



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**PE 418
COHAF 99
DEVGEN 240
COHOM 210
CONUN 106
COAFR 286
ACP 147
PECHE 400**

NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Delegations

Subject: Summary record of the meeting of the European Parliament Committee on
Development (DEVE) on 16 and 17 September 2013

The meeting was chaired by Ms Crețu (S&D, RO).

I. Reducing Risks Post-2015: EU perspectives on Building Resilience of Communities to Disasters (DEVE/7/13673)

- Exchange of views with:
 - K. Georgieva, Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response
 - M. Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction

Commissioner Georgieva delivered the speech set out in the [Annex](#).

Ms Wahlström congratulated the Commission on its work, though there was still work ahead. She added that there had been no major headline-grabbing disasters, yet, it was essential to further link up development - climate/environmental protection with a view to better disaster prevention.

The political group coordinators taking the floor welcomed Ms Georgieva's statement. Mr Mitchell (EPP, IE) highlighted the Parliament's special emphasis on DRM and resilience, and other political group speakers confirmed this. Mr Michell also underlined the need for enhanced coordination between the different actors. Mr Berman (S&D, NL) wondered if the MFF provisions were enough, specially as regards support for the most vulnerable, while Mr Cortes Lastra (S&D, ES) considered that more efforts were needed, such as transparency, coordination, investment, etc. Mr Berman also questioned the increasing number of UN posts/organisations.

Commissioner Georgieva agreed with Mr Mitchell on the importance of DRM and resilience, adding that the focus should be on the most vulnerable countries and people. She recalled that 80% of victims were from 20% of the most vulnerable people and that often ancient social habits were at the origin of a crisis. She stressed that there was some progress on Member States' coordination and she thanked the Parliament for its support for MFF, though EUR 350 million were needed for the emergency reserve. Ms Wahlström added that Syria showed that resilience needed to be part of an integrated approach. She replied to Mr Berman that she was not responsible for the proliferation at UN level, adding that the strongest driver for better coherence were regional organisations.

II. An Update on the WFP's approach to the changing aid environment (DEVE/7/13691)

- Exchange of views with Ms Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP)

Ms Cousin welcomed the work carried out by the DEVE Committee and provided an overview of the WFP's past performance. She underlined the need to achieve an integrated approach involving partners, NGOs and UN agencies as well as the private sector. She said that the WFP focus remained performing work to provide resilience, mentioning in this respect that the UN SG had issued a "zero hunger challenge". She added that much progress had been made, but that it was essential not to lose public support. Ms Cousin then outlined the WFP's new Strategic Plan for

2014-2017, providing the framework for WFP operations and its role in achieving a world with zero hunger. She put special emphasis on the particular situation of Yemen and said in this context that there was a direct link between food availability and the security situation. She added that in her view, it was not just about food delivery but also about improving food quality, using for instance science in order to increase food productivity, providing local farmers with access to commercial markets, ensuring that markets functioned properly, etc. She concluded her presentation by drawing attention to the food access issue in places such as Syria, Pakistan, Somalia, etc.

Ms Cousin's statement was welcomed by all the committee members who took the floor. Mr Cortes Lastra wondered if coordination between development policy actors was actually working, specially in times of budget cuts. Mr Berman asked about financial inclusion and Mr Goerens (ALDE, LU) about the impact of decreasing agricultural prices on developing countries. Ms Cousin replied that in her opinion, cooperation between UN agencies was essential and that progress had been made. She added that since it was usually the same people who were benefiting from external aid, the organisations involved should make use of their respective strengths and coordinate their efforts. Regarding agricultural prices, she worked closely with the governments of exporting countries as their intervention was decisive, yet those benefiting from the WFP were usually not affected by market fluctuations. On the issue of financial inclusion, she believed that sustainable development was also dependent on financial inclusion.

III. Local authorities and civil society: Europe's engagement in support of sustainable development (DEVE/7/11220)

- Rapporteur: Corina Crețu (S&D)
- Responsible: DEVE
- Exchange of views

The rapporteur pointed out that drawing up the report had been a long process, with many consultations. She presented the main elements of her report and indicated that she had worked out 10 compromise amendments on the basis of the more than 60 amendments received (see paragraph XI). Mr Donskis (ALDE, LT) welcomed the report and suggested making use of the new Member

States' experience of transition. Mr Berman said that strengthening the local level was strengthening democracy, because this would deprive governments of their monopoly over aid distribution. He added that the Parliament should uphold this position in the negotiations with the Council. The Commission said that the Parliament report was comprehensive and explained that the roadmaps would be developed in a participative manner involving in particular civil society and that the monitoring of progress was another priority.

