

## EU NEWS

ISSUE 6

14 May 2003

### EU DEVELOPMENT POLICY

#### **Participation of Civil Society in EU Development Policy, Athens conference, guidelines for delegations**

On 5 and 6 May 2003 the Greek Presidency organized an international conference on "civil society participation in EC Development policy". 74 representatives of civil society from around the world were invited to address concerns, express views and challenge ideas regarding development issues and to present concrete recommendations to the Greek presidency on civil society participation in EC Development policy. Three workshops allowed discussions on a wide variety of issues. The following workshops had been prepared:

Workshop I: The Role of North and South Civil Society in Poverty Reduction and

Workshop II: Civil Society in EC Development Policy.

Workshop III: The Role of the EU in the World: Solidarity and Sustainable Development.

CIDSE, also representing Aprodev, participated in workshop 2 where the discussion focused around burning issues concerning the non-state actor debate. From the input of the representatives of central and eastern European countries, including the candidate countries, it became abundantly clear that enlargement will have a huge impact on the importance of "development" in EU policy. It seems that the NGOs in the candidate countries lack experience and, in some cases, are even uninterested in development issues. Two recommendations from workshop 2 that stood out as important issues to be addressed by the EU in future are (1) the EU should facilitate meetings between Northern NGOs and those of candidate countries and (2) the EU is requested to actively support more frequent and intensive contacts and cooperation between Southern civil society actors and those from the candidate countries. The main recommendations expressed by civil society organisations during the conference will be integrated into an official response of NGOs to the Communication on non-state actors, which is under preparation within the CONCORD framework. In addition the Greek Presidency will introduce the recommendations of the conference into the debate of the General Affairs Council (19-20 May 2003) and the Heads of State Summit in June.

In parallel to that process, CONCORD is conducting a consultation of its members on the Guidelines for the EC Delegations on Non-State Actors' participation prepared by DG Development. A draft outline of the guidelines was sent to CONCORD secretariat for consultation and a preliminary reaction was prepared by APRODEV secretariat. Both papers are now circulating among the national platforms and the networks.

The Development Committee of the European Parliament is also in the process of adopting a report on the communication on NSA participation. The rapporteur, Mr Howitt had several exchanges of views with NGOs representatives (including CIDSE and APRODEV secretariat) in the course of the drafting.

The official conclusions presented by the Greek presidency as well as a list of participants of the Athens meeting can be obtained from Maria Winnubst ([winnubst@wanadoo.be](mailto:winnubst@wanadoo.be))  
Information on the guidelines for Delegations is available from [k.sohet@aprodev.net](mailto:k.sohet@aprodev.net)

## **EC proposal for a New EU Water Fund for ACP countries financed by the EDF**

On 23 April, a Commission Communication was adopted that proposes the establishment of an EU Water Fund for the ACP countries with a budget of €1 billion. The Communication builds on the EU Water Initiative, launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in September 2002. The money would come from the uncommitted reserve in the 9th European Development Fund. As a first priority, the Fund would be oriented towards achieving the targets on water supply and sanitation, within the framework of integrated water resources management, and would include co-financing with other sources of finance.

The Fund should concentrate its activities in countries which have a sound national water policy or which are strongly committed to developing one, based on good governance principles, and where the priority is given to spending on social sectors, and the relevant indicators have been defined as part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Process (PRSP).

Mobilisation of a significant level of resources is a key factor for the realisation of the Millennium Development Goal. But it will also be necessary to apply a flexible approach to management and implementation. The EU Water Fund should reflect these principles and at the same time respond to sound rules of transparency and accountability. *The Commission will now discuss this proposal with the EU Member States and the ACP partners, and give due consideration to the necessary steps to allow the financing to be mobilised from the European Development Fund to set up the Fund.* A discussion will take place at the ACP-EU Council meeting on 16 May.

