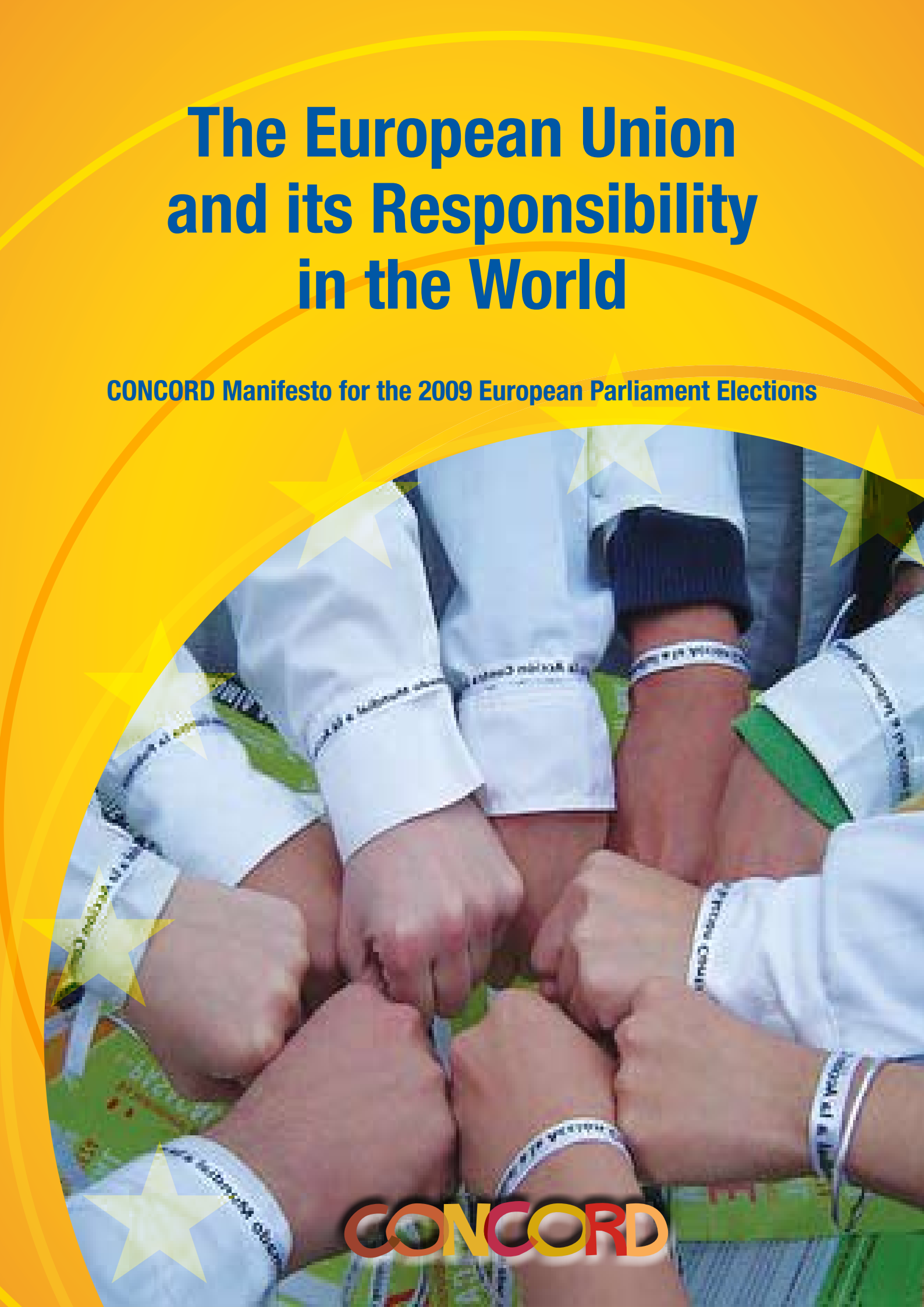


The European Union and its Responsibility in the World

CONCORD Manifesto for the 2009 European Parliament Elections



CONCORD

The European Union and its Responsibility in the World

CONCORD Manifesto for the 2009 European Parliament Elections

CONCORD is the European confederation of non-governmental organisations working in international development, emergency relief and development education. Its national associations and international networks represent over 1 600 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. CONCORD is part of the 'Global Call to Action against Poverty'.

