the ambiguous language used in the Council conclusions to hide this fact, and said that the European Parliament should resist these cuts.

In their individual interventions, MEPs stressed the need to pay more attention to the following :

- issues of coordination, coherence and disaster risk reduction and prevention as a powerful means to save and get the best value for the development money spent (Mitchell, EPP, IE);
- non-discrimination and human rights clauses in the EU's external relations, and quoting the outcome of the negotiation on the Cotonou agreement (Cashman, S&D, UK);
- respect of EU's commitments on ODA and of the Consensus for development, since there was otherwise the risk of a crisis of confidence in the EU (Goerens, ALDE, LU);

- need to speak with one voice at international level in the post-2015 MDGs negotiations and the need to improve the EU's relations with Cuba (Neuser, S&D, DE);

In answer, Minister Kozakou :

- on the development budget and ODA commitments, responded in detail to the issues at stake and the current state of play with regard to the EU's ODA commitments, while noting that much would depend on the outcome of the negotiations on the next MFF, which were not yet concluded;
- stressed the importance of human rights, governance and the rule of law and referred to the recent nomination of the EU's Special Representative on Human rights as one more signal of the importance given by the EU to the issue of human rights. On the Cotonou's revision negotiations, she underlined that the EU should however not impose its views to its equal partner in negotiations;
- on coordination, coherence and streamlining of EU development action, she referred to the Joint Programming under way for a number of countries as a positive step in the right direction and as one of the methods used towards this objective which was to be pursued and developed;
- on MDGs after 2015, she referred to the Communication under preparation by the Commission to be published end of January;
- on Cuba, she referred to the recent Council's decision to ask the High Representative to prepare draft negotiating directives with a view to negotiating a new agreement with Cuba. She clarified that until such new agreement is concluded, the 1996 Council position would apply to relations with Cuba.

17. Any other business

18. Next meeting(s)

- 17 December 2012, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
 - 18 December 2012, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
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**Speech by the Cyprus Foreign Minister Ms. Kozakou
on behalf of the High Representative for foreign affairs and security policy
at the DEVE-committee of the EP on 6 December 2012
*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!***

Honourable Members of Parliament,

I am very pleased to be here on behalf of High Representative/Vice President Ashton to inform you about the discussions, conclusions and follow-up of the Foreign Affairs Council (Development) that was held on 15 October in Luxembourg.

As always, this was a useful occasion to have strategic policy discussion among the EU's Development Ministers and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the EEAS and the Commission services for excellent cooperation in the run-up to the FAC, and during the meeting itself.

At the meeting in Luxembourg in October, we had the opportunity to take stock of progress made on some "new-ish" but increasingly central policy issues, such as the EU's support to transition societies, and the EU's approach to resilience. Most importantly, we also had the opportunity to engage in a debate on one of the most central development policy issues of today – the debate on the post-2015 global framework. This is a subject that goes well beyond the confines of development policy and development cooperation – in fact it is to a large extent about what kind of future we want and should work towards together. It is also a subject that I am sure that we, and you, will return to many times in the coming years. I would be interested to learn more about your views on this important issue.

Before addressing the first agenda item, the HR/VP also confirmed that future FAC (Development) meetings would be scheduled as separate half day events. This is of course something that the European Parliament and some Ministers had asked for in the past, and this commitment was welcomed across the board.

So, let me first turn to the main item on the agenda – the post-MDG Process and the follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference. The HR/VP stressed her own personal engagement on the issue, and framed the discussion by underlining the importance of a coherent and comprehensive EU approach to both the post-2015 debate, and the follow-up from the Rio+20 Conference held in June this year. Referring to Commission non-paper “Coherence and coordination between the follow-up to Rio+20 and the post-2015 development agenda” that had been circulated to Member States, the HR/VP highlighted her good cooperation with Commissioners Potocnik and Piebalgs. She then invited Commissioner Piebalgs, a member of the UN High Level Panel (HLP) reviewing the MDGs, to debrief on the Panel's first meeting in September.

Commissioner Piebalgs outlined the next steps in the post-2015 discussion, including the HLP report expected in May 2013, the discussion at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2013, and the parallel work of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as proposed in Rio. In terms of substance, he put emphasis on maintaining a strong focus on poverty reduction and working towards updated MDGs which should focus on key drivers of prosperity (growth, equity, governance, human rights) as well as sustainability (good management of natural resources).

In the following discussion, nearly all 27 Member States took the floor. I will not go into the details of all of the interventions, but will instead highlight a number of key themes that came up:

Firstly, Ministers broadly agreed with the main priorities set out in the UN Task Team Report, i.e. building the 'new MDGs' around the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social, and environmental) plus peace and security and governance related aspects – i.e. to maintain a poverty focus, but to widen the approach to other issues that are also crucial for sustainable development and human well-being.

