



**COUNCIL OF THE  
EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 7 November 2013**

**15818/13**

**PE 502  
INST 576  
COAFR 340  
DEVGEN 287  
COHOM 245  
CONUN 133  
ACP 174  
CADREFIN 285**

**NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat of the Council  
to : Delegations  
Subject: Meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Development (DEVE) on 5  
November 2013

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The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Joly, Greens/EFA, FR.

**1. Coordinators' meeting**

*In camera*

**2. European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps - EU Aid Volunteers**

Exchange of views and feedback on trilogue (open to all Members)

*In camera*

**3. Establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation**

Exchange of views and feedback on latest trilogue (open to all Members)

*In camera*

#### **4. Adoption of agenda**

#### **5. Approval of minutes of meetings of:**

- 30 September 2013 PV – PE519.822v01-00
- 3 October 2013 PV – PE521.486v01-00

#### **6. Chair's announcements**

#### **7. Announcements by the Commission**

- Exchange of views

#### **8. Question Time**

#### **9. The role of property rights, property ownership and wealth creation in eradicating poverty and fostering sustainable development in developing countries**

The Rapporteur M. Deva (ECR, UK) presented his draft report and highlighted the crucial importance of property rights and ownership for development.

M. Mitchell ( EPP, IE) illustrated this fact with the story of Captain Boycott and the history of Northern Ireland. He stressed the importance of access to insurance and social security in this context. M. Cortes Lastra ( S&D, ES) stressed the role of public authorities and legislation towards protection against expropriations of the most vulnerable citizens. Ms Joly (Greens/EFA, FR) said that there was no one size fits to all on the issue of property rights, which were often based on cultural traditions. She referred in this context to collective rights of pastoralism in Southern Sahara as potentially equally effective as individual property rights. She warned against the risks related to landgrabbing, which was expanding faster than international reactions to it. M. Goerens (ALDE, LU) suggested to promote these rights through an EU support to national programmes in this field.

The Commission representative said that land governance was an important issue for the Commission, which had launched an important support programme in this field. He also referred to the EU contribution on the elaboration of the Voluntary Guidelines on land governance negotiated within the FAO context.

The rapporteur M. Deva concluded by saying that this complex issue called for country-, culture- and gender specific solutions. He said that Commissioner Piebalgs had agreed on a global Conference and on co-authoring a book on this subject. He invited his colleagues to each write a Chapter of this book.

- Deadline for tabling amendments: **12 November 2013, 12.00**
- vote: 18 December 2013

#### **10. MDGs and a future global framework for development after 2015**

M. Mitchell (EPP, IE) on behalf of M. Kaczmarek presented the Report of the DEVE Delegation to the Special Event on MDGs (68th UNGA).

In the exchange of views which followed, MEPs agreed that the mission had been very useful and instructive, and that it was important to stress the successes and the considerable progress made in the MDGs achievement rather than insisting on failures and negative messages, which conveyed the message that taxpayers' money would be wasted for ineffective policies, which was not the case. MEPs insisted on the need to avoid having a shopping list resulting from the discussions on the post- 2015 objectives and on the importance of listening to the needs identified by developing countries, which should take ownership of the process rather than ending up with a process by which donor countries would be patronizing them. M. Mitchell thanked the Commission and EEAS for being supportive of the European Parliament's role during the mission.

The Commission representative stated the satisfaction by the Commission services for the speaking slots allocated to EU representatives during the event and considered the outcome document as a good starting point. She announced a Communication on the issue, as indicated in the 2014 Commission Work Programme.

#### **11. Access of third-country goods and services to the Union's internal market in public procurement and procedures supporting negotiations on access of Union goods and services to the public procurement markets of third countries**

The Rapporteur for the opinion Ms. Sargentini (Verts/ALE, NL) suggested to send the proposal back to the Commission since she considered that the proposed legislation was too broadly formulated and would not help developing countries nor Less Developed Countries, but was rather targeted to the BRICs countries and to opening up the developing countries' markets for the benefit of EU firms.

She said that Commissioner Barnier had agreed to take her comments into account, but that nothing had been done so far. She considered the proposed amendments by her colleagues as acceptable, but stated that she would vote against the Commission proposal.