The exact origin of the funds allocated to this new initiative is still unclear. One should know that, in addition to the 13.5 billion of the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF, any balances from previous EDFs are transferred to the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF. At the last Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Brazzaville, Commissioner Nielson announced that the balances of the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> EDF at the end of 2002 amounted 3 billion euros (+ 8 billion that had been committed but not spent) and that the Commission was preparing proposals on using the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF reserves for health and debt reduction (HIPC 135 million).

The EC proposal to divert €1 billion from the EDF to this new EU Water Fund raises a lot of questions as does the suggestion that the new fund should be administered by an external agency created on purpose. The way civil society organisations will access the fund is also an important issue. The EC paper refers to the importance of grassroots participation and small scale projects as well as to the role EU NGOs could play in the implementation of the fund but does not mention any ways of consulting civil society on the functioning and programming of the fund.

(Source: EC press release and Bulletin Quotidien Europe N° 8434)

The "non-paper" by the EU commission on the EU Water Fund can be found as PDF at: [http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/prodi/pdf/water\\_paper\\_en.pdf](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/prodi/pdf/water_paper_en.pdf)

Website of the EU Water Initiative:

[http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/water-initiative/index\\_en.html](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/water-initiative/index_en.html)

## **New partnership agreement between the EC and the UN**

The strategic partnership between the EC and the UN, initially concluded in 1999, will now involve a closer programming dialogue between the European Commission and the UN, and more long-term financing in the case of development programmes.

Concretely, the revised agreement will lower the transaction costs of joint projects or programmes, thereby helping the institutions to make better use of their resources. By increasing the predictability of the rules to be applied for all parties concerned (the EU, the UN, other donors and the beneficiary country) it will contribute to greater transparency and greater impact of the operations on the ground. The Agreement will be implemented at the contractual level by way of two standard contribution agreements, one for humanitarian aid, and one for all other Commission grants.

Among new principles are those of moving from project funding to more long-term programme funding; to shift from a focus on inputs to one based on outputs and results; to strengthen the visibility of EU as a donor, and to clarify and simplify rules on reporting.

Similar Agreements that exist with a number of UN specialised agencies (FAO, UNESCO and WHO) will also be reviewed. These and other specialised UN agencies will be invited to accede to the new agreement and to incorporate its principles to the greatest extent possible, in order to facilitate funding of their operations and programmes.

(Source: EC press release)

### **Commission's proposals for the Budget 2004: focus on neighbouring countries and foreign and security policy**

The Commission adopted the Preliminary Draft Budget for 2004 on 30 April. The Budget of Heading 4, External Actions, is maintained at its 2003 level (€5 billion) but is now presented in a new way to reflect the Activity Based approach. Heading 4 is now divided into 3 main Policy Areas (External relations, Development and Humanitarian Aid) and several minor ones and the budget lines have been distributed between these areas.

The scope for external aid has been expanded as the financial support for pre-accession aid to Cyprus, Malta and Turkey is no longer financed from this heading.

**The amount available for the other operations is thus 4.5% higher than in 2003.**

The additional funds will be used to boost neighbourhood policy (see *EU News 4*, p.5). Appropriations are 14% higher for the Mediterranean countries (with a total of €859 million for MEDA) and 6% higher for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. After the years of reconstruction in the Balkans the level of aid will stabilise at €610 million. Humanitarian aid is to be increased by 11%. Assistance in the field of "*sustainable growth*" in 2004 will be concentrated on the environment and health programmes, which were already boosted in 2003.

The Commission proposes that the appropriations for the Common Foreign and Security Policy be increased to €51 million in commitment appropriations.

**Once again, the Commission Preliminary Draft Budget is mainly oriented towards external relations topics and to the cooperation with EU neighbouring countries.** It translates perfectly the principle adopted earlier this year by the ECOFIN Council: "*in determining budget allocations under Heading 4 (external action), it underlines the need for setting priorities linked to the evolution of the international context and leaving sufficient margins under this Heading.*"

Under the budgetary procedure, the Council's first reading will take place in July 2003, followed by Parliament's first reading in October. The objective is to adopt the budget for 15 Member States in December for the period up to 1 May 2004 as well as to reach agreement on the figures for the enlarged Union.

