

## EU NEWS

ISSUE 5

17 April 2003

### EU SECTORAL POLICIES

#### **Corporate Social Responsibility: First “wave” of roundtables of the European Multi-Stakeholder Forum on CSR completed**

The first of three “waves” of roundtables on four themes (Improving knowledge about CSR; Fostering CSR among Small and Medium Enterprises; Development aspects; Transparency of CSR practices and tools) ended on 7 April. (For background information on the Forum, see *EU News* 13 November 2002) Each roundtable was composed of scene-setting presentations, case studies involving two or more stakeholders, and discussion time. Case studies presented included several examples of business-NGO cooperation: Halifax Bank of Scotland’s Insight Investment and Amnesty International on socially responsible investment; Norsk Hydro and Transparency International on bribery and corruption; Heineken and PharmAccess International on employee access to AIDS medicines; and Carrefour and FIDH on developing a supplier monitoring system.

Several common themes emerged across the Roundtables for further discussion in the second wave: drivers, obstacles, and key success factors for integration of CSR into a company’s core operations; factors that encourage a scaling up of individual company initiatives; the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach; studying the role of each stakeholder; surveying current initiatives; examining the role of EU institutions; exploring the convergence of tools; the role of legislation in raising the floor of responsible behaviour.

Participating development, social, environmental, human rights, and consumer NGOs, including CIDSE and Caritas Europa, met on 8 April to discuss their evaluation of the Forum thus far. On the whole, though NGOs are unsure that the Forum will deliver tangible outcomes, they will continue to fully engage in the process on certain conditions. NGOs will raise their concerns with the Commission as to the organisation of the Forum, including the need to focus the discussion on a structured analysis of existing initiatives to determine gaps while keeping the debate open, including on bringing up the bottom line for CSR laggards through legislation; and the need for increased participation by the Commission if the Forum is to achieve its objective of “bringing together existing initiatives within the EU, and seeking to establish a common EU approach and guiding principles, including as a basis for dialogue in international fora and with third countries.” A common NGO strategy was also discussed, with key messages targeted towards changing business practices to improve their impacts on society and the environment.

For further information on the Forum, including documentation from Roundtable meetings, see the DG Enterprise website at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/csr/forum.htm>, or contact Denise Auclair at [eupolicy@cidse.org](mailto:eupolicy@cidse.org).

## **WTO Doha Round: EU strategy towards Cancun, NGO meeting in May**

In a statement to the WTO Trade Negotiating Committee presented by DG Trade Director General (Mr Peter Carl), the EC presented its views and expectations about the outcomes of the Cancun meeting stressing that *“there is no reason at all why these decisions cannot be taken at Cancun or the Round finish according to schedule. It is not a question of time or the alleged complexity of issues but of focus and compromise.”*

In the EC's view, Ministers should focus on seven issues at Cancun: agriculture, non agriculture market access, modalities of the Singapore issues, special and differential treatment and implementation issues, rule making areas, DSU (Dispute Settlement Understanding) and observer status for MEA (Multilateral Environmental Agreements).

The EC also made the remark that *“although outside the Round as such, the absence of a successful conclusion **on access to medicines** is a matter of deep concern, shared by the great majority of the Members”*. (statement available at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/lamy/speeches\\_articles/sp\\_mpc10.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/lamy/speeches_articles/sp_mpc10.htm) )

Many people have voiced concerns with the limited progress in the negotiations. All deadlines so far have been missed. The EC is one of the stakeholders to blame for this, eg. in the areas of agriculture and services. Given the divergent positions on certain issues such as agriculture and the specific strategic interest of the different WTO members, NGOs and media commented that the road to Cancun is indeed a difficult one. Trade Commissioner Lamy hinted at some members “playing tactics”. It seemed that he did not include the EC in this group of members, but the EC is also among the guilty ones. For developing countries, special and differential treatment, implementation issues, access to medicines and agriculture are of utmost importance and these are precisely the issues where very little progress was made so far. For the EU, negotiations on the Singapore issues are crucial, and concessions on agriculture may well be needed in order to convince developing countries to start these negotiations after Cancun. The process of CAP reform, to be concluded by June, will determine the margin of manoeuvre for these concessions. The Doha negotiations are held hostage by the much-delayed process of CAP reform.