IV. European Year of Development (2015) (DEVE/7/13482)

- Rapporteur: Charles Goerens (ALDE)
- Responsible: DEVE
- Opinions: FEMM
- Exchange of views

The rapporteur presented the historic background to the proposal. He took the view that 2015 should be kept as a year of mobilisation for development, yet one had to be realistic and admit that the economic crisis would provide serious competition. Therefore, he suggested setting out development objectives and past successes. He doubted that the funds proposed by the Commission would be sufficient. In reply, the Commission, which welcomed the report, explained that the funds mentioned were those already included in the budget which had already been approved, and did not constitute new funds. Mr Berman very much welcomed the report and said that development was coming more and more under attack; consequently, in addition to outlining the EU's values, the EU should also present the results of its policy. The rapporteur agreed with this proposal.

Provisional timetable:

Deadline for tabling amendments: 16 October

Vote in DEVE: 5 November

V. Information accompanying transfers of funds (DEVE/7/11909)

- Rapporteur for the opinion: Nirj Deva (ECR)
- Responsible: LIBE - Timothy Kirkhope (ECR)
- Exchange of views

Mr Zahradil (CZ), speaking on behalf of Mr Deva, said that the rapporteur endorsed the Commission approach. Ms Schnieber-Jastram (EPP, DE) welcomed the proposal because it focussed on tax havens and the poorest countries, adding that illegal activities should not be exported to development countries and therefore that capital should remain in the countries of origin. She furthermore urged the EU to put more pressure on tax havens. The Commission welcomed the report, which was well focused. However, the Commission pointed out that provisions relating to international requirements could be problematic since new requirements were difficult to get adopted.

Provisional timetable:

Vote in DEVE: 3 Oct

VI. Promoting development through responsible business practices, including the role of extractive industries in developing countries (DEVE/7/13656) - Hearing

Tata Humaku, head of programme and lead on international trade and economic policy at the Africa Secretariat of the Third World Network, asserted that the key problem was that taxes paid by mining companies did not benefit mineral exporting countries sufficiently. Sergio Andes Coronado Delgado, a lawyer on constitutional law, pointed out that human rights violations took place where mining activities were increased. He recommended establishing binding instruments and mechanisms for people who had been subject to damage caused by mining activities. They should be given access to justice at the place where the mining companies had their headquarters.

Commissioner de Gucht alluded to the Commission's intention to launch a proposal to encourage responsible resourcing. He could not provide further details on legislation at this stage. He found that on the other hand the security of supply of minerals remained a priority. Furthermore, Mr de Gucht stressed that it was important to include national elites in exporting countries in a dialogue which aimed at improving the situation for indigenous communities affected by mining activities.

VII. EU donor coordination on development aid (DEVE/7/123436)

- Rapporteur: Gay Mitchell (EPP)
- Responsible: DEVE
- Opinions: AFET - Jean-Jacob Bicep (Greens/EFA)
- Exchange of views
- Deadline for tabling amendments

The rapporteur presented his draft report, recalling the added value of coordination (EUR 8 billion in cost reduction) and therefore supported the new regulation for coordination.

Mr Guerrero Salom (S&D, ES) said that the issue was especially important in times of decreases in development aid and that he was in favour of a binding mechanism that would increase coordination. However, he recalled that there were diverging views amongst Member States as well as different geographic/thematic interests. The Commission said that it had been pursuing enhanced coordination for years, stressing that it was a field of dual competence with national interests prevailing. The Commission was unsure whether a legally binding instrument was the right way forward. The EEAS supported the analysis of the report and said that it was about time to act and implement.

The rapporteur was confident that a consensus would be found, adding that an agreement was needed before the parliamentary elections. He also said that he would take into account the comments on the binding nature of any instrument.

Provisional timetable:

Deadline for tabling amendments: 10 October

Vote in DEVE: 5 November

VIII. Sustainable Development Goals and Millennium Development Goals review process

(DEVE/7/13669, jointly with Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety)

- Exchange of views with:
 - Mr Piebalgs, Commissioner for Development
 - J. Potočnik, Commissioner for Environment
 - Amina J. Mohammed, the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning

ENVI chair Mr Groete underlined that the international pace of discussions was predominant and that green energy and sustainability could create more justice. He added that Rio+ 2020 delivered more than expected but less than possible.

