



EU NEWS

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CONTENT

EU Development Policy

- [DG Development launched the programming process for post 2007 aid to ACP countries](#)
- [New Africa Infrastructure Fund involves European Investment Bank](#)
- [Negotiations underway on the 2007-13 Development Instrument](#)
- [What future for the thematic approach in EC aid?](#)

EU Sectoral Policies

- [Trade, agriculture and development: two short papers from DG Trade](#)

EU Humanitarian Aid Policy and Funding

- [EU and UN launch a Humanitarian Aid plan for the democratic republic of Congo](#)
- [Commission provides €900 000 emergency aid to devastated Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria](#)

EU relations with third countries

- [EU and Russia discuss human rights in Chechnya and NGO law – EP resolution on HR clauses](#)

EU Funding for Development

- [The new EuropeAid Practical Guide introduces new rules and procedures for grants](#)

Other news from the EU

- [Non Profit sector and the financing of terrorism in the context of EU and FATF](#)

News from the networks

- [News from APRODEV](#)
- [News from CIDSE](#)
- [News from Caritas Europa](#)

EU DEVELOPMENT POLICY

DG Development launched the post 2007 aid programming process for ACP countries

In December 2005, the European Council adopted a financial envelope for the 10th EDF which comes to **€22.7billion for the period 2008–2013**.

The way this envelope will be divided into the different geographic levels of aid; national, regional, all ACP and the different forms of aid; grants and loans (loans represent 25.7% of the 9th EDF envelope of €15.2 billion) is not yet established and publicly communicated.

DG Development and Commissioner Michel in person will launch the programming process through the **organisation of 6 big regional seminars in ACP countries up to April 2006**. The aim is to set the tune of the new programming process: *“We will listen attentively to the priorities which have been communicated to us in terms of action for development. At the same time, we expect from our partners a concrete commitment for good governance”* (Louis Michel quoted in EC press release). The first seminar already took place in Central Africa (Brazzaville) at the end of January.

Good performance and respect for the commitments taken – especially with regard to good governance, sound management of public funds and efficient administration – are key factors for the increase in aid allocations towards each country. (EC press release)

Besides usual needs criteria, **performance criteria will be determinant in aid allocation decisions** and will have a great influence on the final envelope that will be allocated to each ACP countries. Performance criteria not only reflect sound aid management and administration but will also include economic, political and social performance indicators. The 9th EDF will be used as a reference for the calculation of the national envelope according to a mathematical model where both needs and performance criteria will be taken into account. During the programming exercise it can still be decided to allocate a further incentive envelope on the basis of political performance criteria (good governance) and commitment towards reform on the side of the ACP government.

As it was the case for the 9th EDF, the national allocation will be divided in a programmable envelope A to support the National Indicative Programme (NIP) and a smaller envelope B for unforeseen needs.

Since the first round of Country Strategy Papers and aid programming that took place in 2001-2002, new trends developed in the way the EDF is managed.

The **share of EDF funding allocated to national envelopes decreased in favour of all ACP cooperation and new 'Facilities'** seem to be now the favourite way of spending big amounts of money in a short time. The 1 billion conditional envelope that was entered in the 9th EDF to play the role of an incentive fund for good performers was never used in that way but was diverted to finance all ACP cooperation and the *facilities*. The fact that a deadline has been fixed on 31 December 2007 for committing the 9th EDF is of course a strong incentive for the creation of facilities. At the same time **the real problems that make it difficult to implement the national indicative programmes in a swift and efficient way are not seriously tackled.**

We don't question the value and necessity of tackling major issues such as water, energy in ACP countries but we wonder why this should be undertaken outside the framework of the country strategies and why these facilities should be managed in a way that puts state and non-state actors from the ACP and Europe in a competitive race for grants.

[The result of the call for proposals for the Water Facility](#) launched in October 2004 is now published. Nearly 800 preliminary proposals (requesting € 2,7 Billion) were received. With the € 230 M available, a total number of 97 projects can be co-financed (12% of total number of applications). Among the selected initiatives, 23 fall into the category of improved water governance (€ 33.2 M), 12 are in the category of water supply and sanitation infrastructure programmes (€ 105 M) and 62 are in the category of Civil Society Initiatives (€ 91.4 M allocated mainly to organisations from the EU). A new financial package of 250 million was recently allocated to the Water Facility and the next call for proposals is expected in March 2006.