Regarding GATS, the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly resolution adopted in Brazzaville on the Doha Round (*see separate article on the EU-ACP Joint Parliamentary Assembly*) raises concerns regarding public services in ACP countries. The resolution considers that the services negotiations should address the issue of ACP government control of transnational companies and foreign investment.

**NGDO Conference in preparation for Cancun:** In preparation of the 5<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancún, Mexico, there will be a development NGO Conference in Brussels 7-8 May. The Conference is entitled *“**The Doha Round - What's In It For Development?**”* and is organised by CIDSE, Oxfam International and SOLIDAR. The purpose of this conference is to question and challenge the European Union's negotiating proposals in the run up to the Cancún WTO Ministerial Meeting, and in particular the attempts to put 'development' at the heart of the Doha Round. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy has confirmed his participation in the 8 May afternoon panel debate and in the ensuing press conference. The Conference will be attended by development NGOs, but also by the wider European civil society and from the South.

The first day of the Conference will include workshops on agriculture, GATS and

TRIPS in preparation for debates the following day with key EC Trade Negotiators. There will also be two plenary sessions to prepare for the debate with Commissioner Lamy on 8 May. The Commissioner will be challenged about the EU's policies and initiatives on agriculture, GATS and TRIPS but also Special and Differential Treatment, implementation issues, Singapore issues, the social dimension, and WTO institutional reform.

The Conference will start on 7 May at the offices of 11.11.11, rue de la Linière 11, Brussels, and continue on 8 May at the Résidence Palace, rue de la Loi 155, Brussels. Working languages will be English and French – simultaneous interpretation is foreseen on 8 May. [For more details on the agenda and registration, please see \[www.cidse.org\]\(http://www.cidse.org\), or contact Linda Bystedt at \[bystedt@cidse.org\]\(mailto:bystedt@cidse.org\)](#)

### **Support from the Commission to the initiative of President Chirac in favour of sub-Saharan African Countries**

While an on-going debate is taking place in the Agriculture Council on the reform of the CAP and many divergent views are expressed by Member States on the decoupling of aid to farmers and on cross-compliance with environmental and sustainable farming standards, there seems to be much less disagreement about the initiative of president Chirac aimed at suspending export subsidies to sub-Saharan African Countries for the duration of WTO negotiations. Commissioner Fischler welcomed this initiative on behalf of the Commission considering that it would be a good thing to transform it into a Community position so that it could be presented and discussed at the next G8 meeting.

The other proposals from President Chirac aim at providing African countries with single preferential treatment with reduced customs duties and simplified rules of origin and at reducing price volatility (according to modalities still to be defined, Mr Fischler said). The proposals have already been discussed in the Committee 133 (Member States committee on trade) and according to Commissioner Fischler they were welcomed by all delegations taking the floor.

*Source: Agence Europe*

## **EU HUMANITARIAN AID POLICY**

### **EU Humanitarian Aid – Challenges ahead**

Conference organised by Voice. On the 23 April 03 in Brussels

Recent international developments as well as reforms within the EU itself, especially those connected to the shaping of a Common Foreign and Security Policy and the EU crisis management procedures, show that support for EU humanitarian aid should be further strengthened. The need to make humanitarian aid more visible and better understood remains, in addition to the need to tackle new challenges emerging in this domain.

The current situation concerning the Iraqi crisis will most likely influence the work of the humanitarian community in the future. Within the wide-ranging theme of **EU Humanitarian Aid - Challenges Ahead**, three areas of particular concern have been identified that will form the basis of more focused discussion during the Conference:

*What will be the role of humanitarian aid NGOs in the future?*

*Politicization of aid: reality or danger?*

*The new Common Foreign and Security Policy: an opportunity for humanitarian actors?*

For further information, contact the VOICE Secretariat: [conference@ngovoice.org](mailto:conference@ngovoice.org).

The conference will be followed on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 03 by the general assemble for the members of VOICE.

### **EUR 9.5 million for emergency humanitarian aid to Iraq**

In the framework of the global plan (19 million Euro and the urgent emergency decision (3 million Euro) ECHO adopted a humanitarian aid decision for €9.5 million to provide emergency relief for victims of the war in Iraq.

