

## EU NEWS

ISSUE 3

25 March 2004

### EU DEVELOPMENT POLICY

#### **The Monterrey Consensus and the European Union, EC progress report, NGO activities**

The Monterrey Consensus, adopted by the International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) in Mexico, March 2002, contained a number of commitments “to address the challenges of financing for development around the world, particularly in developing countries.” The EU defined its contribution to the FfD process in eight commitments, which were adopted at the European Council meeting in Barcelona, in March 2002.

On 5 March 2004, the Commission issued a Communication to the Council and the European Parliament on “Translating the Monterrey Consensus into practice: the contribution by the European Union”. In this monitoring report for 2004, the Commission updates its analyses of the state of play in the implementation of the Barcelona Commitments and makes recommendations for further action.

At the Barcelona Summit, the Council pledged to examine the means and timeframe for each EU Member State to reach the UN target of providing 0.7% of the GNP for ODA, with an intermediary target of 0.39% by 2006, by which year each of the Member States should reach the target of at least 0.33%.

**The report shows that the Union is on track for meeting its 2006 targets.** Although ODA fell in Austria (by -8.4%), Spain (-10.3%), Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, it rose significantly in Sweden, France, Greece and Italy. Several countries have committed themselves to attain the UN target of 0.7% by a certain date: Ireland (2007), Belgium (2010) and France (2012). Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands and Luxembourg are already spending more than the UN target. According to Commission calculations, the ten accession countries, which currently stand at an average of 0.03%, will increase this figure to 0.11% in 2006. If the assumptions hold true, the EU as a whole will provide 0.42% of its collective GDP (Euro 38.5 billion) by 2006, thereby exceeding the Barcelona target of 0.39%.

**On the second Commitment** – coordination of policies and harmonization of procedures – the Commission reports disappointing results. In spite of numerous Council Conclusions, Resolutions and Guidelines, not much progress has been made. The Commission observes that there is a lack of political will and that many Member States remain reluctant to move from words to action. In fact, some appear to back-pedal by calling into question the added value and role of EU coordination. This is detrimental to the partner countries. According to the Commission, it is time for the Union to break with the habit of re-stating policy goals and commitments and take decisive new steps. To this effect, several proposals are formulated. According to one of these, **the Council should start debating, before the end of 2005, a common framework for aid implementation procedures, which could take the form of a Directive.**

On the issue of the untying of aid, the Communication states that significant progress has been made by most Member States while EU aid is also progressively being

untied. In this respect, the Council is asked to endorse the renegotiation of the relevant part of the Cotonou Agreement.

Regarding debt relief, the Commission reports that all Member States have committed to go beyond the requirements of the HIPC scheme by providing 100% debt relief on their pre-cut off date claim towards HIPC countries.

(The Communication can be found on the Commission's web site: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/index_en.htm))

**An NGO response to the EC report** is under preparation by the CONCORD working group on Finance for Development (FfD, not to be confused with the FDR) in cooperation with the Irish NGO platform. The paper will be ready before the General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting of 26 and 27 April. The response will address the need to place the Barcelona commitments in the context of the more ambitious Monterrey Consensus and MDG commitments. The Barcelona commitments were intended to be only one step towards achieving ODA representing 0.7% of GNP, and concrete timetables towards 0.7% are needed for all Member States (some already have done so). Another step would be EU monitoring of Member States contributions to Goal 8 (Policy changes in rich countries for aid, debt, trade and technology transfer) of the Millennium Development Goals.

The **CONCORD FfD working group** approved its terms of reference and an **action plan for the coming year** on 4 March, following the conference on *“European Responsibility in Global Governance: Financing for Development Follow-up Process.”* Dragan Nastic of BOND was elected as Convenor of the group. CIDSE is a member of the new steering group, and Jean Saldanha will also represent CONCORD in the International NGO Facilitation Group related to the FfD follow-up process.

The working group will convene a **strategy meeting** to discuss a European NGO position on the **International Finance Facility (IFF)** on **April 6 in Brussels**. The two main objectives of this one-day meeting are (i) to gain more expertise on the IFF and to make explicit the trade offs that the adoption of such a scheme would entail; (ii) to discuss the positions and strategies of different European groups to see whether some common ground can be found.

For further information, please contact [saldanha@cidse.org](mailto:saldanha@cidse.org).