Management and governance of the facility is in the sole hands of the European Commission under scrutiny of the EU Members States. Such approach is quite contradictory to the ownership and partnership principles championed in the Cotonou Agreement.

A communication on the [Energy Facility](#) (€ 250 million) was adopted in October 2005 and the Commission is now announcing a **Governance Facility** (proposal expected in July) and has recently agreed with the European Investment Bank to create a new **Trust Fund for Infrastructure in Africa** with a starting allocation of €60 million from the EDF (*see separate article*).

Another interesting development is the establishment of the **Africa Peace Facility** (APF) and the present debate about its maintenance and replenishment. The Africa Peace Facility was created in response to a demand from the African Union in search for financial support for its peace building and peace keeping activities. **Of total resources available to the APF until now (250 million), 10-15% can be classified as official development assistance (ODA). The rest is spent on a contribution to the costs of African military peacekeeping forces.**

An evaluation of the Peace Facility has been undertaken in the last quarter of 2005 but the report is not public yet.

There is a broad political support for maintaining the Peace Facility in the future in the same format as the present one (capacity building and direct support for peace support operations using African military capabilities).

A decision has however still to be taken on the **replenishment of the Facility**. The fact that EDF is used to support military peace operations was, at the start, presented as a temporary solution in the absence of any other adequate instrument. At short term (until end of 2007), the replenishment should be covered by the 9th EDF but it seems now more and more predictable that this temporary

solution will become a long term one and that the 10th EDF will also be the source of funding for the Peace Facility.

Another important development that will influence the programming at regional level is the EU commitment towards **'trade related assistance' (TRA) to be put in relation with the on-going negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements**. The European Commission committed itself to allocate 1 billion euros to TRA from 2007 onwards. The main focus of regional strategies and programmes will be the regional integration in view of developing trade and establishing the conditions for the implementation of the EPAs to be signed by the time the 10th EDF will enter into force. In that view, it is expected that the regional groupings for regional aid programming will be aligned with the EPA groupings.

The Commission is in the process of preparing **a common framework for the programming and a series of thematic guidelines and programming fiches** on all issues to be taken into account in the programming process.

The way civil society and other non-state actors should be involved in the programming process is part of the framework as it was already the case for the 9th EDF programming round. Considering that delegations have been seriously strengthened in terms of human resources and that civil societies in ACP countries are more aware and better informed on EU-ACP cooperation today than they were in 2001, **we hope that a real qualitative step will be made with regard civil society participation**.

Monitoring the programming process and the way civil society is involved will be a top priority of the **CONCORD Cotonou working group** in the coming months.

New Africa Infrastructure Fund involves European Investment Bank

On 9 February, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank signed an agreement to create a new financial instrument for the **EU Africa Strategy's Partnership on Infrastructure**. For 2006-2007, the Commission will contribute € 60 million in grants (from EDF) and the EIB up to € 260 million in loans to the Africa Infrastructure Fund, which should become operational in June. Member States and financial institutions are also invited to participate in the Fund, with France, Germany, Belgium and Spain having already expressed interest. Priorities for intervention are trans-African networks for transport, energy, water, and information and communication technologies.

This is one of the first steps of the Commission in **reorienting Community aid towards support of the Africa Strategy**. It also follows the thinking that new European instruments will be needed to allow Member States to pool their increasing development funds outside the Community budget and the EDF. A clear objective of the Commission is to raise the visibility of European aid, and to increase the profile of the EIB in relation to the World Bank. However, the involvement of the EIB is controversial, as its mandate has only recently begun to expand beyond investment within the EU to development projects. Civil society groups have already expressed a lack of confidence in the EIB's current approach to work in favor of development. An NGO paper, ["The European Investment Bank in the South: In Whose Interest?"](#) by Friends of the Earth, Weed and others assesses the social and environmental consequences of EIB operations in Africa, Latin America and Asia and presents eight case studies of controversial projects funded by the EIB

Sources: Commission press release, IPS Terraviva Europa, Le Monde.

Negotiations underway on the 2007-13 Development Instrument

On the basis of the draft Mitchell report on the Development Cooperation & Economic Cooperation Instrument (see *EU News 1*), negotiations are now taking place between the European Parliament, the Council of Ministers and the European Commission. Fundamental issues of discussion include:

- **Instrument for development only or also for cooperation with industrialized countries:** Parliament supports splitting the instrument in order to strengthen the focus on development. Council is considering whether one instrument with two separate chapters and ringfenced funding would be sufficient.
- **Legal basis of the instrument:** Parliament supports a development instrument on the basis of Article 179 of the Treaty only. Both the Parliament and the Council legal services have produced opinions that development activities should be based exclusively on Article 179. The Commission has produced a "non-paper" to substantiate its argument that Article 181a should also apply, in order to allow activities such as educational cooperation.

