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NW	Terres des hommes IF
NP	United Kingdom: BOND
NW	World Vision International
AS	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
NP	National Platform
NW	Network
AS	Associate member

To: Charles Goerens
Member of the European Parliament
Standing rapporteur on PCD

Brussels, 13 February 2013

Subject: Proposals of items for discussion and collaboration on PCD

Dear Charles Goerens,

Although it is already February, we would still like to wish you a happy new year. We look forward to working with you in the coming year in order to keep Policy Coherence for Development high on the agenda of the European Parliament. Ahead of our meeting on the 20th of February, in this letter we would like to propose a few topics for the agenda.

We are pleased that your mandate was confirmed in the DEVE committee and that you can now begin your work with clarity on expectations. We appreciate that some elements that CONCORD highlighted as important for further progress have been included. *We are keen to discuss with you how to implement your mandate in practice, in particular your role in facilitating PCD-focused dialogue across parliamentary committees.*

This year, CONCORD will continue to work with the aim to raise awareness and political attention on PCD – especially among decision-makers not tasked with development policy in their everyday work. *We believe that your mandate greatly supports this agenda and we hope to discuss with you in more detail how we can involve these decision makers.*

Only by sharing a clearly defined understanding of what PCD is and agreeing that it must take priority and become an integral part of all policy-making can we truly advance towards development objectives of eradication of poverty and the realization of human rights across the globe.

We are keen to exchange with you on the needed improvement of key institutional tools and mechanisms that should enable European policy-makers to operationalize the PCD obligation.

A specific opportunity arises in 2013 with the revision of the European Commission's impact assessment system and *we would like to discuss how you wish to influence this process as well as to further develop the new impact assessment mechanism in the European Parliament, with a focus on PCD.*

With regard to operationalizing PCD in day-to-day policy-making, the Council Conclusions on PCD of May 2012ⁱ have opened promising avenues towards valuable progress. This includes reinforcing the evidence-based approach and improving coordination mechanisms and implementation within the EU institutions and the Member States. In addition, the Council emphasizes the need for strengthening the dialogue on PCD in Europe and with partner countries involving institutions, including the European and national parliaments, as well as civil society organizations. Importantly the Council recommends to *"include the issues of PCD systematically in the regular dialogue with partner countries to better assess the impact of EU policies at country level and the interaction with partner countries' policies", with a "crucial" role to be taken up by the EU Delegations.*

At CONCORD, we welcome these orientations as we encourage the increased inclusion of Southern stakeholders in dialogues to ensure that our efforts in Europe are understood and manifested from the bottom up. An essential aspect of this is to systematically record our findings, and best practices and integrate them into further learning. At the European Parliament level, the facts-finding missions could be strategically used for that purpose.

Your mandate is a fundamental asset to contribute to the thorough follow up of the Council Conclusion and infuse new ideas and practices to develop multi-stakeholders dialogues on EU policy impacts and PCD. *We look forward to hearing from you about any plans you may have in these regards, and how we could bring our support.* For example, we are prepared to facilitate meetings with our partners in countries or otherwise provide information or advice through our years of experience in working with people in local communities.

Equally important is to focus on specific examples of policies where improvements in terms of increased coherence with development objectives can be made and through which it can be easily demonstrated how PCD can help advance the fight against poverty. The EU has a real opportunity to perform global leadership on PCD. *In the light of the upcoming agenda of the European Parliament, we would like to discuss with you specifically the PCD issues in relation to the Common Agricultural Policy (Plenary vote in March), biofuels , corporate financial and non-financial transparency, and the post-2015 frameworkⁱⁱ (upcoming report of Filip Kaczmarek).*

Finally, *we would be curious to know how you may prepare for integrating PCD within the future ALDE election programme.*

We look forward to our meeting on 20 February and hope that we can discuss in more depth the above-mentioned points.

Yours sincerely,

Laust Gregersen
Chair of CONCORD PCD group

i <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/12/st09/st09317.en12.pdf>

ii The result of Commission' consultation on post-2015 show that PCD as the single most important (new) instrument to integrate in the new framework: *"An immense majority of respondents made it clear that Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) is fundamental for the success of development outcomes, and should therefore be placed at the very heart of the post-2015 development agenda."* REPORT ON THE CONSULTATION PROCESS ON "TOWARDS A POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK" p. 7 http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/millennium-development-goals/documents/12-12-06_report-final.pdf

CONCORD is the European NGO confederation for Relief and Development. Its 27 national associations, 18 international networks and 2 associate members represent 1,800 NGOs which are supported by millions of citizens across Europe. CONCORD leads reflection and political actions and regularly engages in dialogue with the European institutions and other civil society organisations. At global level, CONCORD is actively involved in the Open Forum for CSO Development effectiveness, the Beyond 2015 campaign, the International Forum of NGO platforms and BetterAid. Find out more about CONCORD on www.concordeurope.org.
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