The funding will be used to support the activities of partner agencies already operating in Iraq, as follows:

International Committee of the Red Cross (€5 million) for food, non-food items, medical kits and rehabilitation of water/sanitation facilities. The support will go mainly to the conflict-affected areas (Baghdad, northern front, centre and south), targeting up to three million beneficiaries.

UNICEF (€2 million) for water tankering, sanitation, emergency rehabilitation of primary healthcare centres and hospitals in the centre and south. Approximately 500,000 people are expected to benefit from these actions.

CARE (€1.5 million) for emergency water supply actions in the Baghdad region as well as Al Anbar governorate where 30,000 people currently have no access to water and IDP arrivals are reported. Some 200,000 people in total should benefit.

for basic repairs to health institutions, tents to boost hospital capacity, back-up generators and water supplies in the Baghdad area, in support of up to 20,000 victims of the fighting.

OCHA (€0.5 million) co-ordination activities to help OCHA establish offices in Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Iran.

Beyond the 21 million Poul Nielson also requested **€9 million** in extra funds from the emergency budget reserve. EP has now authorized this emergency reserve, and it will be a question of days until ECHO obtains this money and can use. These funds will probably be disbursed through a series of decisions. Related to these funds, ECHO said there is no deadline for submission of proposals at this time, and there won't be while access and security is still in question.

This means the other 36 crisis in the world will not suffer for budgetary reasons of the Iraq crisis as some of the Africa desk officers were afraid of.

### **EUR 3 million for disaster preparedness in Central Asia**

The money will support small-scale infrastructure projects, disaster preparedness initiatives and response mechanisms. Funds will be allocated to international agencies operating in the region. The decision marks an extension of ECHO's disaster preparedness programme, DIPECHO, to Central Asia.

Vulnerable groups will be protected from avalanches, mud slides and flooding through the construction of protection barriers, the reinforcement of mountainsides and the strengthening of beds and banks of flood-prone rivers. Most of the €3 million will be for operations in Tajikistan, the most vulnerable of the five countries. Disaster-prone regions in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan will also be targeted.

### **EUR 6 million to help internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka return home and Tamil refugees in Tamil Nadu (India)**

The main objectives of this aid, covering a period of 12 months, are to make some 610 000 people aware of the risks of anti-personnel mines, provide emergency aid

for the most vulnerable people, and continue humanitarian assistance for the 65 000 Tamil refugees living in camps in India.

The food security programme is also continuing: the 50 000 internally displaced people who have returned home will benefit from this assistance.

### **EUR 10 million in humanitarian assistance to Tajikistan**

The European Commission has adopted a €10 million aid package to help meet essential humanitarian needs in Tajikistan over the next 12 months. The funds will be used for food, water, medicine and sanitation. International organisations and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) will implement the programmes. The Commission has allocated over €145 million for humanitarian operations in Tajikistan since 1992.

### **EUR 15 million in humanitarian aid for the Palestinian victims of the crisis**

ECHO is providing a further relief package worth €15 million to Palestinian victims of the ongoing crisis in the Middle East. The aid will support provision of food, medicines, water and sanitation to meet the needs of the most vulnerable Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as well as in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

More information on these financial decisions on ECHO's website:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/index_en.htm)

## **EU RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES**

### **EU-ACP: Joint Parliamentary Assembly, EDF Financial Regulation**

The Financial regulation that will govern the management of the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF has been adopted by the Council of the EU. It is available in the Official Journal L83 of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003 and contains a chapter on the financing of grants that is of utmost importance for the access of civil society organisations to the Fund. EuropeAid office is now preparing modalities for the application of the regulation.

At the time when the Council was adopting the regulation, the Joint Parliamentary Assembly consisting of 77 members of the European Parliament and 77 representatives of the ACP countries (MPs or government representatives) met in Brazzaville.