- **Determining priorities within the geographic and thematic programmes:** Parliament supports a series of regulations under a DCI to allow for proper consideration by Parliament. Council considers that this would not streamline enough the development instruments, and supports a Multiannual Financial Framework attached to the development instrument regulation setting out the main priorities and resource allocation for the programmes.
- **Consistency with the Development Policy Statement:** Both the Parliament and the Council are proposing language to ensure that the Policy Statement is effectively translated into the legal regulation on points such as coherence of other EU policies with development objectives, participation of civil society, targeting the poorest populations.

CONCORD and its members have been contacting national governments and Parliamentarians in February to reiterate their views on the development instrument at this crucial stage in the negotiations.

The development and other instruments will not be finalized before May or June, as they must contain the financial allocations which are still under discussion. A proposal from the Commission on the amounts for the different instruments under the total budget agreed last December is expected in February.

A Trialogue meeting (EC, Council and EP) on renewing the inter-institutional agreement on the Budget (in other words on the agreement on the Financial Perspectives) is planned on 21 February. In that view the Commission tabled a working document and seven detailed proposals. These include organizing a genuine conciliation procedure ahead of a major revision of the Financial Regulation that governs all EC expenditures, including NGO grants, and a commitment on the fact that the necessary rationalization of EU's external actions will not reduce the powers of the European Parliament. The debate so far shows that the Commission and the Parliament have divergent interpretation of the last issue.

What future for the thematic approach in EC aid?

At the end of January, the European commission adopted the **7 communications outlining the future thematic programmes** for external relations that will replace a series of existing budget lines from 2007.

All communications are available on the website of DG development at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/communications/thematic_programmes.htm

The seven programmes are:

- **'Investing in People – Human and Social Development'** that will replace existing budget lines in the sector of health, HIV/AIDS, reproductive health and rights, education, gender, children rights,...
- **'Non-state Actors and Local Authorities in Development'** that will replace the budget lines on NGO co-financing and decentralized cooperation
- **'Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy'** that will replace the budget lines on Environment and Tropical Forests
- **'Food Security. Advancing the Food Security Agenda to Achieve the MDGs'** that will replace the food security budget line but not Food Aid that will be included in humanitarian aid
- **'Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights Worldwide'** will replace the EIDHR
- **'Cooperation with Industrialised and other High-Income Countries'** is the continuation of the existing budget line with addition of high income countries
- **'Cooperation with Third Countries in the Areas of Migration and Asylum'** replacing the AENEAS programme.

The new programmes will not be strictly limited to the budget lines they replace, new elements have been introduced in most of them. They will also be different from the budget lines in many ways; more focus on the global level and global public goods; new strategic partners and strengthened cooperation with certain partners (UN); in certain cases, less space for innovative and small scale actions; more restricted geographic focus...

The thematic programme **will apply to the regions and countries covered by the future Development Cooperation/ Economic Cooperation instrument and the Neighbourhood and Partnership instrument**. The programme on Human Rights and Democracy is the only one that will apply to the countries covered by the Pre-accession instrument (Western Balkans and Turkey)

The Commission expects that the Council and the Parliament will rapidly adopt their conclusions or resolutions on these communications making it possible to start the drafting of the strategy papers and multi-annual programmes in spring 2006.

This is without counting with **the firm position of the Development Committee of the Parliament** on the fact that these communications should be replaced by 'policy setting regulations' adopted through a normal co-decision procedure as it has always been the case for thematic budget lines. The Parliament is not ready to abandon to the Commission its prerogatives on establishing thematic priorities and strategies.

The three EU institutions should discuss the issue in the coming weeks in order to find a solution.

NGOs from different sectors of activity adopted a [joint statement](#) on the thematic programmes where they support the Parliament's position and call for the adoption of regulations judged as a more transparent and effective way of governing and monitoring the EC programmes of action.

One of the reasons for NGOs to ask for regulations is the fact that **the communications are so vague** with regard to implementation and criteria for priority setting and choice of strategic partners that it is difficult to see how they will be translated into strategy paper and implemented without risking to lose key objectives and priorities on the way.