Detailed figures are not yet released, they should appear at a later stage at the following address: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/budget/furtherinfo/index\\_en.htm#budget](http://europa.eu.int/comm/budget/furtherinfo/index_en.htm#budget)

## EU SECTORAL POLICIES

### WTO-Trade: EC offer on trade in services

As promised by Commissioner Lamy, the text of the EC conditional offer on the trade in services is now available on the website of DG trade: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/services/pr290403\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/services/pr290403_en.htm)

*The EU tabled a detailed list of sectors where it is offering companies and individuals in third countries further opportunities to offer services in the already very open EU market. Services already accounts for two thirds of EU employment and economic activity, and the further opening of trade in a number of areas, ranging from telecommunications and postal services, to banking, insurance, environmental services, construction, tourism or distribution will contribute to growth and employment in the EU. At the same time, the EU offer should encourage other WTO Members to table ambitious offers. A particular focus of the offer aims to give developing countries a better deal especially in sectors of interest for them via the temporary entry of foreign nationals into the EU to provide services.*

According to the EC press release, the offer does not include any changes in the sectors of Health, Education and Social services, audiovisual and on Public utilities. Member States fully retain the right to decide the most appropriate organisation of their education and health systems. The ability for the EU to provide subsidies in services sectors is maintained. This allows the EU and its Member states to develop their regional and research policies and to preserve the sustainability of the public sector.

*(source: EC press releases)*

Reminder: in July 2002, the EC and its Member States submitted in Geneva their initial **requests** to 109 other WTO Members for improved market access in the services sectors (according to NGOs, 72 requests included a request for opening the trade of services in the water sector).

More information at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/services/gats\\_sum.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/services/gats_sum.htm)

### NGO Conference on 'The Doha Round - What's in it for Development?'

On 7 and 8 May, in Brussels, over a hundred trade experts from NGOs were present to express serious concerns that the EC is not living up to the promises made at the Ministerial Conference in Doha in November 2001. The conference, which included a question-response round with several DG Trade officials and with Commissioner Lamy, was organised by CIDSE, Solidar and Oxfam GB in coordination with the European Trade Network and the Trade Working Group of CONCORD. Questions prepared by the NGOs in workshops covered trade in agriculture, services (including water), negotiations on TRIPS (medicines and life patenting) and more general issues such as Singapore issues and WTO rules and governance. Mr Koos Richelle, Director General of DG Development and Mrs Clarke, Counsellor at the representation of Barbados in Geneva, also exchanged their views with participants. "Promises were made in Doha on making trade work for development, but it seems that we are winning on the rhetoric but not on the results," said Giampiero Alhadef, from SOLIDAR.

Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy recognized that developing countries are sometimes put under unacceptable pressure in WTO negotiations. He stated that the EU categorically rejected these methods and that he would support the EU subscribing to a code of conduct if other WTO members were also prepared to sign.

NGOs called on the EU to withdraw its pressure to launch investment negotiations in the WTO. "There is unanimity among NGOs and a majority of developing countries against an agreement on investment in the WTO at this time, since there is no evidence that such an agreement would be beneficial for development. We hope the EU will listen to the opposition and desist from pushing on investment, " said Duncan Green, from CAFOD, a CIDSE member.

Source: [Press release of the Conference](#). For more information and background papers, contact Bob van Dillen at [vandillen@cidse.org](mailto:vandillen@cidse.org)

### **Access to medicines: Commission holds Round Table; GlaxoSmithKline halves price of top AIDS drug for poor countries**

The European Commission organised a Round Table on access to medicines for developing countries on 28 April, gathering government representatives from developed and developing countries, international organisations, industry and NGOs. Commission President Romano Prodi explained that the objectives of the conference were to send a strong signal ahead of the G8 summit on the need to address this issue; to explore the need for incentives to encourage development & low-priced delivery of medicines; to coordinate global research efforts through public-private partnerships; and to discuss how to break the impasse in the WTO TRIPS negotiations on intellectual property rights and public health concerns, which stalled last December due to the US position.