In reply to M. Goerens, the Commission representative made clear that there was no attempt to restore tied aid and that the Commission strongly supported untied aid. He added that the proposal would not apply to Official Development Assistance (ODA).

- Consideration of amendments
- Deadline for tabling amendments: **15 October 2013, 17.00**

#### **11 a. Disclosure of non-financial and diversity information by certain large companies and groups**

The above item was added to the agenda. The rapporteur for the opinion Sargentini (Verts/ALE, NL) welcomed the proposed legislation and referred to her compromise proposals on the definition of SMEs.

#### **12. Sexual exploitation and prostitution and its impact on gender equality**

The Rapporteur for the opinion Ms. Crețu (S&D, RO) presented her draft opinion. She said that the issue was closely related to the issue of human trafficking, which was also a global phenomenon.

M. Gustaffson (GUE, SV), chair of the FEMM committee, suggested some additions to the text of the opinion related to the links between child prostitution and human trafficking and to the role of sexual tourism as a factor creating a demand and therefore affecting the supply of sexual services and exploitation.

M. Mitchell on behalf of the EPP expressed support for the draft opinion, as did the EEAS representative, who referred to international cooperation in this field.

A representative of the Commission outlined the EU strategy to fight against sexual exploitation, referred to the identification of the main causes leading to sexual exploitation and of ten priority non-EU countries for action to counter these phenomena. She said that 96% of the victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation were women and girls.

Ms Cretu in concluding the discussion stressed that the issue of sexual exploitation was reaching higher levels in developing countries.

- Deadline for tabling amendments: **6 November 2013, 12.00**

**13. Access of third-country goods and services to the Union's internal market in public procurement and procedures supporting negotiations on access of Union goods and services to the public procurement markets of third countries**

The opinion, as amended, was adopted by 19 votes in favour and 6 against. At the end of the vote the rapporteur declared that she was unhappy with the outcome of her draft and therefore she had voted against her own report. However she would not withdraw her name from the report.

**14. European Year of Development (2015)**

The report, as modified by a number of amendments, was adopted by 23 votes in favour and one against.

**15. The efforts of the international community in the area of development and of 'state building' in South Sudan**

The report, as modified by a number of amendments, was adopted by 23 votes in favour, one against and one abstention.

**16. Amendment of Council Regulation (EC) No 2173/2005 on the establishment of a FLEGT licensing scheme for imports of timber into the European Community**

The opinion, as modified by the two tabled amendments, was adopted by 24 votes in favour and one against.

**17. The EU approach to resilience and disaster risk reduction in developing countries: learning from food security crises**

The report, as modified by a number of amendments, was adopted by 23 votes in favour, one against and one abstention.

**18. Disclosure of non-financial and diversity information by certain large companies and groups**

The opinion, as modified by a number of amendments, was adopted by 24 votes in favour, one against and one abstention.

## **19. A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies**

The draft opinion, as modified by a number of amendments, was adopted by 14 votes in favour and 12 against.

## **20. EU donor coordination on development aid**

The report, as modified by a number of amendments, was adopted by 24 votes in favour, one against and one abstention.

## **21. Human Rights in the World 2012 and the European Union's policy on the matter**

The opinion, as modified by a number of amendments, was adopted by 22 votes in favour and 3 against.

## **22. Protocol between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement in force between the two Parties**

The opinion, as modified by amendment n° 2, was adopted by 15 votes in favour and 11 against.

## **23. The OECD Strategy on Development**

- Exchange of views with DAC-OECD Chair Erik Solheim

Mr Solheim gave a very positive and optimistic assessment of development policy at global level. He considered that development assistance had been a major element contributing to the "fantastic progress" made by some developing countries. He spoke of the "rise of South", where poverty had been reduced by 1% every year. He argued that there was no lack of money for development assistance, but that the money had to be better targeted. He also considered that the time had come to shift the focus from measuring efforts to measuring results. On the post-2015 agenda, he pointed out that while there was consensus on the main objectives (such as the universal reduction of absolute poverty), disagreement remained on how to reach these goals. He added that, for the first time in history, eradication of poverty was today possible. Resources were available; it was just a matter of mobilising them in the right way.