The communication on the thematic programme for non-state actors and local authorities is a good example of this lack of guidance. It states that "the *very broad actor-oriented approach will be refined in the multi-annual Thematic Strategy Paper and criteria for each category of actors will be defined.* And also that 'The thematic strategy paper will define in more detail the criteria for selecting priority countries and regions, together with priorities for action.'

The CONCORD FDR group prepared a **reaction on the Communication on the NSA thematic programme** on the basis of the CONCORD *Vision paper* that was adopted in the autumn 2005 after six-month of broad consultation of CONCORD membership. The Food security group of CONCORD will also prepare a reaction on the thematic programme on Food Security and reactions on the other communications are expected from Environment NGOs, Human rights NGOs as well as NGOs specialised in issues covered by the human and social development programme.

The fact that a joint statement on the thematic programmes was adopted by different NGO sectors gives a clear signal to EU policy makers that European NGOs watch them and expect that the future aid instruments will really provide the right framework for attaining EU's international development ambitions and obligations in all areas of work.

All papers are available from K.sohet@aprodev.net

EU SECTORAL POLICIES

Trade, agriculture and development: two short papers from DG Trade

The first paper is a [memo explaining the EU GMOs regime](#) and answering to US criticism:

'The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety provides an international forum for the international governance of GMOs. So far more than 130 countries actively participate to it. However, the US, Canada and Argentina have refused to ratify it.

The EU considers that major GMO producers such as the US should adopt a co-operative approach to the development of a sound international legal framework for these products, instead of taking hostile steps at the WTO.'

The second one is a [statement on Food Aid](#) questioning the US Food Aid practices.

The US currently uses its Food Aid system to offload agricultural surpluses, benefiting US farmers and transportation companies rather than targeting Food Aid where it is really needed by providing assistance in cash.

- *A recent OECD study suggests that aid shipped in form of food costs up to 50% more to deliver than cash.*
- *Other research has shown that about 60% of the budget for food aid actually stays in the United States, in the pockets of farmers and transport companies. In 2003, the US spent \$2.6 billion on food aid, all procured on the US market and provided with US logistics.*
- *The US Food Aid programme represents up to 20% of US wheat exports and more than 50% of non-fat dried milk exports.*
- *In 2004 all developed countries provided Food Aid to the UN World Food Programme in cash - except the United States.*

EU HUMANITARIAN AID POLICY AND FUNDING

EU and UN launch a Humanitarian Aid plan for the democratic republic of Congo

The Action Plan for the Democratic Republic of Congo encompasses more than 330 projects with an estimated value of around €561 million (US\$681 million).

The European Commission's 2006 humanitarian aid global plan for the DRC, worth €38 million, is part of this common humanitarian strategy.

Louis Michel said; "The DRC is a good example of the European Commission's policy of linking relief, rehabilitation and development. We are fully committed to humanitarian aid programmes, providing a further €38 million this year on top of the €78 million allocated in 2004 and 2005. At the same time, as urgent needs are tackled, the work is progressively passed on to the national authorities with longer-term funding from development donors such as the European Development Fund."

Another concrete action supported by the Commission is the €149 million that was provided for the 'Electoral Process Support Programme'. This is the highest amount of aid ever granted by the European Union for elections in a non-member country. The EU is also supporting improved policing and security in the DRC.

As part of a common humanitarian strategy, the Commission's 2006 humanitarian funding continues to focus on health, with an emphasis on children and women. Resources are also being provided to support displaced people and refugees. The Commission works with around 180 implementing partners, including specialised UN agencies, the Red Cross movement and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

According to the Financial Times, the EU Member States are currently discussing their response to the UN plea for the participation of EU troops in the 17 000 UN peacekeepers to be sent in DRC for the national elections. The decision has to be taken in coming weeks but the issue is controversial as no country seems ready to assume the command of the mission.

Global plan for DRC and other countries are available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/information/decisions/index_en.cfm

Full text of the Action Plan for the Democratic Republic of Congo at:

www.rdc-humanitaire.net (website in French, [summary of the action plan in English](#))

Commission provides €900 000 emergency aid to devastated Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria

The European Commission grants €900,000 of emergency humanitarian aid to the Sahrawi refugees in the camps in the region of Tindouf (Algeria). Three of the four camps were devastated end of last week by heavy rains and floods.