Commissioner Piebalgs said that the joint ENVI and DEVE meeting could shape a common position, which was important since a comprehensive-post 2020 approach was needed. He praised the Parliament for its engagement and underlined the need to make sure that everything that had been decided would be implemented. He added that over the last ten years the EU and the Member States had showed an extremely high level of commitment and that the EU could continue to be most generous donor. With a view to the new Millennium Goals, he stressed that this was the first time that the world had had the necessary technology to eradicate poverty. Yet, the process needed to involve all actors and a global agreement would be major challenge; therefore a clear road map should be set out. Commissioner Potočnik fully agreed with Mr Piebalgs, saying that both shared the same vision. He took the view that the UN SG's report was an excellent basis and that significant progress had been made, though the eradication of poverty was still far in the future. He underlined that the moment of irreversible effects was getting close and that natural disasters caused by human action demonstrated the need for environmental sustainability. To this end, an integrated framework, built on the strong commitments of Rio, was necessary. He considered that there should be a common approach for the next stages, with a common EU vision of goals by early next year. Ms Amina J. Mohammed added that visions of how to achieve MDG goals were strongly divergent and that even if they were achieved much more had to be done. Business as usual was not acceptable and poverty eradication and sustainable development remained high priorities. To this end, the impact of climate change should be outlined, stressing the importance of deep-reaching evaluations, monitoring and accountability.

Committee members taking the floor shared to a large extent the assessments made by the Commissioners and Ms Mohammed. Yet, some MEPs drew the attention to unsatisfactory developments such as the rights of LBGTs and women in developing countries (Mr Cashman (S&D, UK) and Ms Grèze (Greens/EFA, FR)). The latter and Ms Klass (EPP, DE) also mentioned production and consumption modes, which needed to be redefined. In the same vein, Mr Tirolien (S&D, FR) and Mr Mitchell underscored disaster risk reduction, while Mr Neuser (S&D, DE) put special emphasis on the need to clearly define the next MDGs so that it could be determined if they had been reached. He also took the view that the next MDGs should include elements such as renewable energies and fair trade.

In reply, Commissioner Piebalgs said that the EU could be proud of what it had achieved so far. He agreed that human rights should be protected and LBGT rights needed to be discussed with the EU's partners. In his opinion, strengthening human rights contributed to the solidification of society. He recalled that resilience was a priority for the EU, and that therefore disaster reduction was covered. Commissioner Potočnik pointed out to Ms Crèze what had been done for sustainability in the framework of Rio 2020. He confirmed that resilience was a high priority, referring to some concrete examples which demonstrated how several issues could be tackled with the same resources. He added that as regards fair trade access, one had to distinguish between goals and targets. Ms Mohammed simply added that the prescription for MDG had been proven to be efficient. She said that a starting point should be the identification of priorities, which would already be a real challenge. Regarding the hierarchy of rights issue, she took the view that it should be dealt with at intergovernmental level.

IX. General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014 - all sections

(DEVE/7/13251)

- Rapporteur for the opinion: Ricardo Cortés Lastra (S&D)
- Responsible: BUDG Monika Hohlmeier (PPE), Anne E. Jensen (ALDE)
- Exchange of views on draft opinion
- Deadline for tabling amendments: 18 September

The rapporteur briefly explained his opinion, saying that it was in line with what the committee used to do. He made clear that he expected more resources for development policy and called upon all political groups to support him. He added that he wished to maintain existing support and in principle keep the budget lines. The Commission recalled that the 2014 budget was a crisis budget, yet the Commission aimed to achieve the main goals. The Commission added that the budget had been entirely reviewed and now included performance indicators and provided for more flexibility, but this had not always been well understood.

X. EU support to regional integration and intergovernmental organisations in Eastern Africa (DEVE/7/13674)

- Exchange of views with :
 - Mr Richard Sezibera, Secretary General of the East African Community - EAC
 - Mr Mahboub Maalim, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development - IGAD
 - Mr Jean-Claude De l'Estrac, Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Commission - IOC
 - Mr Kipyego Cheluget, Assistant Secretary General of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa - COMESA

Mr Sezibera, speaking on behalf of the EAC delegation, said that East Africa covered more than half of the African population and was a fast growing region with advanced integration. He said that the partnership with the EU was very important and strategic. So far cooperation had been beneficial, in particular the fight against piracy and the developments in the energy sector. The Commission added that peace and stability in Eastern Africa was in the interest of the EU, which supported regional cooperation in Africa to foster development and peace. The Commission took the view that the 11th EDF should reflect this cooperation. Ms Sargentini (Greens/EFA) was the only MEP to take the floor and she doubted that Mr Sezibera had provided the whole picture on cooperation with the EU. In reply, Mr Sezibera said that East Africa had clearly specified its priorities for the future.