## **Future of EU Development Aid: EDF budgetisation, Financial Perspective and EC restructuring**

The debate on the budgetisation of EDF and the future Financial Perspective of the Union is progressing in the EU institutions. **Member States are still in the process of positioning themselves** and asking for more substantial data from the Commission and it is difficult to get a clear idea on what will be their final decision on EDF budgetisation. The Parliament, on the contrary, will adopt a report on the issue at its plenary session next week.

In fact, Member States would like to link the decision on EDF with the more general decision on the future Financial Perspective.

It is quite clear that the few countries that will see their financial participation to the EDF increase with budgetisation are still reluctant and question the value of the exercise. The UK government, in particular, wonders why it should increase its participation to the EU Development budget that, in its view, lacks any clear poverty focus. That position is reinforced by the recent decision of the European Parliament to increase the resources allocated to Latin America and decrease those allocated to Asia which goes against any logic of poverty focus.

In the meantime the Commission started working on a proposal for the 10th EDF but is running behind the clock as, according to the Cotonou Agreement, it should be

submitted to the ACP side 12 months before the expiry of the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF which started on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2000 for a five year period.

Another important issue to be decided before March 2005 is the **review of the Cotonou Agreement** as such. ACP States seems quite sceptical and hesitant regarding the EC proposal on that issue and feel that it will increase flexibility and control on EC side while limiting their role in the partnership relation and the co-management of EDF (see *EU News 2 for EC proposal*).

On the issue of the future Financial Perspective, the discussion is even less advanced in the Council while the Parliament has launched an internal debate and is preparing its position. EU aid to ACP countries is not the only subject of disagreement between the EC and the Member States. **The New Neighbours Policy** - one of the cornerstones of the EC proposal regarding the future of EU External Relations - is also subject to questions and scepticism on the side of certain Member States. The EC is however pursuing its work and is expecting to propose a legal basis for that new instrument to the Council by the summer.

**CONCORD members** have also started to organise themselves on the Financial Perspective issue. An informative paper presented as a toolkit for lobbying on the Financial Perspective is now available and a first position paper presenting the principles that NGOs will defend in the debate on the Financial Perspective is under preparation.

The main NGO message regarding Financial Perspective is to raise the priority attached to Development policy in the EU budget and to better define the criteria of EU aid expenses in view of reinforcing the focus on poverty and the MDGs. In that view, NGOs recommend that a development aid heading is created in the budget on the basis of the OECD DAC criteria and list of developing countries. EDF would be part of that budget heading. EDF budgetisation could be used as a lever to improve the whole EU aid policy and practice.

Another debate that will have an influence on the future of EU Development policy and aid is the **expected re-organisation of the European Commission** that will accompany the nomination of the new commissioners following enlargement (see *EU News 2 for the NGO position*). Here again, Member States have expressed doubts on the time schedule for the decision on this issue. They expressed the need to have more time for debate before any formal decision. The Commission will therefore not finalise any agreement before June 2004 with the nomination of its future president. According to **recent informal** information, the Commission would now envisaged the following scenario: a Commissioner in charge of external and foreign policies (namely, the future foreign minister) with a right to vote, assisted by 4 Commissioners on Development, Humanitarian and Food assistance, Security and Diplomacy. In the case such a scenario is adopted, the mandate, the political role and the personality of the future Development Commissioner is of course of utmost importance for the future of EU development policy.

More information and papers (including EP report on EDF budgetisation) available from [k.sohet@aprodev.net](mailto:k.sohet@aprodev.net)

## EU SECTORAL POLICIES

### **Regional trade negotiations with Latin America: regional integration as a pre-condition for FTA negotiations**

Regional trade negotiations were at the agenda of a recent meeting between the CONCORD working group on Trade and Mr Standertskjold-Nordenstam of the unit C3 of DG Trade responsible of regional trade negotiations and GSP (General System of Preferences).

Mr Standertskjold presented a general introduction on the present status of trade and negotiations with Latin American countries.

He reminded the group that the EU was only a secondary trade partner for Latin American countries but that EU enterprises were the most significant investors in the region. Mexico and Brazil are the main EU trade partners in the whole region that only represents 4% of EU exports. EU exports to Mercosur only account for the half of EU exports to the Gulf countries.