In a 5 May speech, Development Commissioner Poul Nielson outlined the EU vision for combating communicable diseases in developing countries, which, while welcoming the rapid drop in prices for anti-retroviral drugs, highlights the need to focus on prevention, due to the difficulties faced in delivering medicines through weak health infrastructures. Nielson also called upon the United States to show more flexibility in the WTO negotiations. Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy added during the 7-8 May NGO conference on the WTO Doha Development Round that the rhetoric of Doha has to be matched with the facts. "*We should have an agreement on TRIPS and access to medicines at Cancun*", he said, adding that a failure to get agreement would represent a severe setback for the negotiations.

In parallel, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), the largest producer of HIV/AIDS drugs, announced that it would halve the price of its principal AIDS drug, Combivir, for 63 least developed countries, including all of sub-Saharan Africa. The annual "not-for-profit" price of the drug will now be less than €300 per patient. However, this will still be €50 more expensive than a generic version of the drug produced by the Indian company Rambaxy. While GSK officially attributed the price cuts to improvements in production techniques and deals with companies supplying raw materials, pressure from NGOs and concerns from institutional investors over reputational effects certainly contributed to the move. While NGOs reacted positively to GSK's announcement, they underscore that the price cuts are only related to a small number of medicines and may only benefit a small number of patients due to eligibility conditions. Moreover, to keep prices low in the long term, generic competition will need to be stimulated. (Sources: EU-LDC news, European Voice, European Institutions press)

## EU HUMANITARIAN AID POLICY

### **VOICE - ECHO conference on Challenges ahead EU Humanitarian Aid**

On 20 May 2003, VOICE - with the support of ECHO - is holding a one-day conference in Brussels entitled "EU Humanitarian Aid - Challenges Ahead", gathering together European Union (EU) policy makers and ECHO partners, governments, EU institutions, UN officials, the Red Cross and civil society.

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?

If you are interested in participating in the conference, please [download the registration form](#) and send it to us by e-mail or fax.

For additional information, please contact Rafael Carrascosa, VOICE Project Coordinator, at [conference@ngovoice.org](mailto:conference@ngovoice.org).

## EU RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

### **Palestine: new government, new road map and new EU aid programme**

While welcoming the formal approval of the new Palestinian Cabinet by the Palestinian Legislative Council, the European Commission announced on 30 April that, in the future, it will support the reform process of the Palestinian authorities with new forms of support.

*The current system of monthly payments of Direct Budgetary Assistance will be discontinued and replaced by the so called, Reform Support Instrument. Unlike the old system, in which EU budgetary support was paid into the PA Single Treasury account for general budget expenditure to support the core activities of the administration, the new assistance will be targeted support, focussing on the private sector and social services. The funds will be used to help the PA pay off arrears in these areas to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and the social services.*

**The new Reform Support Instrument will be paid in addition to a range of other forms of assistance.** Taken together, the level of assistance foreseen for the Palestinian Territories in 2003 will be €245million, roughly in line with the level of aid in 2002. In addition to the Reform Support Instrument it will include (among others):

€57.75 million for UNRWA

€25 million in Humanitarian assistance

€20 million in Food aid/Food security

€15 million Emergency Support to the Private Sector in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem

€10 million for the Middle East Peace Process (support to CS organisations in Palestine and Israel who support dialogue and work for peace)

€3 million for East Jerusalem (programme not identified yet)

More information at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/med\\_mideast/intro/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/med_mideast/intro/index.htm)

On the same date, the Commission also welcomed the presentation to the Palestinian and Israeli Authorities of **the Quartet's Road Map to peace**. The