Contact:

aphilippart@concordeurope.org – www.concordeurope.org
Tel: +32 2 743 87 81 - Fax: +32 2 732 19 34

European NGO confederation
for relief and development

CONCORD

Confédération européenne des ONG
d'urgence et de développement

Introduction

In June 2009, citizens of the 27 member States of the European Union (EU) will elect their representatives to the European Parliament for the 2009-2014 term.

The newly elected Members of the European Parliament will need to guide the European Council and the European Commission through many important decision-making processes. The outcome of these negotiations must not deter development that centres on human rights, neither for the citizens of the EU nor for those outside.

On this occasion, CONCORD – which represents more than 1600 civil society organisations supported by millions of European citizens – calls for a partnership between civil society and the European Parliament in order to find a way towards sustainable development.

In this manifesto, CONCORD identifies and discusses three essential EU objectives, namely sustainable development, more and better development aid and democratic accountability, and urges MEPs to act on them.

1. Sustainable Development

The EU should put in place coherent, social, economic, trade and security policies that promote the right to sustainable development and responsible citizenship both for citizens of Europe and the rest of the world. Particular attention needs to be paid to climate justice and gender issues.

Climate Justice: The depletion of natural resources, the reduction of biodiversity and climate change are imperilling the gains of decades of effort put into human development and threatening the livelihood of millions of people. The EU should establish political and economic partnerships to promote sustainable development based on the fair access to resources, distribution of wealth and a mutual commitment to human rights, gender equality, social and economic justice.

Gender Equality: Sustainable development can only be achieved if the principle of gender equality is fully respected. The EU should ensure that its policy commitment to gender equality is systematically put into practice and demonstrate political will and leadership by consistently championing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

2. More and better development aid

The EU has already identified the objective of poverty eradication for its development cooperation in its legal frameworks. The EU must ensure that its commitments for more and better aid are based on approaches that respect human rights and contribute to the reduction of social inequalities as well as to strong, informed and actively engaged civil society.

3. Democratic Accountability

The EU institutional and financial framework promotes democratic accountability, transparency, and strengthens participation of civil society organisations and citizens in policy definition and implementation. Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) need to ensure that institutional reforms, designed to make the EU more democratic, transparent and open for its citizens, are implemented.

MAKE EUROPE WORK FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Sustainable Development

The EU should put in place coherent, social, economic, trade and security policies that promote the right to sustainable development and responsible citizenship both for citizens of the EU and the rest of the world.

The main objective of the current EU policy on Europe in the world is to make Europe a strong and competitive player in the global economy. *“Meeting Europe’s growth and jobs challenge is the key to unlocking the resources needed to meet our wider economic, social and environmental ambitions.”*¹

Although maintenance of the well-being of European citizens is a fundamental objective of the EU, the underlying policies have failed to create real social cohesion. Statistics demonstrate growing income disparities amongst EU citizens and a growing part of the EU population threatened by poverty in one of the world’s richest regions.

Trade, agriculture, environment, migration and many other policies have an impact on sustainable development. Yet, these policies have not sufficiently and directly contributed to poverty eradication at the EU, as well as the global level.² In addition, the fact that the implementation of these policies exacerbates the situation of people outside the EU is very often ignored. And yet the EU has a responsibility to all the citizens of the world not to harm but to honour their right to development.