VOTES:

XI. Local authorities and civil society: Europe's engagement in support of sustainable development (DEVE/7/11220)

- Rapporteur Corina Crețu (S&D)
- Responsible: DEVE

The report was unanimously adopted as amended.

XII. Women with disabilities (DEVE/7/12469)

- Rapporteur for the opinion: Corina Crețu (S&D)
- Responsible: FEMM - Angelika Werthmann (ALDE)

The opinion was unanimously adopted with one amendment.

XIII. The situation of human rights in the Sahel region (DEVE/7/11932)

- Rapporteur for the opinion: Jean Roatta (PPE)
- Responsible: AFET - Charles Tannock (ECR)

The draft opinion was unanimously adopted as amended.

XIV. Caste-based discrimination (DEVE/7/12961)

- Responsible: DEVE

The question for oral answer was unanimously adopted with three amendments. The draft motion for resolution was unanimously adopted as amended.

XV. Follow-up on the Delegation of Legislative Powers and the Control by Member States of the Commission's Exercise of Implementing Powers (DEVE/7/11462)

- Rapporteur for the opinion Gay Mitchell (PPE)
- Responsible: JURI József Szájer (PPE)

The opinion was unanimously adopted with two amendments.

XVI. Protocol between the EU and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the two Parties currently in force (DEVE/7/12409)

- Rapporteur for the opinion: Maurice Ponga (PPE)
- Responsible: PECH Jean Louis Cottigny (S&D)

The opinion was adopted without amendment by 25 votes in favour and one against.

XVII. Amendment of the Agreement on Government Procurement (DEVE/7/13448)

- Rapporteur for the opinion: Filip Kaczmarek (PPE)
- Responsible: INTA Helmut Scholz (GUE/NGL)

The opinion was adopted without amendments by 17 votes in favour and six against.

XVIII. Next meeting(s)

- 30 September 2013, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 3 October 2013, 9.00 – 12.30 (Brussels)

Speech by Commissioner Georgieva, 16 September 2013

Madame la Présidente, honourable members, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues.

We are living in an increasingly fragile world. Climate change, urbanisation, population growth and environmental degradation mean that the frequency and intensity of disasters has risen steadily over recent decades. And these trends are set to continue. It is estimated that by 2050 the urban population exposed to earthquakes and major storms will more than double and reach 1.5 billion.

Developing countries are hardest hit in terms of mortality (over 25 million affected by droughts in Horn and Sahel). In Haiti decades of development work was wiped out in a matter of seconds. There is now a widespread recognition that effective disaster management is at the heart of poverty reduction.

Developed countries also vulnerable – e.g. Hurricane Sandy, the Japan earthquake/tsunami. Europe is a densely populated and economically developed continent. This means that when disasters hit they can hit very hard indeed. Inside the EU natural disasters resulted in 100.000 deaths in the last decade. There are also massive economic damages. This summer's flooding in central Europe is estimated to have cost €3.5 billion. For Germany, this is likely to be the most expensive disaster in the country's history.

Effective disaster management needs to be an integral part of our development policies. It is also an issue that contributes to the safety, and prosperity, of our own citizens.

This is the reason why, just over two years ago, I addressed this Committee (together with Margareta Wahlstrom) and set out the Commission's commitment to strengthen Europe's policies on disaster risk management. I made a pledge that disaster prevention and preparedness would be an equal priority to disaster response. I promised policies that have real teeth and are not just good intentions.

So two years on it is an excellent opportunity to look at what has been achieved and to see what still needed to be done.

Resilience as a theme of Development Policy

One major achievement has been the recognition that "resilience" to disasters needs to be at the very heart of development policy. The 2011 famine in the Horn of Africa and the subsequent food crisis in the Sahel resulted in two major initiatives:

- **SHARE** (Supporting the Horn of Africa's Resilience), redirected EU assistance towards areas such as nutrition, livestock management, water management or drought-resistant agriculture. For the first phase, the Commission set aside €271 m (2011-2013) to address recovery from drought.
- **AGIR** ("Alliance Globale pour l'Initiative Résilience"), follows on from the approach taken in the Horn and aims to embed resilience solidly in the strategies and policies of governments of the Sahel. The AGIR Regional Road Map was formally adopted at a high-level meeting in Paris on 9 April 2013 where it was announced that the EU will allocate €1.5 billion to strengthen food security and resilience in West Africa between 2014 and 2020.