Quartet's proposal is viewed by the Commission as a performance-based and goal-driven roadmap, with clear phases, timelines, target dates, and benchmarks aiming at progress through reciprocal steps by the two parties in the political, security, economic, humanitarian, and institution-building fields, under the auspices of the Quartet. The destination is a final and comprehensive settlement negotiated between the parties that will result in the emergence of an independent, democratic, and viable Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours. The settlement will resolve the Israel-Palestinian conflict, and end the occupation that began in 1967, based on the foundations of the Madrid Conference, the principle of land for peace, UNSCRs 242, 338 and 1397, agreements previously reached by the parties, and the initiative of Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah - endorsed by the Beirut Arab League Summit - calling for acceptance of Israel as a neighbour living in peace and security, in the context of a comprehensive settlement. In Rhodes on 5 May, the EU Foreign ministers discussed the creation of a follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the Road Map.

Source: diverse EC press releases.

Presentation of the Road Map at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/med\\_mideast/news/ip03\\_612.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/med_mideast/news/ip03_612.htm)

### **Mediterranean countries: 57 million for regional cooperation**

A new website on EU cooperation with South Mediterranean countries and near and Middle East countries is now operational:

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

There you will find information on the MEDA regional programme for 2003 that includes the following sub-programmes.

- The Middle East Peace Projects (MEPP) 2003 (€ 10 million)
- The Training of Public Administrations programme (€ 6 million)
- The support fund to the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP), (€ 25 million)
- The Euro-Mediterranean Water Information System project (€ 2 million),
- The project Support to the Implementation of the South-South Sub-regional Free Trade Area of Agadir
- Euromed Heritage III (€ 10 million).

Among these programmes the only one that focuses on support to civil society is the MEPP programme for which a call for proposals will be launched later this year.

Information on the MEDA regional programme:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/med/regional\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/med/regional_en.htm)

### **Balkans: annual programmes adopted for Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro and FYROM**

Find details on these programmes at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/see/news/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/see/news/index.htm)

or:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/cards/bilateral\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/cards/bilateral_en.htm)

## **EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Rationalisation – deconcentration: progress report**

After September 2002 (presentation on Rationalization's proposals by Mr Deben), the EC has been busy with the preparation of the 2004 Budget and its alignment with the new Financial Regulation, parallel to the implementation of the deconcentration

process to be effective in 2004. Therefore, for 2004, it was agreed not to include major changes in thematic budget lines but just to **re-group all budget lines aiming at the same activity** in accordance with the Activity-Based Budget approach. As a result, the thematic budget lines are re-grouped into **3 chapters**:

1. Multilateral relations and general External Relations matters  
(this comprises Drug, Mine and Migration-related BL)
2. Human Right and Democratization  
(the BL managed by F3)
3. Development Cooperation Policy and Sectoral Strategies  
(re-grouping most of the Thematic BL, and 80% of the funds managed by AIDCO)

The EC is now reflecting on further proposals to be presented in **September 2003 for the 2005 Budget**.

In parallel to that reflection on the rationalisation of the number of budget lines, DG development and the inter-service Quality Support Group are reflecting on standards and guidelines for the programming of thematic issues and budget lines. At a recent meeting between CONCORD and EC representatives organised at the initiative of the Direction F of EuropeAid, it was agreed that NGOs would be consulted on both processes through CONCORD.

At the same meeting, we were informed that the deconcentration of thematic budget lines to delegations is due to take place in the course of 2004 and will be organised as follows:

- the Calls for proposals will be prepared and launched at the central level (Brussels): the selection process will take place in Brussels and be based on the opinion of the local Delegations, the evaluation committees will prepare list of selected projects;
- the contracts will be signed at the Delegation level, also in charge of following-up the execution. The Headquarters' role will then be technical support (advice).
- There are 2500 on-going projects (mostly multi-annual). Only the contracts signed after 31 December 2000 (governed by the standard contract) will be managed by the Delegations.

Certain projects will not be deconcentrated at all: regional and inter-regional, highly specific/specialized, block-grants, Development Education, Accession countries, electoral-support and support to international Courts.