Further to this, European policies and their implementation foster a lifestyle that leads to the depletion of natural resources and contributes to climate change, whose signs have been acknowledged. This will not only affect the well-being of future generations of EU citizens, but also affects poor people in the South, who are already bearing the costs of deforestation, overfishing and pollution, problems to which they have hardly contributed. There is an undeniable responsibility for the EU to help reverse the situation and to support developing countries in order to diminish the impact of climate change. In a world of limited resources, only economies that also respect environmental justice will have a chance to be sustainable and peaceful.

Even though the EU has acknowledged its responsibility by signing up to internationally agreed commitments, such as the Millennium Development Goals and the Kyoto Protocol, to eradicate poverty and to address climate change, policies such as the trade strategy “Global Europe, competing in the world”, undermine these objectives. The current negotiations on EPAs between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries are a case in point.

The EU should define economic and trade policies that guarantee social cohesion and poverty reduction. Sustainable development can not be achieved when the rights of large parts of the global population to social development are being denied.

We therefore, call on MEPs to ensure that EU policies are in line with development objectives and that the EU becomes a leading player in the promotion of human rights and sustainable development.

The following are the key areas of action in which MEPs need to promote greater coherence in order to address the right to sustainable development both for citizens of Europe and the rest of the world.



¹ Communication to the spring European Council of 02 February 2005, entitled “Working together for growth and jobs. A new start for the Lisbon strategy”. Communication from President Barroso in agreement with Vice-President Verheugen.

² This has led the EU to recognise the need for « policy coherence for development » The principle of policy coherence for development was enshrined in the Maastricht Treaty (1993) and has been carried forward by the Lisbon Treaty which states « The union shall take account of the Objectives of development cooperation in the policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries » (article 188d).

Climate Justice

The European Union needs to respect the right to environmental justice at global level. It should also recognise its responsibility towards vulnerable communities around the world that are confronted with the impact of climate change by substantially reducing greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to adaptation efforts with additional resources and ensuring equal access to natural resources.

During the Parliament’s next term, the international community will need to agree on and put into force new international mechanisms to address climate change and manage its inevitable impact. This is a crucial moment for the European Union to demonstrate its support for safeguarding environmental rights and to ensure that vulnerable populations bear neither the costs of lowering greenhouse gas emissions, nor the costs of adapting to climate change. Equal access, including for future generations, to natural resources and sustainable use of these, needs to be a leading principle of any international agreement in the field of the environment.

We urge MEPs to push for the following key targets of climate justice.

Slowing down climate change

- Industrialised countries are primarily responsible for climate change. They need to be the first to react and substantially reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. If global temperature increase is to be limited to well below two degrees above pre-industrial levels and large scale dangerous climate change avoided, EU member states will need to domestically reduce emissions by at least 30% by 2020 and by least 80% by 2050 (both compared to 1990 levels).
- Member states should reach the 30% emission reduction target within EU boundaries. Therefore, member states that aim for a weaker target under the current Climate Action and Energy Package should be re-evaluated and strengthened according to their real potential of reduction.
- The EU should abandon its current reliance on imported energy from biofuels and bio-liquids which compete with food production in the South. Instead, the EU needs to reduce its energy consumption by focusing on energy efficiency and promoting sustainable production of renewable resources.
- To achieve the above, European development will need to veer towards a more sustainable and low carbon development model. This will require a profound change in modes of consumption in the EU. In order to promote this change in the development model, global education approaches need to be enhanced.

- At the same time, the EU needs to make a long-term substantial financial commitment that supports sustainable development policies in the South. To this end, it is essential to transfer appropriate low costs and low carbon technologies and increase financial resources. Such contribution should be, in financial terms, equivalent to at least 15% of reduced emissions (below 1990 levels). These funds could be channelled through environmentally and socially robust market-based mechanisms (e.g. Gold Standard CDM projects), or through direct financial support through existing or new channels.
- The EU should use external credit mechanisms such as the CDM only as an additional external effort to reduce emissions and limit these to a maximum of 3%. All future external credits need to meet strict environmental, social and additionality criteria. Only credits which, as a minimum, come from projects which meet the Gold Standard accreditation and/or equivalent quality criteria should be accountable for EU mitigation targets.
- The EU should take a leading role and push for an ambitious outcome of the combat against climate change within the international processes taking place under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and should encourage all other countries and actors to do the same.

