



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 27 January 2012**

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INST 78  
COHOM 20  
DEVGEN 16  
AGRI 56  
COMER 15  
PI 9  
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**NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat of the Council  
to : Delegations

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Subject: Meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Development (DEVE) on  
23-24 January 2012 ( items 1-7)- Summary record

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A constitutive meeting of the committee was held on 23 January. Mrs. Joly, Greens/EFA, FR was re-elected as Chair. Mrs. Striffler, EPP, FR, Mr. Deva, ECR, UK, Mrs. Zanicchi, EPP, IT and Mrs. Cretu, S&D, RO were also re-elected respectively as 1st, 2nd, 3rd and fourth vice-chair.

The meeting on 24 January was chaired by Mrs Striffler (EPP, FR). The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the meeting on 5 and 8 December 2011 were approved. No announcements were made by the Chair.

### **3. Living Proof - The impact of effective aid : Exchange of views with Mr. Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, addressed the Committee on Development for a debate entitled "Living Proof: the Impact of Effective Aid"

In his speech he praised the financial level, model (predictable for developing countries, with reduced administrative costs, transparent, simplified), impact and effectiveness of EU aid, as well as the new Agenda for change proposal.

He considered 2012 to be critical given the decisions to be taken on the long-term EU development budget (MFF) and showed interest in the MFF process. He considered the draft MFF as quite generous and consistent with the commitments made by the EU and stressed the EP's important role to ensure the level of EU commitment is kept at its current levels in future, and stressed the huge impact a 0.7% EU-wide ODA level would have for development.

He stressed the strong and broad degree of support by EU citizens for this EU policy. He considered the focus on poorest countries as the right way to go.

He focused the second half of his presentation on his Foundation's work on two areas: vaccines and agriculture. He stressed the effectiveness and low cost of vaccination campaigns to save lives, while highlighting the importance of birth care attendance, the lack of which causes 40% of mortality in some developing countries. On agriculture, he stressed the importance of increasing agricultural productivity, in particular through the use of new and more productive seeds varieties. He referred to his recent presentation and report made before the G20 members.

Most MEPs welcomed with enthusiasm the speech by Bill Gates. Ms Greze (Greens, FR) was more critical in questioning the Bill Gates Foundation role, in partnership with the Monsanto multinational, in promoting the use of GMOs (cotton) in African countries, notably Kenya. The response by Bill Gates was in essence that the priority in some countries was to prevent starvation and that new ways had therefore to be explored by the governments of these countries. Other questions ranged from water issues, property rights as a means to foster development, public-private donors' cooperation, to China's role and behaviour as a donor.

The new EP President Martin Schulz concluded the debate by stressing the importance of EU development policy, including as a means to ensure the EU's stability and security in future.

#### **4. Intellectual Property Rights on genetic resources and the fight against poverty**

A study was presented on the above subject outlining the three main types of IPR ( patents, plant breeder rights and Geographical Indications) and their legal specificities, advantages and drawbacks, as well as the state of play with regard to the Nagoya Protocol. A brief exchange of views followed the presentation.

#### **5. Annual Report on Human Rights in the World and the European Union's policy on the matter including implications for the EU's strategic human rights policy**

Mr Ponga, EPP, FR on behalf of the Rapporteur for the opinion Mr. Dan Preda (PPE, RO) presented the draft opinion (Responsible committee: AFET, Rapporteur: Richard Howitt (S&D) on the above subject.

The shadow Rapporteur Ms. Cretu made a substantial statement in which she announced the submission of amendments to the draft opinion.

In the brief exchange of views which followed, MEPs (Mr Goerens, ALDE, LU, Mrs. Keller, Greens/EFA, DE, Mrs. Zimmer, GUE/NGL, DE, Mrs. Theocharous, EPP, CY) suggested a number of additions to the draft opinion.

Deadline for tabling amendments: **26 January 2012, 12.00**

Vote in the committee on 1 March 2012

#### **6. Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement between the EU and its Member States, Australia, Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland and the USA**

The Rapporteur for the opinion Mr. Zahradil (ECR, CZ) (responsible committee : INTA, Rapporteur Mr. Arif (S&D, FR) presented his draft opinion. In referring to a previous debate within the committee, he highlighted the content of paragraphs 6 and 7, i.e. that the protection of intellectual property rights, notably on the issue of medicines should not be detrimental to developing countries.

In the exchange of views which followed, Mr. Kaczmarek, EPP, PL stressed the strong concerns expressed by some developing countries. Mrs. Keller, Greens/EFA, DE and Mrs. Zimmer, GUE/NGL, DE expressed strong concerns, notably concerning the risk of seeing generic medicines being classified as cases of biopiracy and of putting the production of generic medicines in jeopardy. Mrs. Keller therefore suggested recommending that the European Parliament should not approve the draft agreement.

The Commission highlighted the importance for the EU of protecting its intellectual property rights, while reassuring MEPs on the actual implementation of the draft agreement.

The Rapporteur noted that the task of striking the right balance between the need for the EU to protect its IPRs and the need to ensure that the production of generic medicines for developing countries was not harmed was a difficult one. He suggested holding a meeting with the shadow rapporteurs with a view to reaching a compromise solution on that issue.

## **7. The impact of devolution of the Commission's management of external assistance from its headquarters to its delegations on aid delivery**

The Chair referred to the report by the Court of Auditors on the above issue, pointing out to the need to improve management in a number of related areas.

The Rapporteur Mr. Kaczmarek (PPE, PL) presented his draft report.

The representative of the Court of Auditors praised the quality of the draft report. He provided some background information on the process of devolution, which had taken place between 2002 and 2004, and of auditing. He indicated that a first audit had taken place in 2004, followed by a second one in 2009 on the speed of aid, its quantity and the robustness of procedures. He outlined the content of the audit's findings and the areas for improvements.

He indicated that a further audit would be undertaken on the functioning of the devolution process following the establishment of the EEAS.

Mr. Child, Executive Director for administration and budget of the EEAS made a statement on the decisions taken by the EEAS.

The Commission representative clarified that the EEAS is in charge of the management of delegations, whilst the Commission has to manage aid implementation. He referred to the MFF proposals on external affairs management issues, and agreed with the findings by the Rapporteur, on which the Commission had already taken steps, and indicated that further steps would be taken to remedy the issues pointed out by the Court of Auditors.

Deadline for tabling amendments: **3 February 2012, 12.00.**