The Assembly adopted 20 resolutions and approved by acclamation a statement on the war in Iraq. Issues covered include the WTO Doha Round, WTO TRIPS negotiations and Health and the international coffee crisis. Other resolutions relate to sugar, tuna and rice and to non-trade issues (NEPAD, research, private sector, International Criminal Court, racisms and xenophobia, follow-up to Johannesburg Summit) and to the situation in several ACP regions. The political situation in Zimbabwe was subject to heated debates but no resolution was finally adopted on that issue. In their resolution on the follow-up to Johannesburg summit, the members of the JPA ask the EC to reform its farm and its fisheries policies and consider that the EU must accept to phase out export subsidies on farm products.

The Assembly was preceded by the first **Women Forum** of the JPA where the issue of women's role in peace keeping was discussed with inputs from Congolese civil society organisations.

This Assembly was also the occasion of the first meeting of the newly created **Standing Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade** that is supposed, among others, to follow-up the negotiations of the future EPAs. Disappointingly, there was not much debate on the substance and on the issues of the Cape-Town declaration in that first meeting and the Commission did not provide

any report on the follow-up to the Cape Town Declaration. The Committee decided to produce two reports, one on EPAs negotiation (Harlem Desir is rapporteur) and one on the disbursement of EDF money (rapporteur from ACP should be nominated).

The report on EDF disbursements will be finalised and adopted first. The next meeting of the Committee will take place in July in Brussels. It was formally decided that civil society observers will take part in the meetings of the Committee.

Mrs Kinnock, co-chair of the Assembly, stressed, in her opening speech, that *the JPA should ensure that, under the auspices of the Cotonou Agreement, aid, trade and development go hand-in-hand. No commitment, Mrs Kinnock conjectured, should be made with regard to the negotiation of the ACP-EU economic partnership agreements without the relevant rigorous impact studies on costs and the other implications of reciprocity. With regard to agriculture, she referred to a glaring incoherence between the EU's Common Agricultural Policy and its position as far as trade is concerned.*

According to an ACP press release, ACP parliamentarians were briefed on the state of the negotiations on the future EPAs which were described as "very difficult."

Speakers stressed the profound divergence between the ACP and EU positions on substantial issues, such as the final aim of "All ACP" negotiations" ( clarification for EU, negotiations culminating in commitments for the ACP) ; - the EPA objectives (development of ACP states through the improvement of their productivity and competitiveness rather than merely dealing with obstacles to trade) ; - compatibility of the EPAS with WTO rules (rules to be adapted to the needs of the developing countries and not to be accepted as they are) ; - and safeguarding the *acquis* of the Lome Conventions especially with regard to protocols relating to certain ACP commodities threatened by attacks from third party countries at the WTO level.

More information and full text of resolutions at:

[http://www.europarl.eu.int/intcoop/acp/60\\_05/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/intcoop/acp/60_05/default_en.htm)

Press releases at:

<http://www.acpsec.org/>

## **EU-Latin America: summary of ministerial meetings**

**Ministerial meeting between EU and the Rio Group:** Commissioner Patten made a speech where he launched the idea of putting '**social cohesion**' at the heart of EU-Latin America co-operation and political dialogue and at the centre of the next EU/Latin America/Caribbean summit to be held in 2004 in Mexico. A seminar will be organised by the Commission and the Inter-American Development Bank "*to pull together our joint expertise and look at how to improve government revenue to support adequate levels of government spending which do not play havoc with fiscal balances. We shall examine how to increase the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of social sector spending; how to increase capabilities and opportunities for the poor and the excluded; and how to develop social protection and social inclusion mechanisms. We want to discuss the possibilities of exchanging experience, best practice and know how. And we do count on your expertise and political engagement to contribute to this important discussion*".

More at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/news/patten/sp03\\_160.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/news/patten/sp03_160.htm)

First meeting of the **EU / Chile Association Council** since the signature of the Association Agreement. A joint press release was produced:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/chile/intro/ac27\\_03\\_03.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/chile/intro/ac27_03_03.htm)

Negotiations aiming at the signature of new co-operation agreements between the **EU and the Andean Community** will start on 6 May 2003 and should be completed by 2004. Latin America counterparts would like to discuss and association (instead of co-operation) agreement including the creation of a free trade area but it is judged

premature by Commissioner Lamy. The aim of the co-operation agreement will be to create the conditions for negotiating an association agreement at a later stage. In the meantime the Generalised System of Preferences will continue to apply to trade relations between the Andean Community and the EU. The 6<sup>th</sup> High Level Dialogue on Drugs between the EU and the Andean Community will take place in Cartagena, Colombia, on 27 and 28 May. More at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/andean/doc/mm27\\_03\\_03\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/andean/doc/mm27_03_03_en.htm)