**The negotiations with Mercosur** (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) started in 2000 and are divided in two parts: political cooperation on one side, free trade agreement (FTA) on the other. Both aspects are still under discussion. The future FTA could be WTO compatible and should thus cover 90 to 95% of all trade. A transition period of 10 years would be part of the agreement. The objective of the EU is to have a **region to region agreement** which implies a regional customs agreement between the four countries including, among others, free circulation of goods, regional rules of origin, and regional sanitary and phytosanitary rules. Such agreement is not achieved yet and represents a challenge considering the gap between the economic situation prevailing in Paraguay and Uruguay in comparison to Argentina and Brazil. On March 12, the European Commission announced a **4 million euro project to support the Mercosur integration process**. The programme aims to facilitate the free circulation of goods both between the Mercosur member countries and between the Mercosur block and the EU. Regarding negotiating positions, **the most difficult issue is agriculture**. There is no balance at the moment between Mercosur's offer on industrial products and EU's offer on agricultural products. The fact that those bilateral negotiations are conducted in parallel with multilateral negotiation under the WTO represents a major obstacle especially in agriculture sector.

The Mercosur is the only region in Latin America that is taking part in regional negotiations on FTA. The Heads of State of **Central America and of the Andean Community** already expressed the desire to start such negotiations with the EU but DG Trade considers it premature and even dangerous for the fragile and mainly rural economies of these countries. **The position of DG Trade is to foster regional integration and develop regional trade capacities before starting negotiations**. Another EU pre-condition is the completion of the Doha round.

The two regions already have a preferential access to the EU market through the Generalised System of Preferences. According to Mr Standertskjold, local civil societies and economic operators are not in favour of FTA negotiations and disagree with their governments' position.

**The Trade Group questioned the two track approach of DG Trade regarding FTA negotiations with developing countries**. If DG trade is so reluctant to enter into trade negotiations with these two regions, for the reasons put forward by Mr Standertskjold, how is it possible that the same DG Trade is pushing for and is engaged in EPA negotiations with ACP states? The response of Mr Standertskjold is that DG Trade considers that **EPAs negotiations are the only way to push ACP countries into regional integration** (!).

Regarding the revision of the GSP, Mr Standertskjold informed the group that a proposal should be ready by the Autumn and that a new system must be adopted before the end of 2005. One objective of the EC is to make the rules simpler and more user friendly for the third countries that have to implement them. He also reminded the group that several regimes existed under the GSP (drugs clause, social clause, environmental clause) but that the monitoring of their application criteria was a difficult (or nearly impossible task) and that the variety of regimes was leading to appeals against discriminatory treatments at the WTO level (example of an India appeal against the application of the drugs clause in favour of Pakistan).

Information on the revision of the GSP is also available in *EU News* 13 of November

2003)

More on EU trade with Latin America at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/mercosur/intro/ip04\\_331\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/mercosur/intro/ip04_331_en.htm)

### **EU strategy paper for UNCTAD XI is available on DG Development website:**

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/tmp\\_docs/040223\\_EU\\_strategy\\_GAERC.pdf#zoom=100](http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/tmp_docs/040223_EU_strategy_GAERC.pdf#zoom=100)

### **EU Policies in Countries in crisis: two NGO papers**

The European network of Humanitarian Aid NGOs, VOICE, recently published a paper, “*EU crisis management, a humanitarian perspective*” aiming at:

- Giving an overview of ECHO and EU crisis management capabilities
- Raising awareness among humanitarian actors and draw their attention to the possible implications of new crisis management mechanisms for EU humanitarian aid – in particular the risk of politicisation of aid.

The paper is available on VOICE website or on request from [k.sohet@aprodev.net](mailto:k.sohet@aprodev.net).

Another document referring to EU policies in countries in crisis is the report of the International Expert meeting: “*Business in Conflict Areas-The need for a European Policy*”, organised by Amnesty International-NL, IRENE, NiZA and Pax Christi-NL, in Brussels on December 8-9, 2003.

It is available on request from [k.sohet@aprodev.net](mailto:k.sohet@aprodev.net)

## **EU HUMANITARIAN AID POLICY**

### **Meeting of the HAC (Humanitarian Aid Commission)**

ECHO and the Irish presidency will co-host a thematic meeting of the HAC on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 03. The issue that will be discussed is international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles. VOICE is invited to this meeting. Caritas Europa prepared together with VOICE a 10 minute contribution for this meeting (keynote of this intervention is available from [wdewolf@caritas-europa.org](mailto:wdewolf@caritas-europa.org).)