With the completion of the second wave of deconcentration, supposed to be achieved at the end of March 2003, the deconcentration of all geographised actions is normally effective in Europe, Mediterranean, Asia and Latin America.

Up to date information on the status of the deconcentration process in each delegation and progress reports on the whole process are available at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/decentr/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/decentr/index_en.htm)

### **Call for proposals for population policies and reproductive health**

A call for proposal in two stages (or 'restricted' call for proposals) for the Aid programme for population policies and reproductive health was recently published. The call is based on 2002 appropriations ( € 5 million, not spent due to delays in the adoption of the new legal basis) and it will be followed by another call later this year (in November, for €12 million from 2003 budget).

For this first call, the emphasis will be on the accessibility and quality of obstetric care to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity at childbirth, the priority being operations targeting the poorest groups and/or those for whom the risk of maternal mortality is greatest. Are eligible: non-governmental organisations, public-sector operators

distinct from the State, local authorities, research or training institutions, international organisations.

Operations must be carried out in one or more least developing countries (on the DAC list of LDCs).

The total budget amounts € 5 million and the project's budget should range between 1 and 2,5 million.

The deadline for submitting an application under the first stage is on 24 June. The 15 shortlisted applicants will subsequently be asked, by letter, to submit a full application.

More information at:

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/dat/2003/c\\_110/c\\_11020030508en00260027.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/dat/2003/c_110/c_11020030508en00260027.pdf) and on the usual Europeaid tender website (other/grants/open).

## **Call for proposals for the European Fund for refugees**

The call for proposals 2003 for the EU Refugee Fund was recently released.

The fund has three main objectives:

- assist in analysing and evaluating the situation and issues related to reception, integration and repatriation of refugees
- help building the capacity of the actors in MS and at EU level who are active in fields mentioned above
- promote and disseminate best practices to practitioners at EU level

The Fund is accessible to administrations, NGOs and local and regional authorities. The total budget available is 2.1 million and projects budget should range between 40 000 to 400 000 euros. Deadline for applications is 13 June 2003.

More information at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice\\_home/funding/refugee/funding\\_refugee\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/refugee/funding_refugee_en.htm)

## **Other calls for proposals foreseen in 2003**

Environment and Forests in developing countries (B7-6200 – € 25 million) for forest and €5 mio for environment): publication of a call in two stages is expected in June or July. Priorities will be: illegal logging, climate change and forests, valuation of forests and fights against desertification, implementation of the convention on biological diversity and the bio-safety protocol.

HIV/AIDS and other poverty diseases (B7-6311, € 34.85 million): a two stage call to be launched in October 2003 with a € 34.85 million envelope and two priority areas: public/private partnerships promoting the transfer of pharmaceutical technology and support for development, up-scaling and testing of strategies and methods for capacity strengthening of health services to cope with the burden inflicted by poverty diseases.

Gender issues in development co-operation (B7-6220, € 2.5 million): two stage call to be launched in July-August with 5 organisations shortlisted after the first stage. Focus on reducing gender disparities in education and improving women's access to political decision-making through strategic partnerships with South-based, policy-focused institutes for development studies and international NGOs.

Action against Antipersonnel mines (B7-661, €9 million under the call): publication is expected in September 2003 with a detailed list of priority countries and amounts. € 6.5 million will also be allocated to targeted projects that escape the call for proposals system.

## OTHER NEWS FROM THE EU

### **Future of EU development cooperation: serious NGO concerns about draft articles on EU external action presented in the Convention; conference to be held**

On 24 April the Presidium of the Convention on the Future of Europe presented the draft articles on the External Action of the Union, including Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Defence and Security Policy (CDSP), for a future Constitutional Treaty for the EU.

Several NGDO networks, led by Eurostep and including CIDSE, met to agree upon an analysis of the draft articles and a set of draft amendments to be pursued with Convention members. While poverty eradication was included in the principles and objectives of external action, three key problems need to be addressed:

1) Development co-operation is primarily seen as an integral part of the external relations policy of the Union, including the Common Defence and Security Policy. The intergovernmental decision-making character of the CFSP and CDSP has been transferred onto the chapter of external policy, including development co-operation. The Council is primarily in charge of this area, and is even given the power to utilise development aid for Europe's defence and security policy.