Press release from the third **EU / Mexico Joint Council**:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/mexico/intro/jc27\\_03\\_03.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/mexico/intro/jc27_03_03.htm)

### **Sudan: donors conference in the NL, re-launch of EU aid, EC/EuronAid seminar on an EC/NGO strategy**

The Sudan Co-ordination Meeting of donors and international institutions met in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, on 1-3 April 2003. The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions on priority setting and principles for assistance after a peace agreement, in follow up to previous informal meetings, last held in Oslo in January. Of great importance was the participation of the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army for the first time in this series of meetings. The meeting also benefited from the participation of the IGAD Secretariat for peace in Sudan, the Arab League, the international NGO community and Sudanese civil society.

The various groups, including GOS and SPLM, expressed gratitude and happiness about the outcome of the conference, which focused on a "Quick Start program" (original title "Quick impact") for the pre-interim period. The priorities worked out include:

- Capacity building at all levels, with special attention to the war affected areas;
- return and reintegration of displaced people and refugees;
- economic development, including development of small scale enterprises;
- development of infrastructure;
- Rehabilitation of basic services: health, education (including HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention), water and sanitation and food security;
- data collection and surveys for analysis and policy formulation.
- Governance.

The mechanisms of implementation shall be further discussed in a meeting late April/early May in Nairobi; Norway plans for a donor pledging meeting right after the signing of a peace agreement, according to Garang/Beshir to be expected late June. Voices from civil society in Sudan are however much more sceptical about the achievement of the peace process by end of June.

Between 4 and 6 April 2003, Commissioner Nielson visited Sudan to assess the current peace process and to see the humanitarian situation in the country. While in Sudan, Mr Poul Nielson expressed his strong support for the Intergovernmental Authority on Dialogue and Development's (IGAD) Sudan peace process, and the country's reconstruction. The signing of the peace agreement should allow for normalisation of EU/Sudan relations and the resumption of development co-operation. **The EU has meanwhile agreed to immediately start the technical preparation of programmes to be financed once co-operation is resumed.** In 2002, the Commission informed the Sudanese Government of the allocations that will be available to it under the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF, namely €135 million for programmed aid and €20 million in non-programmable aid and a Country Strategy paper has been prepared since then. The total sum at the disposal of the EC programme in Sudan amounts in fact € 405 million with 60 million originating from the 6<sup>th</sup> EDF and 190 million from previous EDF Stabex fund. The National indicative programme focuses

on Food Security (40%), Education (40%), Human rights, health, peace process and capacity building of non-state actors (20%).

Country strategy paper available at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/csp\\_rsp/csp\\_en.cfm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/csp_rsp/csp_en.cfm)

Conclusions of the donors meeting available on request from [k.sohet@aprodev.net](mailto:k.sohet@aprodev.net)

**The EC is organizing, in close collaboration with EuronAid, a workshop on EC/NGO strategy on Sudan** in Brussels, on the 6th of May.

Underlying this initiative is the intention of the EC to launch a call for proposals for NGOs for a Livelihood Recovery Program in Sudan. The implementation of this program, which will be conditional to the signature of a peace agreement, will be a first visible sign of the EC engagement in the Sudan for strengthening the peace process. A draft concept note is presently being prepared, to be presented in a series of workshops to NGOs (Brussels, Khartoum, and Nairobi). Brussels workshop is targeted at development NGOs, present in Sudan, and planning to invest funds and expertise in the development of a multi-sectoral, community based recovery program. More information at:

[http://www.euronaid.nl/events/Invitation-Agenda\\_Sudan\\_Workshop%20.htm](http://www.euronaid.nl/events/Invitation-Agenda_Sudan_Workshop%20.htm)

## EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **Rationalisation, Activity Based Budget, Deconcentration, what does it mean for thematic budget lines?**

The three simultaneous processes of restructuration of the Community budget to transform it into an Activity Based Budget (ABB), rationalisation of thematic lines management and number and deconcentration of aid management to the Delegations are subject to on-going debates in the European Commission.