Underpinning these initiatives was a very close partnership between humanitarian and development actors (ECHO and DEVCO). And the experience from the Horn and the Sahel inspired a new policy approach that was set out in last year's Communication on Resilience. Three key principles underpin the Commission's approach.

First, we will base our actions on a deeper understanding of the structural risks that underlie the vulnerability of any given country or region.

Second, we will aim to address these structural issues by providing a long-term funding commitment - i.e. no drying up of assistance once the crisis has moved off the TV screens.

Third we will improve the ways in which we deliver funding. This means better links between immediate humanitarian assistance and longer term development funding. It also means work to link up all involved actors so that there is a genuinely common effort (national actors, regional organisations, other donors etc).

The Commission's proposals were fully endorsed by our Member States in the Council Conclusions from May of this year. This is excellent news because we should be working closely with member States when we design and roll out our support.

Resilience is a policy approach that has already improved the quality millions of lives and I believe it will help shape the way we make development policy in the future.

DRM as a priority inside the EU

Disasters don not stop at Europe's doorstep.

Over the last 10 years the EU has developed a robust set of instruments for disaster response. In May this year we opened our Emergency response Centre. Tomorrow Parliament will have the final (hopefully) trilogue on the Commission's proposal to strengthen the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

But response is only one part of the "disaster management cycle". This Commission is committed to developing a comprehensive disaster management policy and we have taken a series of initiatives to mainstream risk management into the EU's policies and its funding instruments.

1. The revised Civil Protection legislation contains a legal obligation for Member States to prepare risk assessments and risk management plans.
2. EU structural funds will be available for the preparation of these assessments/plans as well as the necessary investments to implement them. There also are provisions to "disaster proof" new investments made by the structural funds.
3. The Commission has proposed a mechanism for "disaster proofing" the major infrastructure projects that are covered under the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive.
4. And in the event of a disaster, the Commission has proposed that payments from the Solidarity Fund can be conditional on the correct implementation of the *acquis* related disaster management.
5. Disaster management and promoting resilience have been included as priorities for the EU's research funding and new tools for monitoring and forecasting disasters have been developed.
6. Disaster management considerations have also been integrated into a number of the Commission's sectoral policies (transport, energy, climate adaptation).
7. The Commission supported a successful peer review of the UK disaster risk management policy. This approach is being copied by other Member States.
8. With the Publication of a Green Paper in April of this year the Commission has started a process to assess how insurance can be more effectively used as a tool of disaster management.

Future challenges

Much of the work of the Commission over the coming years will be spent on implementing and consolidating these initiatives. But this remains a very young policy area and there is still a lot of work to be done. I would like to conclude by flagging three areas that I will be focussing on during the rest of my mandate:

1. We will mainstream Disaster Risk Management into both the Commission's humanitarian and development funding. In the short term this means ensuring that resilience features prominently in the on-going programming of the 11th EDF. In particular we need to maintain our commitment to building resilience in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel. There will be droughts in the future. But if we invest in resilience there is no reason why these need result in humanitarian disasters.
2. Successful disaster management is a part of successful economic management. This point was underlined last year by Christine Lagarde when she spoke at the Sendai Dialogue. We need to place disaster management firmly on the agenda of finance ministers and the economic governance of the EU should take these issues into account. We also need to engage more closely with industry to maximise their contribution (and to maximise the opportunities for European businesses to benefit from this growing sector).
3. Last we need a strong international framework to guide and support global efforts. The Hyogo Framework for Action and the work of the UNISDR have been inspirational. We need to build on this and Europe should take a leading role in ensuring that the successor to the HFA is both robust and ambitious. We also need to make sure that the issues of disaster management are fully taken into consideration when developing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen, colleagues

Two years ago we were still making the argument that disaster management was an issue that needed to be taken seriously. I think that, for the most part, these arguments have been won.

By working together we started to put in place a policy framework that addresses the increasing fragility of our world. And by linking EU legislation with EU funding I believe that our policies do have teeth. The challenge now is implementing them so that they also have legs.