Covering the cost of adaptation

- The Parliament should recognise the fact that adapting to climate change relates above all to development and poverty reduction – building resilience at the grassroots – and is becoming increasingly crucial to the safeguarding of development. Thus, the cost of adaptation needs to be integrated into development planning and policy processes.
- Adaptation to climate change – specific projects and integration strategies – should be financed by additional funds in the form of grants. These funds should benefit firstly the poor and most vulnerable, and should be used in accordance with the principles of local and national ownership of development.
- The EU should contribute to the implementation of regional cooperation mechanisms for reducing the risk of disasters caused by extreme phenomena linked to climate change.
- The EU should recognise that disaster risk reduction relates not only to the way in which communities prepare for natural occurrences (such as storms or cyclones) but also to the reduction of structural vulnerabilities of communities which turn natural hazards into human disasters. EU policies and strategies should aim to reduce extensive risks by enhancing the resilience of communities, and not only focus on the humanitarian dimension of intensive risks. These include the impending food crisis, the rapidly increasing loss of assets and livelihoods caused by changing weather

patterns and the erosion of scarce development gains amongst the poorer sectors of society. The EU's DDR strategy's rationale and strategic areas for intervention should contain instruments to prevent, mitigate and prepare citizens and communities for slow onset disasters such as food crises.

- It is worth highlighting that public policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks have limited applicability in informal sectors, where the majority of poor and vulnerable people live, work and eat.
- The EU should use its influence with its partners to promote access to natural resources as social goods and fundamental human rights to help check accelerated deforestation and desertification, while preserving the biodiversity of water and land ecosystems and protecting the quality of the air and earth.

Gender Equality

Seventy percent of the world's poorest people are women. Poverty eradication is therefore an impossible goal unless the problems of gender equality are addressed. The EU recognises gender equality as a right and it is both a development goal in itself and a cornerstone of poverty eradication. The EU should ensure that its policy commitment to gender equality is systematically put into practice and demonstrate political will and leadership by consistently championing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

CONCORD members urge the European Parliament to hold the EU and member states to account in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as stressed in the European Consensus for Development (2005) and in the EU's strategy for "gender equality and women's empowerment in development cooperation" and in the EU-Africa Joint Strategy.

We urge MEPs to ensure that the EU:

- backs its policy commitment with adequate financial and human resources to promote gender equality at all levels from policy design to implementation;
- supports the twin track approach to mainstreaming gender equality and putting in place specific actions to promote the empowerment of women and girls;
- reinforces permanent, genuine and structured policy dialogue with governmental gender equality structures and women's rights advocates to support and monitor line ministries, other government bodies and parliaments in influencing national development planning and budget allocations for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
- strengthens mechanisms for monitoring implementation and increasing accountability through in-depth gender analysis and the provision of comprehensive sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators;
- takes into account the real needs of populations in the fight against violence against women and more specifically,

gender equality, work and the environment and to establish the control of democratic institutions over economic and productive activities.

- in Europe, new modes of production and consumption ought to be promoted to educate and raise awareness amongst present and future generations to adopt more sustainable lifestyles through global and development education.



Responsible Economic and Trade Policy

We urge MEPs to ensure that:

- human rights and development objectives are paramount to the development of EU economic policy and trade agreements.
- trade agreements and investment treaties that the EU negotiates need to be transparent and respectful of the sovereignty of economic, trade and social policies of partner countries and need to guarantee social cohesion and poverty reduction. At no time should these endanger food sovereignty, decent work and equal access to welfare and public services.
- agreements on access to natural and energy resources need to set priorities and promote the fulfilment of the economic, social and cultural rights of local communities.
- economic and trade agreements need to build on regionally agreed norms and standards with regard to human rights,

Responsible Food and Agricultural Policy

The recent food crisis should be a wake up call for Europe as regards the importance of adopting a responsible food and agricultural policy, rather than current policies, which adversely impact on the development efforts of their partners and undermine their right to food.