The Activity Based Budget will already apply to budget 2004. The rationalization of the number of thematic lines will not take place (except for the merging of the budget line for the fight against poverty diseases with the reproductive health one) before 2005 while the deconcentration to delegations is already a reality for certain geographic financial envelopes and should become fully effective at the start of 2004 for all geographic envelopes and for thematic lines.

The rationalisation of the management of thematic lines, namely, the harmonization of all management procedures, is well advanced and a new standard contract (in line with the new Financial Regulation in force since first January 2003) applicable to all grants should be ready by the end of May.

The **Activity Based Budget** will be structured around policy areas and activities instead of the 5 classical headings. For each Policy Area (PA), a budget that includes all expenses linked to this area including administration costs and operational costs will be provided. The introduction of the Activity Based Budget approach is expected to bring more clarity on the use of EU budget in terms of sectoral policies but from the definition of Policy Areas we can already see certain limitations to it. **Three policy areas will cover 89% of expenditures under present Heading 4 of the budget** (External Actions): Development and Relations with the ACP / Humanitarian Aid / External Relations. It seems, from figures provided for Budgets 2002 and 2003, that the EC is not ready to make the effort to spread each geographic budget line into these three PA and the result is that the Development PA is reduced to the thematic lines and a few actions in ACP countries (in total: € 1108 mio in 2002) while External relations PA includes all geographic lines (ALA, MEDA, Balkans,..) as well as human rights and CFSP (in total, € 3279 mio in 2002). Humanitarian aid PA amounts € 670.7 mio in 2002.

It seems thus that the ABB will be based more on the present structure (with the distinction between DG Relex and DG Development) and functioning of the

European Commission than on real policy objectives. It is quite interesting to read that the definition of External Relations policy area is: *The policy area External Relations seeks to support the objectives of the EU external policy by means of cooperation, development aid, conflict prevention and human rights programmes and projects.* While Development Policy is defined as: *To reduce and eventually eradicate poverty. This entails supporting sustainable economic, social and environmental development in all developing countries and regions in a consistent manner as well as a gradual integration into the world economy.*

So, the new Activity Based Budget does not bring more clarity about the way EU funds are used for development objectives. Only a proper reporting on the use of geographic envelopes in line with the DAC nomenclature could show the real impact of these lines on social development and poverty reduction and it is precisely the request of the European Parliament.

A more encouraging sign is the intention of the Commission to include in future Preliminary Draft Budget of the ABB (and for significant expenditure programmes or activities) specific indications on the objectives and expected outputs of each programme or activity and the outputs realised in the previous year. Provided such indications are in line with the DAC classification (or another equivalent sectoral classification) it would represent a real improvement.

A meeting between a few EC officials and a few NGO representatives (under CONCORD) is planned on 7 May to clarify the present state of rationalisation and deconcentration processes and to see how the dialogue with NGOs on these issues will be organised in coming months.

More information on ABB at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/budget/abb/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/budget/abb/index_en.htm)

## OTHER NEWS FROM THE EU

### **Enlargement, the Accession Treaty with 10 new members was signed on 16 April – consequences on development and trade**

The decision to sign the Treaty of Accession for ten new EU members on 16 April in Athens was taken at the Copenhagen Summit in December 2002 which means that ten new countries will join the EU in May 2004.

In the margins of this historic moment, Commissioner Nielson presented his views about the consequences of enlargement on development policy of the EU in a speech on 7 April in Berlin. Commissioner Nielson acknowledged the need for further coordination between the EU and Member States, as EU efforts in the field are still perceived as “15 + 1”. Member states have agreed that the EU should formulate a proposal for taking further coordination and harmonisation forward in four pilot countries. Nielson also mentioned that Regional and Country strategies agreed by the Union could frame the common action of the EU and Member States. Regarding new Member States, one particular contribution anticipated is support for stability in the Balkans, the Caucasus and in the Central Asian Republics, also related to the “Ring of Friends” initiative (see *EU News* 27 March 2003). Look at:

[http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/186|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/186|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

DG Trade also produced two press releases on the consequences of enlargement for trade, one is providing a sectoral overview and the other develops the idea that enlargement will be favourable for third countries’ trading partners. Look at: [http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.submitqry2=qry&stockqry=trade&owner=prof&hits=50](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.submitqry2=qry&stockqry=trade&owner=prof&hits=50)

## **Convention: CONCORD paper: Europe's Role in the World and the Organisation of its Future External Relations**

It is important that the issue of development is taken up well in the text of the Constitutional Treaty as we observe a clear tendency in the EU to make development policy and humanitarian aid more and more instrumental to common foreign and security policies.