About 12,000 families are without a roof, and their mud-brick houses having melted in the water flow. The rain has generated streams of mud which have taken houses and goods on their paths. Most of the domestic food stocks have been soiled and soaked. Measures financed by the Commission are to cover the most urgent needs of the affected refugees, in particular the distribution of emergency food and the provision of tents, plastic sheets, blankets and mattresses.

A Commission expert is on the spot assessing the needs and reporting on the situation.

More information on the Commission's humanitarian aid:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/index_en.htm

EU RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

EU and Russia discuss human rights in Chechnya and NGO law – EP resolution on human rights clauses in agreements with third countries

A meeting between the EU Troika and the Russian minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Lavrov took place in Vienna on 15 February. The discussion focused on the issue of the nuclear policy of Iran on which both parties favour a diplomatic solution, the position towards the Hamas after the Palestinian

elections and the future EU - Russia relationship after 2007, when the new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement will enter into force. Two sensitive issues close to civil society concerns were also discussed; the situation of human rights and reconstruction in Chechnya and the new Russian law on NGOs. On the latest, Mr Lavrov said that before the adoption of the final text, **Moscow will take account of the criticism and recommendations** expressed by the Council of Europe, the EU, the NGOs themselves and the Russian Civil Chamber (consultative body to the President).

The position of the EC on these two sensitive issues was expressed by Commissioner Ferrero Waldner (External Relations) before the European Parliament on 18 January:

*While we welcome the Russian federal authorities' commitment to allocate significant funds for reconstruction (in Chechnya), if these elections are to be a step towards peace and democracy, a **number of other actions need to be taken**. Although there appears to have been an improvement in the security situation in Chechnya, **a culture of impunity remains**. Reported cases of disappearances and torture should be fully investigated and the perpetrators, including members of the law enforcement authorities, brought to justice.*

*We note that Russia has expressed its willingness to cooperate with UN human rights mechanisms including the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour. These assurances should be put into practice and there should be **cooperation with the UN Special Rapporteurs**. It is also important that the **local ombudsman** in Chechnya is seen to be carrying out his duties impartially and effectively.*

*The European Commission is playing its part in the region. We have agreed a **€20 Million programme for socio-economic recovery in the North Caucasus** – in addition to the humanitarian assistance where we are already the biggest donor through ECHO... Our programme will help support much needed rehabilitation of the health and education sectors and assist in job creation/income generation activities. It is also our intention **to open an office in the North Caucasus, possibly in Vladikavkaz**, which would help us to monitor the implementation of the programme and allow us to be better informed of the situation on the ground.*

*I should however express our concern at the **evidence of continuing difficulties that NGOs have to face** including those receiving support from the EC such as the Russian-Chechen Friendship Society in Nizhny Novgorod. This also affects NGOs delivering humanitarian assistance under the ECHO programme.*

*...The Commission expressed its concern about the **effect of the legislation on NGO's financed under ECHO in the North Caucasus, under EIDHR and TACIS programmes** to the Chairwoman of the presidential Council on the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights. I myself discussed the matter with Foreign Minister Lavrov when we met December 7th who assured me that there would be changes to the proposal in the second reading of the Duma. Although the text of the legislation finally approved by the Duma does take some account of the concerns expressed by the EU and Council of Europe, which we welcome, **we remain concerned that some of the provisions remain too far-reaching** - for example the scope for denying registration to local NGOs and the controls to be exerted on both local and foreign NGOs. We shall be taking careful note of the way in which these provisions are implemented and shall take all appropriate occasions to make the Russian authorities aware of our concerns. Our regular political dialogue with Russia and the **next round of EU/Russia human rights consultations set for March** will give us a chance to do so.*

How these issues were taken forward in the Vienna meeting and how they will influence the future partnership agreement between the two parties is a key concern. This issue is to be put in relation with the [resolution adopted recently by the European Parliament on the inclusion and improvement of human rights clauses](#) in agreements with third countries and on the way to implement them in a way that prevent the practice of double standards. In particular, the rapporteur of the Parliament, Vittorio Agnoletto considers that, with the countries covered by the New Neighbourhood Policy (that includes Russia and countries of the Caucasus), the EU should sign agreements going further and based on the sharing of institutions and common values on the example of the Council of Europe.

Sources: EC press releases and Bulletin Quotidien Europe – EP website

EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The new EuropeAid Practical Guide introduces new rules and procedures for grants

EuropeAid recently adopted and published a bright new **Practical Guide to contract procedures** for external actions. With this guide EuropeAid introduces a new harmonized set of rules, practices and procedures for the calls for proposals and the management of grants including a revised standard contract.