- the EU needs to improve the management of its agricultural market and reassert the primacy of agricultural and food policies over trade policies. EU policies need to enable states and regional groupings of states to regulate and protect their own agricultural markets in order to promote local sustainable farming, the basis of food sovereignty.
- the reform of the CAP needs to tackle the global food crisis by putting an end to the dumping of agricultural goods and export-led agricultural models in Europe and elsewhere that have caused the diversion of fertile land, prevented populations from accessing water or seeds and led to the domination of many small farmers by large agribusiness conglomerates.
- market management should support family farming, the development of decentralised production systems, the reinforcement of the agro-ecological nature of production systems and less dependence on imports.
- EU aid policy needs to invest in improving farmers' production capacities through a plurality of farming methods, in farmers' access to land and local markets and in the optimisation of farmers' knowledge of biodiversity. This includes the exclusion of all patents on life and genetically modified plants and animals.
- food justice can only be attained through investment in and empowerment of women, who continue to be marginalised within the agricultural sector despite the fact that they produce more than 50% of the food in the world.
- biofuel targets, which lead to the overuse of scarce land resources for agricultural production, must be dropped.

Decent Work

Half of the world's workforce earns less than 1 \$ a day. People in developed and developing countries are working more for less money, which is forcing a growing number of them – overwhelmingly women – to make a living in the informal economy, without social protection or rights. Meanwhile, companies are outsourcing to drive down wages and hard fought for rights. Only an international system based on solidarity and respect for people's rights, as enshrined in United Nations and ILO conventions, can halt these trends.

We urge MEPs to ensure that the EU:

- complies further with the ILO's 8 core labour conventions, especially the freedom of association and collective bargaining, in all its international relations, encourages and supports the incorporation of these labour standards in national legislation and ensures implementation and enforcement, promotes decent wages and social protection for all and creates and protects decent jobs;
- is coherent in its policies and identifies specific targets and indicators relating to decent work in its annual reporting on MDGs with regard to its commitment to the achievement of MDG1 and the ILO's decent work agenda;
- establishes, in its commitment to corporate accountability, clauses on labour rights that are based on the OECD's guiding principles on multinationals and on the ILO's tripartite declaration on multinationals and social policy, which EU corporations are bound to respect;
- respects and actively promotes the provisions of core labour conventions within its procurement and tendering policies;
- actively monitors the implementation of the labour conventions required for its special trade preference regime (GSP+) and undertakes action to guarantee that the conventions are implemented;
- allocates resources within its development cooperation policies to develop and extend social protection systems, builds institutional capacity to implement ILO labour conventions and allows trade unions and other civil society actors to be genuinely involved in effectively monitoring compliance by public and private institutions and employers;
- brings about legislative changes within its commitment to gender equality and undertakes and encourages positive action programmes to promote workplace equality and achieve the full implementation of ILO Conventions 100 on Equal Remuneration and 111 on Discrimination.

Financing for Development

Domestic resources are the main source of development financing. The Monterrey Consensus of March 2002, revised at the Doha Conference in December 2008, sets the goals for "Mobilizing and increasing the effective use of financial resources (...) to eliminate poverty, improve social conditions and raise living standards, and protect our environment". But again, the reality is quite different: statistics show that instead of North-South financial transfers there is a huge net capital flow from South to North.

The delay in attaining MDGs, which will cause the death of tens of thousands of men, women and children, can be partially blamed on the lack of political will and inability of many governments, South and North, to allocate the financial resources necessary for achieving development.