2) There is an attempt to limit the objective of 'eradicating poverty' to Low Income Countries, and limit the chapter of development co-operation to ACP countries.

3) A new chapter, introduced by the Nice Treaty, on economic, financial and technical co-operation with third countries could become a by-pass for the development chapter. The purpose of the new chapter is not only to facilitate aid programmes to pre-accession countries and neighbouring countries, but also to middle income countries. If the development chapter remains primarily for ACP countries, whose cooperation is already covered by the separate Cotonou Agreement, the development chapter would become an empty shell.

Following contacts with members of the Convention, most of the NGDO amendment suggestions have been included in proposed amendments submitted by Convention members. The next focus will then be on the 15-16 May discussion by the plenary of the Convention of proposed amendments.

In parallel with the next meeting of the General Affairs & External Relations Council, BOND, EADI, and British Council Conference, under the auspices of CONCORD, will be holding a conference on 19 May entitled 'Europe in the world: EU external relations and development'. The goal of the conference is to support dialogue between foreign, development, humanitarian & security thinkers. Expert speakers and participants will reflect upon EU institutional reform, the 'Future of Europe' and Common Foreign and Security Policy, and their implications for relations between Europe and developing countries. The conference proceedings will be presented to EU Member State governments prior to the EU summit in June.

[For more details please see \[www.bond.org.uk\]\(http://www.bond.org.uk\).](http://www.bond.org.uk)

## NEWS FROM THE NETWORKS

### **NEWS FROM APRODEV**

The secretariat of Aprodev is happy to welcome **a new staff member**, Ms Ger Roebeling, seconded by ICCO, who will work half-time on the Joint Advocacy Project on EU Trade and Food Security policies from a Gender perspective. She started in May for a one year period. Ger studied agriculture, rural development and

development economics. She is presently working as senior policy adviser in ICCO on, among other things, a lobby agenda on nutrition and food security issues from a rights-based perspective. Prior to that position, she worked in ICCO on Southern and Western Africa, Brazil and the Southern Cone. We are very grateful to ICCO for providing Aprovev with this most welcome opportunity.

**The 2003 Annual Meeting of Aprovev** will take place in London on 2 and 3 June. In addition to the usual business items, the board of Aprovev will be asked to endorse two policy papers – on Palestinian and Israeli issues and on Central and Eastern Europe – and to adopt Aprovev work plan for the year ahead. The AM will also elect a successor to Daleep Mukarji (Christian Aid), the actual Chair of Aprovev whose term comes to an end. The AM will be followed, in the evening of 3 June, by a mini-seminar on the future of multilateralism and the role of the EU.

### ***NEWS FROM CIDSE***

CIDSE Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General and Coordinator for the Africa Continental Platform, Johanna Fogelström, will be on maternity leave from 19 May until 17 November. During this time she will be replaced by Joyce del Rosario, a former CIDSE staff member ([delrosario@cidse.org](mailto:delrosario@cidse.org)).

### ***NEWS FROM CARITAS EUROPA***

#### **Launch of Caritas Europa's position paper on Enlargement**

Located at Caritas Europa premises, Rue de Pascale 4, 1040 Brussels

19 June 2003, between 4 and 6 pm / open to the public

The paper will focus on challenges posed by EU Enlargement in the fields of Free Movement of People/Migration, Employment and Non-statutory Welfare, from the perspectives of current EU members, new EU members from Central and Eastern Europe, and future border states.

Participation of key speakers from EU institutions, and new EU member states.

For further information and to confirm attendance, please contact Godelive Kankindi, [gkankindi@caritas-europa.org](mailto:gkankindi@caritas-europa.org), or by phone at +32-2-280 0280 or 02 235 0390.