### **NGOs ask for more information on ECHO website and clarification on FPA rules**

Two letters have been sent by the humanitarian aid NGO’s and the Brussels based networks through VOICE to ECHO

The first letter is about transparency on the different emergency decisions like urgent emergencies, global plans, and financial decisions. It is proposed once again in this letter to publish these different decisions on the ECHO website as soon as they are taken by the Commission.

A second letter is about the concern of different NGO FPA partners on the new procurement rules: especially on the rule of origin and the rule of nationality and the procedure for derogation of these rules (*see also article in EU Funding section*)

### **22 million humanitarian aid to Uganda, Somalia and Republic of Angola**

**In Uganda** (€6 Million) ECHO will focus on:

Health and nutrition: supporting hospital infrastructure, vaccination campaigns, and therapeutic feeding for malnourished children.

Water and sanitation: Providing drinking water and sanitation facilities

Food security: reducing food aid dependency,  
Non food items: shelter and essential household items

**In Somalia** (€8 million) ECHO will focus on:

Health: health and nutritional services (including mother and child health care, maternity care and surgery for war wounded), expanded vaccination programmes, and therapeutic and supplementary feeding.

Water and Sanitation: provide, chlorinate, rehabilitate water points or provide water trucking and hygiene education.

Food supply: vaccination and anti-parasite treatment for livestock, some livestock food supplements, seeds, tools and irrigation equipment.

**Angola** (€8 million) ECHO will focus on:

Return and settlement of war affected population: provision of nutritional support, preventive and curative primary health care, emergency water and sanitation activities, provision of agricultural inputs including seeds and livestock for breeding, de-mining activities to secure access, HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, protection of returnees including tracing and reunification, emergency education and logistical support to repatriating refugees and returnees.

Detailed information on

[http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/367|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/367|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

## **Other recent aid allocations from ECHO**

**Ivory Coast:** € 25 million for a second post-crisis emergency rehabilitation programme.

**Gaza strip:** € 1 million in emergency humanitarian aid for victims of house demolitions

**Haiti:** € 1.8 million in emergency funding for the crisis in Haiti

Detailed information on EC website:

[http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guestfr.ksh?p\\_action.submitqry2=qry&lq=EN&stockqry=dev&owner=prof&text=echo&booleanMode=2&sorting=RevDat](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guestfr.ksh?p_action.submitqry2=qry&lq=EN&stockqry=dev&owner=prof&text=echo&booleanMode=2&sorting=RevDat)

## **EU RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES**

### **EU relations with countries of Central Asia - Patten's visit to the region**

The prominence of the Central Asian region in actual EU External Affairs discussions was reflected in the conference on the fight against HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia organised by the Irish presidency on 24 February ([declaration available on presidency website](#)) and in a recent tour of Commissioner Chris Patten in four Central Asian nations (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan). Mr Patten's discussions with governments covered a broad agenda, including bilateral relations, the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking, and the need to speed up the process of political and economic reform. In a keynote speech in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on March 15, Commissioner Patten pointed to "worrying trends" which could, "significantly limit EU's ability to work for closer co-operation".

Extract from Mr Patten's speech:

*Democracy, respect for Human Rights, and liberalisation of the economy are inextricably linked. The key to attracting valuable foreign investment is to present an attractive base, where firms can be confident of their rights as well as their obligations. In short, free, democratic countries make the best neighbours. And the best countries in which to invest and do business are those which treat their own citizens most decently. Nothing is further from the truth than the suggestion that you*

*throw away commercial prospects by dwelling too much on Human Rights and civil liberties.*

*I want to signal clearly now that the EU will give greater, not less, priority to these issues in the future. The Partnership and Cooperation Agreements with countries in Central Asia will provide the basis for an extended dialogue - in the field of justice and home affairs for example, where this is not adequately developed.*

*And in the years ahead, the EU will be pressing for more concrete results and more measurable progress in the implementation of the provisions of our Agreement. In return we will make good on the rediscovery of Central Asia, increasing financial assistance in line with our Central Asia Strategy adopted in October 2002.*

Partnership and Cooperation Agreements between the EU and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan came into force in 1999, while a similar agreement with Tajikistan was initialled last year. The agreement with Turkmenistan has not been ratified by all European Union Member States.