A much stronger international response needs to be given to these challenges. In this regard, we urge Members of the European Parliament to ensure that:

- fiscal policies promote equal redistribution of wealth with special attention given to the poorest. In order to achieve this goal, the EU needs to put an end to exaggerated tax competition which reduce public resources. The EU needs to promote such policies at local and global level;
- the fight against tax evasion is intensified through financial transparency and better cooperation between tax authorities inside the EU and with third countries;
- innovative mechanisms for financing development are added to existing funds, made compulsory for the international community and therefore coordinated by UN bodies. Innovative resources should be allocated to the production of public goods globally and to the promotion of basic human rights;
- the EU redefines debt sustainability criteria to promote the advancement of development goals rather than debt reimbursement and calls on member states to cancel on a larger scale debts that all developing countries owe them without imposing economic conditionalities.

Migration and Development

In one way or another, the forced migration of peoples can be attributed to poverty, economic and social inequalities; whether as a result of conflict, famine, natural disasters, persecution or inequitable access to natural resources. European migrations policies need to adopt a holistic and coherent rights-based migration policy that respects the rights of the migrant as well as those of the country of origin.

We urge MEPs to press the EU to act in the following areas:

- migration issues should be clearly separated from the problem of security. This can only be achieved through stronger coordination and cooperation between the different policy sectors concerned with migration, including development, employment and social affairs, education and security. The EU should also ensure that the voice of migrants is heard before any political decision is taken on migration matters.
- developing countries need their most skilled workers. While not denying individuals their right to move, European

policies on labour migration should avoid encouraging a brain drain, especially in the fields of health and education. EU initiatives, such as the proposal for a blue card, should be developed in close dialogue with the concerned developing countries and in particular with civil society organisations. Jointly agreed balanced measures should be concluded to facilitate the international mobility of workers, while the EU should invest in increased access to higher education for more people in their countries of origin and better working conditions.

- the integration of migrants in the EU should be based on the principles of equality, participation and respect of fundamental rights. Integration implies mutuality and shared rights and responsibilities. Diversity in European societies should be strongly promoted as a positive factor. EU and national strategies should further facilitate migrants' equal participation in the economic, social and cultural life of their host countries. EU policy should integrate the notion of circular migration.
- migrants remit money to their countries of origin that amounts to more than the ODA budget of all the EU members. Because of the high fees (between 13 and 20% ³) that the legal banking system charges, migrants often send money through informal, unsafe and unreliable channels. The EU should make the formal channels for money transfer more affordable to migrants.
- development money need not be used to resolve migration issues nor be contingent on migration policy. Allocating funds to countries of transit and origin to check migration does not contribute to tackling the root causes of poverty and inequality, and therefore should not be considered as development aid.



³ Migration and Development, Myths and Facts, 4th Joint EPC-KBF Migration Dialogue: <http://www.epc.eu/en/er.asp?AI=379&LV=293&PG=ER/EN/detail&TYP=ER&see=y&t=2>

Social and Human Development

The best way to help people realise their rights is to invest in social and human development. The EU Consensus on Development, adopted by all member states, recognises this by prioritising the Millennium Development Goals and placing a strong emphasis on human and social development. However, the reality of EU policies does not reflect the rhetoric.

We urge the MEPs to ensure that:

- the EU prioritises its actions in areas that are key to the achievement of MDGs, such as gender equality, access to basic social services, health and education, especially for the most vulnerable. The EU needs to contribute to the realisation of social rights to reduce inequality and promote sustainable development if MDGs are to be achieved.
- the European Commission is held to account for failing to meet the 20% of the EU's ODA to basic social services target that the Parliament has set.
- the EU plans and allocates sustainable resources to the HIV/AIDS sector and implement them. The EU must establish the necessary mechanisms to effectively engage people living with HIV and AIDS, women's groups, children's groups and vulnerable populations in its political dialogue and country programming. The EU should fund and implement programmes that strengthen and encourage participatory approaches within communities.
- seventy million of the world's poorest and most marginalised children still wait outside school gates, whilst early childcare, adult literacy classes and youth training programmes is a luxury most poor countries cannot afford. The Parliament should ensure that the EU does not back away from its commitment to increase aid for education.