Therefore, the board of CONCORD strongly suggests that NGOs send this document to their national representatives in the Convention and to others as appropriate.

For your information, the list of Convention members can be found on the web site of the Convention: <http://european-convention.eu.int>

The Concord paper is available on request from [eupolicy@cidse.org](mailto:eupolicy@cidse.org) or [k.sohet@aprodev.net](mailto:k.sohet@aprodev.net)

EU News will come back on the Convention in the next issue.

### **NEWS FROM THE NETWORKS**

#### **CONCORD**

The CONCORD newsletter, in French and in English, keeps its members informed of the progress of the organisation. The first issue is dated 30 January 2003 and the second 5 March 2003. The 5 March issue discusses potential political priorities and working methods of the organisation and its groups, and introduces the secretariat staff. To receive a copy of the newsletter, write to [sec@concordeurope.org](mailto:sec@concordeurope.org).

The Board will have its second meeting 16 April to discuss its organisational and communication plan, operationalisation of working groups and new member approval procedures, among other topics on the agenda.

#### **NEWS FROM APRODEV**

Giovanna Lelli, Aprodev Coordinator for **Palestinian and Israeli Issues**, publishes a bi-weekly bulletin on the European Union and the Israeli-Palestinian Crisis. It summarises news, decisions and events taking place in EU circles or in other relevant circles (NGOs, UN) and provides links with internet pages related to them.

The Bulletin is posted on the new Aprodev webpage on the Palestinian and Israeli issues that provides insights on Aprodev work and background information on the issue from an EU perspective. Look at:

<http://www.aprodev.net/>

#### **NEWS FROM CIDSE**

**Future of EU Development Policy:** CIDSE and Caritas Europa have published a joint position paper on the Convention, entitled "Addressing Europe's Global Responsibilities: Development Co-operation and the European Convention," based on the March 2003 Trócaire briefing paper by the same name. The paper includes the historical context of EU development co-operation, explains the principles and the realities of EU development policy today, and answers the question, "Why should development policy remain at the EU level, and what form should that policy take?"

The paper is available on the CIDSE website: <http://www.cidse.org/en/pubs/>.

## **NEWS FROM CARITAS EUROPA**

In last EU News we announced the departure of Tony Hardiment at the end of March. Thanks Tony for the enormous work you did for Caritas Europa. The fact you are replaced by 2 people give an impression of the work you did.

Aurora Taboada will start in our office 28 APRIL

Angelique Zonneveld will start on 5 May.

Welcome to both and hope you will contribute in the future to this joint newsletter also.

### **Upcoming meetings:**

28 April: **IEC-Asia** in Paris on the agenda the main topics are:

- Lobby plans for Sri Lanka
- Lessons Learnt on LRRD Orissa/Sri Lanka
- Partnerships considerations: Geographical spread and concentration countries
- Peace and reconciliation

Please confirm your participation to Godelive Kankindi (gkankindi@caritas-europa.org if you have not done yet.

29 April **Joint CIDSE/CE ASIA day** in Paris.

19 May: **IEC- Latin America** in Paris:

20 May: **Joint CIDSE/CE Latin America day**

20 May: **Humanitarian Aid conference** in the European Parliament, for further information please contact: Samantha Chaitkin [information@ngovoice.org].

21 May: **General Assemble of VOICE** for further information please contact: Samantha Chaitkin [information@ngovoice.org].

22 May: **Balkan officers meeting**

23 May: CE staff meeting on **the new strategic plan**

26 May: **CE Board** meeting

From 3 till 13 May Will De Wolf will be out of office for a donor coordination meeting on the drought in Ethiopia.