Secondly, while some Ministers preferred a simple set of new easy-to-understand goals, others wanted a more cross-cutting approach reflecting the interdependency of different sectors (water, energy, food etc.) and dimensions (peace and security, demography, migration, climate change, governance and human rights).

Thirdly, many Ministers stressed the need for a close implication of civil society organisations and the private sector, not least on issues relating to implementation and financing.

Fourthly, many Ministers stressed the need for universal goals, applicable to and relevant for all countries, but adapted to national and regional contexts and realities. The 'donor-recipient' relationship underpinning the present MDG-framework should be replaced with something more balanced and more global.

Finally, a number of Ministers stressed the new post-2015 framework should pay particular attention to fragile and conflict-affected states and reflect agreement in the 'New Deal' as well as the outcome documents from the High Level meeting on Aid Effectiveness in Busan in 2011.

In terms of process, and the way forward towards 2015, Ministers also highlighted a number of key issues:

There was a consensus in favour of a common EU position.

Several Member States called for an important role for the HR/VP and the EEAS in this process.

Many Ministers also highlighted the need for EU positions to be developed in close connection with the outreach to the main international partners, organisations and groups of countries, with a particular emphasis on the strategic partners and the BRICs as well as the LDCs, the G77 and the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Here there were lessons to learn from Rio.

Commissioner Piebalgs and several Ministers also suggested including the issue of the post-MDG process and the follow-up to Rio+20 on the agenda of the European Council in the course of 2013.

The second main item on the agenda was EU Support to Transition Societies, where the discussion took place on the basis of a Joint Communication from the HR/VP and Commissioners Piebalgs and Fule. In her opening remarks, the HR/VP situated the proposals in the Joint Communication in the overall context of the work towards a more comprehensive EU approach. The important point was to make sure that the EU, through the range of its instruments, could better promote accountable government, political freedom, economic inclusiveness, decent jobs, social justice and equity in transition processes and transition societies.

Commissioner Piebalgs recalled that poverty reduction remained central in transition processes, and that the EU should improve the way it delivers its assistance to ensure more sustainable results.

Ministers welcomed the Joint Commission in particular, and the attention to transition societies and transition experiences in general. Again, I will not go into the details of each Minister's interventions, but will instead highlight a few overarching themes.

Firstly, Ministers stressed that the rich experience and lessons learned from the EU's own enlargement process should be better used in the formulation and execution of EU policy and action in support of transition processes. The European Transition Compendium was a useful resource that should be used more systematically.

Secondly, since all transition processes were different, there was a need for tailor-made approaches, based on the situation itself and the partner country's needs and priorities. There were also proposals to complement the more-for-more approach with a less-for-less approach in those partner countries that did not deliver in the governance area.

Thirdly, Ministers highlighted the important role of technical assistance and capacity building in partner countries. Twinning programmes and instruments like TAIEX should be used more broadly and efficiently.

Finally, there was general support for better EU coordination, including through joint needs assessments, joint missions and joint programming.

The HR/VP summarised the discussion and suggested that Council Conclusions should be prepared on the basis of the discussion among Ministers. Those Conclusions are now under preparation.

The third and final main item of the agenda was the EU approach to Resilience, where discussion took place on the basis of a Commission Communication, prepared jointly by Commissioners Piebalgs and Georgieva.

The HR/VP introduced the item by referring to the recurrent food crises in the Sahel and in the Horn of Africa, which underscored the need of a long-term and systematic approach to building resilience. She underlined the need for a comprehensive EU approach when helping to improve the resilience of local and regional structures facing external or internal shocks like natural disasters, armed conflicts, political instability, climate change and economic crises. In this respect, the EU would be better equipped now following the creation of EU crisis platform and measures related to information sharing and early warning systems.

Commissioner Georgieva then presented the detailed proposals in the Communication, highlighting in particular the cost effectiveness of improving resilience of in partner countries. Three separate entry points were particularly central: (1) anticipating crisis; (2) emergency measures; and (3) enhancing the response capacity. The EU's SHARE and AGRI initiatives were examples that this approach could deliver positive results.

Ministers, including the present and incoming EU Presidency, welcomed the Communication and fully supported the resilience initiative. Other Ministers underlined the need to strengthen the link between humanitarian assistance and development cooperation, and to retain flexibility in the programming phase. Issues relating to food security, risk assessment and cost-effectiveness of interventions and policies were stressed by other Ministers.

HR/VP concluded with reference to her recent visit to Mogadishu, Somalia, where there was a need for a comprehensive EU approach to issues of resilience, security and political instability.

Thank you for your attention. I would be happy to try to reply to any questions that you may have.