During the debate that followed, Mr Deva (ECR, UK) voiced his criticism about the tendency not to provide development assistance to middle-income countries anymore. Mr Goerens (ALDE, LU) wondered if the economic partnership agreements promoted by the EU were part of the problem or the solution in terms of development. He also questioned whether the loans given by China could be considered development aid or rather investments with right of exploitation. The Chair, Ms Joly (Greens/EFA, FR), emphasised the EP commitment to ensuring policy coherence for development.

In his reply, Mr Solheim insisted once again that "the glass was half full". The increase in life expectancy was only one example but was a case in point. Progress in development had been huge and now it was time to bring everybody on board, he concluded. He referred to the ongoing debate on whether development assistance had to go only to very poor countries or also to middle income countries such as Turkey, Mexico or Brazil. He noted that it was thanks to development assistance that Brazil had made huge progress in stopping deforestation, with a very positive impact on the environment.

Finally Mr Solheim stressed the role played by the EU in development assistance as it was the most important actor on the global stage and invited it to capitalise on this.

#### **24. The EU 2013 Report on Policy Coherence for Development**

A representative of CONCORD reminded delegates that the EU was the only international organisation for which policy coherence for development (PCD) was a legal obligation. She regretted that this topic was being discussed in the DEVE committee because it would have been better if the debate had taken place in the INTA or AGRI committee. Therefore she invited MEPs to consider setting up a specific body dealing with PCD. As far as Member States were concerned, she pointed out that some of them had made a clear commitment to PCD, but they lagged behind with implementation.

The representative of the Commission recalled that PCD had a precise legal basis in the treaty and she outlined the background for the development of this concept. By presenting the fourth biannual report issued the same day by the Commission, she emphasised the fact that a lot of progress had been made by the EU institutions and Member States on PCD. The recent reform of EU fishery policy was a case in point.

During the debate that followed, the rapporteur Mr Goerens (ALDE, LU) paid tribute to the Commission for the work carried out to ensure policy consistency but he regretted that no communication had been adopted by the Commission on PCD, as he had requested, so as to commit the whole college to this principle. He called for clear mechanisms and clear leadership by the Commission President and Prime Ministers of Member States, who would have the last word in settling inconsistencies between different policies at EU and national level. As for the proposal by CONCORD to set up specific fora to better implement the concept in the EP, he voiced his scepticism due to the proliferation of such bodies and the low level of attendance. Mr Martinez (S&D, ES) acknowledged that EU credibility was at stake, but he also noted that, firstly, total coherence was impossible and, secondly, coherence had to be ensured not only between policies but also between missions of elected representatives. On smoking for example, MEPs had to legislate both for sick smokers and for tobacco producers. Ms Grèze (Greens/EFA, FR) recalled that PCD was not an option but a legal obligation and she regretted that EU agricultural policy contradicted EU development policy.

In her reply, the representative of the Commission stressed that the implementation of PCD was a big challenge which would take time. The representative of CONCORD pointed out that there were solutions to implement PCD which did not necessarily harm EU interests.

**25. Protocol between the EU and the Gabonese Republic setting out fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the two Parties currently in force**

The rapporteur recommended approving the agreement with a number of caveats, notably on transparency and monitoring of the sectoral envelopes, so as to ensure that the agreement would really benefit fishing communities.

Mr Goerens (ALDE, LU) expressed the support of his group. The representative of the Commission reassured MEPs on the issue of transparency and the fighting of illegal fishing activities.

*Timetable:*

*- Deadline for tabling amendments: 13 November;*

*- Vote in the committee: 18 December.*



## **26. Pakistan's regional role and political relations with the EU**

The rapporteur M. Zahradil (ECR, CZ) summarised his draft opinion, which focused on social inequalities, women's fundamental rights, the volatile security situation and the regional role played by Pakistan. Mr Berman (S&D, NL) called on the rapporteur to add a number of points to his opinion, notably in relation to the need to normalise relations with Afghanistan, the visa regime with India, water supply and tax reform. The representative of the EEAS stressed the fact that Pakistan's stability was dependent on development and therefore socio-economic assistance was desperately needed. The representative of the Commission outlined the type of programmes financed by the EU in Pakistan.

*Timetable:- Deadline for tabling amendments: 13 November;*

*- Vote in the committee: 2 December.*

## **27. Any other business**

None.

## **28. Next meeting(s)**

- 2 December 2013, 15.00 – 18.30