In parallel to the political dialogue, the Commission started the process of **reviewing the existing TACIS regulation** that governs EU aid to Central Asian states and to other NIS. The EC organised an open internet consultation in that view. APRODEV, together with the CONCORD working Group on Enlargement and in consultation with partners in Central Asia, prepared a series of comments stressing the need to focus more on poverty reduction, social development and civil society building in the revised regulation.

More information at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/ceeca/news/ip04\\_332.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/ceeca/news/ip04_332.htm)

Aprodev position on TACIS regulation available from [k.sohet@aprodev.net](mailto:k.sohet@aprodev.net)

## **EU strategy for a new partnership with Mediterranean and Middle East countries**

The Irish presidency presented to the General Affairs Council last Monday a progress report on the development of a new European Strategy called the '*EU strategic partnership with the Mediterranean and the Middle East*' to be adopted by the European Council of 17 and 18 June. The Presidency report emphasises the need for the EU to develop its own strategy and to involve the countries of the region in that exercise.

The new strategy should cover the Euro-Mediterranean partnership countries (MEDA) and the countries of the Middle East (including the Gulf Cooperation Council, Iraq, Libya, Iran and Yemen). The strategy includes eleven key objectives and principles. One of them is the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The EU stated that its strategy is coordinated and complementary to the US initiative for the Wider Middle East. At the same time the EU intends to take a slightly different approach and to take more into account the concerns of the countries in the region and their civil society.

Source of information: Agence Europe and Council press releases

## **EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Update on the work of the FDR and latest developments regarding NGO funding**

#### **Follow-up to Palermo**

The EC-NGO task force following up on the Palermo seminar met on 10<sup>th</sup> of March but work on the substance is progressing very slowly because of limitations in time

and human resources in Unit F2. The main issue discussed at the March meeting was the Strategic Framework of NGOs to be part of the NGO eligibility process. Some progress was however made on two aspects; partnership relation and impact assessment, thanks to the support of the French NGOs and the French Government. The French NGO platform worked on a document establishing a list of quality criteria relating to N-S partnership to be discussed in the NGO community. The French representative in the Member States Committee launched a process that should lead to a conference on impact assessment at the end of 2004 in Paris.

### **Deconcentration**

A short report on the seminar on deconcentration organised in Addis Ababa is available on request from [k.sohet@aprodev.net](mailto:k.sohet@aprodev.net). It was prepared by a small group of EU NGO representatives present in Addis. The same kind of joint reporting process should take place in Lima.

The sub-group of the FDR working on deconcentration discussed a 2004 work-plan with the secretariat of CONCORD in view of monitoring the deconcentration of thematic budget lines and building up a common knowledge on deconcentration among CONCORD members.

### **Microfinance**

After the confirmation by Paul Nielson of the fact that the EC will stop supporting microfinance projects undertaken by NGOs, the FDR prepared a letter that was sent by CONCORD to Romano Prodi (EU Commission president), Paul Nielson (Development Commissioner), and Chris Patten (External Relations Commissioner) requesting clarifications and an in depth debate on the issue of microfinance projects undertaken by NGOs. In response, the EC seems ready to organise a meeting with CONCORD on that issue.

### **The Financial regulation and standard contract**

The new financial regulations and its execution modalities have a very negative impact on co-funded projects in general. A main burning issue is the application of the rules of origin for procurements under the co-financing budget line. All the contracts to be signed from now onwards will have to comply with that rule, meaning that any equipment or supply bought under the contract should be of European origin (from a pencil to a car).

Here again, a letter was sent to Romano Prodi, Paul Nielson, Koos Richelle (Director of DG Development) and Mrs Schreyer (Director of DG Budget); with copy to the Development and the Budget Committees of the European Parliament. The letter points out that the co-operation of all Commission services is necessary in order for the Commission to have a common position on the issue. It is also said that the situation is not longer workable for NGOs; and that the implementation of the Financial Regulation contradicts and goes against the development objectives defined by European Union (including the recent EC Communication on Untying Aid). In view of a meeting with EC services, the FDR sub-group working on the Financial Regulation is preparing a comprehensive paper detailing all problematic rules and providing examples of problems and obstacles encountered by NGOs in applying the EU financial rules.

### **Next call for proposals**

The calls (PVD and ED) are now announced for the month of April 2004 with a deadline in September of October 2004. According to the new Financial Regulation, the signature of contracts is possible until end of 2005. If there is a call for proposals for Programmes, it would be launched by the end of the year.