The new process for calls for proposal and selection of applications was recently presented to a group of NGOs in the context of the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights.

The main innovations regarding the calls are:

- The fact that two phase calls (or restricted calls) will be generalized except in the case a limited number of applications is expected.
- In both cases (open or restricted calls), a concept note of four pages providing a photography of the projects will be requested (in case of open calls the concept note will accompany the full proposal).
- The assessment of the concept note will be the first step of the selection process immediately after a rapid administrative check.
- At least 2 assessors, one at headquarters level (EC staff or more frequently and external expert) and one from the delegation will provide an evaluation grid based on the content of the project (relevance, methodology and sustainability, operational capacity and expertise including partners). On the basis of the assessors' evaluation, a selection committee will decide on the list of proposals to be retained for the second stage of the selection).
- The second stage is similar to the first one but based on the full project proposal. In case of restricted calls, successful NGOs have 45 days to enter their full proposal.
- A final list of selected proposals is decided by the selection committee and then only, concerned NGOs are requested to send the support documents for the checking of their eligibility and the eligibility of their partners.

The Practical Guide presents this procedure in details (chapter 6 is dedicated to grants) and all templates and formats (including reporting formats) to be used as well as the evaluation grids are available on [EuropeAid website](#). It is highly recommended to applicants to read the practical guide in addition to the guidelines of the calls.

Note that in the case of the co-financing calls for proposals currently open, the principle of the concept note is not applying.

The practical guide and the new standard contract will **only apply to contracts signed after the 1st February 2006**, so formats and templates annexed to the Practical Guide are not compulsory for any contracts signed in or before 2005 or in January 2006.

For these older contracts, the rule goes that the EU Delegation cannot insist on any reporting formats and the rules of the old Practical Guide apply. Naturally, if an NGO wants to use the reporting formats of the new PG there is nothing that prevents it, but NGOs are equally free to report the way they always reported in the past.

OTHER NEWS FROM THE EU

Non Profit sector and the financing of terrorism in the context of EU and FATF

CONCORD and the Civil Society Contact Group (CSCG gathering different NGO sectors in Europe) have been actively following the sensitive issue of an eventual 'Code of Conduct for NGO on Financing for Terrorism' since the summer 2005 when the Commission launched a consultation on a text to be adopted by Member States. Following the summer consultation, the Commission published new guidelines on 29 November 2005. It has to be noted that the new guidelines deals with a broader scope, namely the fight against terrorist financing and that transparency of the NPO sector is "only" the second part of the document (but also the only specific part within the general framework, which gives more visibility to the initiative). The document is to be found on

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0620en01.pdf.

The document is marked by the willingness to **avoid a “one-size-fits-all” approach and** recognises the **specificity of NGO activity in the field**. Following the publication of the Communication, the **Justice and Home Affairs Council met on 1 and 2 December 2005 and reaffirmed its intention to adopt a code of conduct**. (see *EU News 6 and 9 of Sept. and Dec. 2005 for more details*).

An important element to take into account in this context is the influence of the work of the **Financial Action Taskforce** (FATF, www.fatf-gafi.org), an “independent, intergovernmental policy-making body” set up by the G-8 in 1989 to “develop and promote policies to combat money laundering and terrorist financing”. The Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering convenes 31 member countries and territories and two international organizations. The European Commission (EC) is one of them, as well as the 15 so-called ‘old EU member States’.

Member States collectively endorsed the FATF’s **Special Recommendations 8**, which require that “*Countries should review the adequacy of laws and regulations that relate to entities that can be abused for the financing of terrorism. Non-profit organisations are particularly vulnerable, and countries should ensure that they cannot be misused: by terrorist organisations posing as legitimate entities; to exploit legitimate entities as conduits for terrorist financing, including for the purpose of escaping asset freezing measures; and to conceal or obscure the clandestine diversion of funds intended for legitimate purposes to terrorist organisations*”.

The EU draft Code of Conduct and Guidelines were presented as an “*EU design for implementation on FATF Special Recommendation VIII- Non Profit organizations*”.

The FATF organized a meeting in Cape Town (South Africa) from 13 - 17 February to discuss a draft document on ‘Special Recommendation VIII for Non-Profit Organisations’.

CONCORD and CSCG are very concerned at the possibility of European Member States and the Commission endorsing the detailed measures of this FATF document which would affect the content of the ‘Code of conduct’ discussed at EU level. Particularly of concern are the lack of consultation with civil society on the FATF proposals; the lack of clarity on the extent of the problem and thus on the expected impact of the proposals, which could have negative side effects on civil society; and the formulation of a single set of binding rules rather than a collection of best practices respecting the different national contexts.

More information on request from k.sohet@aprodev.net or Auclair@cidse.org

NEWS FROM THE NETWORKS

NEWS FROM APRODEV

On the 26th of January, the working group of APRODEV on Eastern and Central Europe, central Asia and the Balkans met in Brussels. For the first time, the coordinators of the regional platforms of partners participated in the meeting. It was decided that for the future, the coordinators will be considered as members of the working group. Agreement was found on the operational plan for **the new phase of the APRODEV Programme for the period 2006-2009**. Building upon the results of the first phase, the second phase of the Programme will **mainly focus on lobbying and advocacy, particularly regarding the EU policy on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia**.

On 1st of March, Aprodev secretariat will welcome the **new policy officer for the project, Colombe de Mercey** who will succeed Francesca Vencato. Colombe has a background in International Studies, is specialised in Eastern Europe and post-Soviet countries and is fluent in Russian.

Two new publications: CSOs in the New Member States and Acceding Counties: Actors in Development and CSOs in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

These are the two reports on the capacity building events which involved the APRODEV partners in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. They are available on the APRODEV website (www.aprodev.net).

NEWS FROM CIDSE

“Justice for Latin America on IDB debts”: Eurodad, in collaboration with CIDSE, Fundación Jubileo Bolivia, Fundación SES, Instituto de Estudios Nicaragüenses, Latindadd, Observatorio de la Deuda en la Globalización and “Sin Duda, Sin Deuda,” calls for the immediate cancellation of IDB debts owed by the Latin American HIPCs by the time of the IDB annual meetings on 3-5 April 2006. Drawing on key debt and poverty indicators for both HIPCs and non-HIPCs in Latin America plus examples of odious and illegitimate debt, the paper calls on the international community to open immediate dialogue on broader IDB debt cancellation for Latin American nations, beyond the narrow and arbitrary HIPC list. (EN, [ES](#))

The latest issue of the [CIDSE Advocacy Newsletter \(January\)](#) is available on the CIDSE website and covers a look back at 2005, the future of GCAP, results of the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial including on cotton, Monterrey follow-up within the UN, and the upcoming Ministerial Conference on innovative sources of finance.

NEWS FROM CARITAS EUROPA

Caritas Europa took part in the delegation of the Platform of European Social NGOs which met with the EU Presidency Troika ahead of the Informal Council meeting of Employment and Social Policy Ministers in Villach, Austria (19-21 January). The Social Platform presented its position in response to the background papers of the EU Presidency on **flexicurity and streamlining of social protection and social inclusion processes**. For Caritas Europa, flexicurity should not only benefit employers, but also respect the needs of employees, including their family situation. The definition of the “European social model” should be completed through a clear reference to rights as the basis of any social system respecting human dignity. Read the [press release](#).

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APRODEV is the association of the 17 major development and humanitarian aid organisations in Europe, which work closely together with the World Council of Churches. APRODEV agencies engage in many kinds of activities related to development cooperation: fund raising, funding of emergency, relief, rehabilitation and development activities, capacity building, consultancy, awareness raising, education, and advocacy. <http://www.aprodev.net/main> - 28 Boulevard Charlemagne, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium – Tel : +32 2 234 56 60

CIDSE (International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity) is a coalition of 15 Catholic development organisations in Europe and North America. CIDSE members share a common vision on poverty eradication and social justice and a common strategy on development programmes, development education and advocacy. CIDSE’s advocacy work covers trade & food security, resources for development, global governance, EU development policy, and security & development. <http://www.cidse.org> - 16 rue Stévin, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium – Tel: +32 2 230 77 22

Caritas Europa, one of the 7 regions of Caritas Internationalis, is the European network of 48 Caritas member organisations, working in 44 European countries. Caritas Europa focuses its activities on policy issues related to poverty and social inequality, migration and asylum within all countries of Europe, and issues of emergency humanitarian assistance, international development and peace throughout the world. With regard to all these issues, the organisation develops policies for political advocacy and lobbying at European level and at national level. <http://www.caritas-europa.org> - 4 Rue De Pascale, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium – Tel: +32 2 280 02 80