It seems that for the year 2004 (considered as a transition year for the deconcentration) no application for multi-country projects will be accepted (for all projects in developing countries being an individual project or a block grant).

### **Extension of contracts and other changes in the contract (important)**

Ms. Marion is complaining about the fact that NGOs are not well aware on the new rules and asked us to remind you again that:

- any request for modification of contract has to be submitted to the EC, at least 2 months before they are suppose to take place.
- it will no longer be possible to extent contracts over the maximum authorised period even if requested in advance. The maximum authorised period is 5 years for projects in developing countries, 3 years for Block Grants and 3 years for ED projects.

## **Call for proposals under the CARDS programme**

### **2003 Integrated return Programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina – Phase II:**

The European Commission on behalf of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina is seeking proposals for:

- a) Reconstruction of dwellings
- b) Rehabilitation of Technical Infrastructure
- b) Sustainability measures
- c) Local Capacity Building/Civil Society

in Bosnia and Herzegovina and projects must take place in a series of priority areas identified in the call for proposals.

The total sum available under this call is 8 million euros.

The deadline for submission of proposals is **17<sup>th</sup> June 2004 at 16.00 hours**.

The full Guidelines for Applicants are available for consultation at the Delegation of the EC to Bosnia and Herzegovina or on EuropeAid internet site:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>. (select CARDS/open/grants)

The **CARDS regional programme for democratic stabilisation** aiming at strengthening civil societies in the countries of the Western Balkans is also open until 28 April 2004 and information is available on the same webpage. 2.5 million euros are available under that regional programme.

## **Support to agricultural production in Haiti**

The EC Delegation in Haiti launched a call for proposals for the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructures and support to their users' organisations as well as for the rehabilitation and maintenance of rural roads in North-West and South departments. The call is funded under the 2002 EU food security programme in Haiti.

The deadline is on 27 may 2004 at 16:00.

Full text of guidelines can be consulted at the Delegation in Port au Prince and on EuropeAid website:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl> (select other/open/grants)

## **European Initiative for Human Rights and Democracy**

Several calls for micro-projects under the EIHRD in Turkey, Russian federation and Mexico were recently launched.

The EC published a new "*Handbook on promoting Good Governance in EC Development and Co-operation*" available on EuropeAid's EIHRD page:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/eidhr/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/eidhr/index_en.htm) (look in what's new)

All information on EIHRD work programme in 2004 including the planned calendar of the calls for proposals at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/eidhr/pdf/eidhr-annual-work-programme-2004\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/eidhr/pdf/eidhr-annual-work-programme-2004_en.pdf)

## OTHER NEWS FROM THE EU

### **European elections: CONCORD NGO manifesto finalised, briefing document for Churches**

On 10 June 2004, EU citizens will vote in the European elections, electing the first European Parliament of 25 Member States, following enlargement on 1 May 2004. The European Parliament has a vital institutional role in strengthening, safeguarding, and scrutinising the Union's commitment to development policy. The Parliament committees on development, foreign affairs, security, the EC budget, trade, environment, agriculture and women's rights will be crucial partners for advocating a pro-development EU agenda.

CONCORD has developed a manifesto for the European elections, with three key objectives: 1) Clear priorities for EU development cooperation: tackling poverty, human rights and democracy; 2) Coherence of the following EU policies with development objectives: Trade policy, Common Agricultural Policy, Common Foreign and Security Policy; and 3) Democratic accountability: a strong political voice for development policy. In the run-up to the elections, CONCORD will also be supporting members' public and media campaigns at the national level, public meetings with candidate MEPs, and surveys of candidates on key policy issues. NGOs are encouraged to make use of these tools during their own campaigns.

For further information, please contact [auclair@cidse.org](mailto:auclair@cidse.org).

We also inform you that a **Briefing Document for Churches** on the European elections was jointly prepared by Aprodev, CEC, Diakonia and CCME. It covers the broad range of EU policies including a chapter on Europe in the world. It is available on request from Aprodev secretariat.

## NEWS FROM THE NETWORKS

### **NEWS FROM APRODEV**

The **Advocacy and Policy group of Aprodev** will meet on 29 and 30 March in Sweden. The first afternoon will be devoted to a meeting with Ms Jamtin, the Swedish Minister for Development cooperation, Migration and Asylum Policy, that will be the occasion for a discussion on the newly adopted Swedish Integrated Policy for Global Development and its relation with the EU Development Policy. The rest of the agenda will focus on APRODEV policy work and next year work plan.

An NGO Conference on dumping, „**Promote food security by ending dumping – the unfinished agenda**“ will be organised in Brussels on 28-29 April 2004 on behalf of the UK Food Group, Germanwatch, FIAN, the Association of Fair Trade Shops in Germany, APRODEV, EED and CIDSE. The purpose of this Conference is to challenge and discuss the European Union's agricultural subsidies leading to dumping of food exports onto Third World markets. The conference aims to promote this debate and is organised by development NGOs and networks, with participation from the wider European civil society, academics, officials and parliamentarians.

Aprodev is co-organising a seminar on the participation of civil society in the Cotonou Agreement: **A reality check, civil society participation in practice** on 26 March in

Brussels. The seminar is funded by the UK platform with the financial support of DFID. Aprovev contributed in the preparation and the agenda setting and will present an overview of 40 African country cooperation strategies based on the rapid analysis of CSPs undertaken in 2002 and 2003.

The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) organises a meeting on **"Making Resettlement Work! – Identifying Conditions and Instruments, Chances and Limits of an EU Approach to Refugee Resettlement"** on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April 2004 in Brussels. For more information and registration, please contact Karsten.Weyer@ccme.be.

### **NEWS FROM CIDSE**

**Cotton crisis - Caritas/CIDSE fact-finding mission to West Africa:** Cotton is a product of crucial importance to farmers in West Africa, which have been negatively affected by low world prices over the past few years. The collapse of the WTO trade talks in Cancun was in part due to the difficult discussions on cotton and the revised draft Ministerial Text suggesting to millions of West African farmers to diversify out of cotton. In order to look into a possible international advocacy agenda on cotton, Caritas Internationalis in collaboration with CIDSE organised a fact-finding mission to Benin, Mali and Burkina Faso, 29 February - 13 March. A mission to Chad is foreseen in April. The aim of the visits has been to study the cotton crisis and how it relates to Northern agricultural policies, including subsidies. The mission specifically looked at poverty and gender impact of the cotton crisis, heard the views of the local Caritas and wider civil society, and identified potential solutions at national, regional and international levels. A report on the outcome of this fact finding mission will be available mid-May. On this basis, the Task Group on Trade and Food Security will decide whether to make this work part of its overall priorities for this year. For more info: Bob van Dillen ([vandillen@cidse.org](mailto:vandillen@cidse.org))

**IMF leadership selection:** In advance of the EU ECOFIN Council meeting on 2nd April, members of the CIDSE/Caritas Internationalis Task Group on Debt and Structural Adjustment have sent a letter to their Finance ministers arguing the need for the EU to opt for a transparent and merit-based selection procedure for the replacement of Horst Koehler as IMF Managing Director. For more information about this initiative, please contact Caoimhe de Barra ([cdebarra@trocaire.ie](mailto:cdebarra@trocaire.ie)).

The **CIDSE** Secretariat welcomes a **new staff member**, Anne Clough, who succeeds Neasa Ni Mhurchu as part-time assistant to the Advocacy Unit, working with the Advocacy Platform and Task Group on Trade and Food Security. Anne has a background in translation and also has previous experience working as a volunteer with Action Aid Alliance.

### **NEWS FROM CARITAS EUROPA**

The **Caritas Europa** Secretariat welcomes a **new staff member**, Peter Verhaeghe, who succeeds Bruno Kapfer as Migration Officer. Peter has a background in social work and sociology and has previous experience in research and project development for the migration department of Caritas Belgium.

#### **IEC Asia and Oceania**

The next joint meeting (Cidse and Caritas Europa) on April 21 will be organised with inputs from the Islamic perspective to identify new opportunities to work together and deepen the understanding of the actual opportunities of collaboration with Islamic groups on peace and conflict resolution. The IEC Asia on April 22 in Brussels will

discuss the following items: World Social Forum, Strategic Planning, progress workplan, mapping, country situations.

**IEC LAC**

The annual meeting of the Intra European Coordination of Latin America and Caribbean will be held in Brussels on April 26-27. Points on the agenda will be: Haiti, and other country situations; Colombia Mission; Romero year; Foro Social Mundial.