More and Better Development Aid

The European Union provides most of the development aid in the world, which gives it a crucial leadership role in the fight against global poverty and for a strong, informed and actively engaged civil society. It has already identified poverty eradication as an objective for its development cooperation in its legal framework. The EU has clearly committed itself not only to further increasing the volume of aid, but also to increasing the quality of the aid. But so far, the EU has not yet honoured this commitment.

The latest trends in member states indicate that they could hardly reach the ODA level of 0.56% of GDP by 2010 and 0.7% by 2015 targets if they do not drastically step up their efforts. Furthermore, European governments continue to distort their aid figures by counting spending on debt relief, educating foreign students and refugees in Europe.

The European Union has defined clear objectives for development cooperation, i.e., eradicating poverty and reaching the Millennium Development Goals. Aid can only be deemed effective if it contributes to these objectives. Given that 70% of those living in poverty are women and girls, the EU's development policy and actions should actively address gender equality issues.

The European Union has the ambition and opportunity to become a leader in making development assistance more effective. As a signatory to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, it has agreed to a set of principles and has developed policies and instruments to implement these.

The aid effectiveness agenda is not only a matter of technical implementation but also a political one. More transparency and accountability and respect for real and democratic ownership are crucial elements in the process towards more effective aid.

The support of the European people is essential for meeting international commitments such as the Millennium Development Goals, the 0.7% GDP for ODA target or the Paris Declaration. Development education empowers Europeans to provide active support for more and better aid.

As the democratic watchdog of the EU, the European Parliament has a key role in ensuring that the EU honours its commitments relating to ODA volumes and aid effectiveness, as well as championing further European leadership on these issues. The Parliament should call on the EU to prioritise actions in pillar areas that are key to achieving MDGs, such as employment and decent work, gender equality and access to basic social services, e.g., health and education, especially for the most vulnerable.

We urge MEPs to ensure that the EU:

- scale up to reach the agreed target of 0.7% GDP for ODA by 2015 or sooner (without including debt relief or other non-aid items), allocate 50% of this increase to sub-Saharan Africa and publish a binding year-on-year delivery timetable;
- deepen their commitment to democratic ownership, accountability and transparency, which are at the heart of aid effectiveness, and ensure that citizens' voices and concerns are made central to national, regional and local development plans and processes;
- phase out all economic policy conditionality attached to aid, and agree on more mutually accountable, contractual agreements with partner countries, based on locally defined criteria, untie all EU aid to all countries, including food aid and technical assistance, and reform such assistance so that 100% of it is demand-driven and aligned with national strategies;
- respect the centrality of human rights, gender equality, child rights, social justice and environmental sustainability, which are absent from the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and commit to agreeing on additional EU targets that indicate how a human rights-based approach to development is to be conducted in these areas;
- allocate 3% of ODA to development education and awareness-raising among the European public, as recommended by the 1993 UNDP Human Development Report.



Under the umbrella of CONCORD, development NGOs from all 27 EU countries, monitor development aid delivered by the EU and its Members States.

For more information: www.concordeurope.org

Democratic Accountability

The EU institutional and financial framework promotes democratic accountability, transparency, and strengthens the participation of civil society organisations and citizens in the definition and implementation of policy.

The EU should radically improve democratic accountability, both to European citizens and those in developing countries. The European Parliament and civil society are key actors in this respect. Democratic accountability is necessary for building transparent and accountable European institutions, policy-making and implementation processes accountable to European citizens, and also to those in the South that European policy directly affects.

The European Parliament's legitimate role in assuring democratic accountability for the use of the EU's development resources will need to be enhanced with additional capacity. The European Parliament Committee on Development should be primarily responsible for overseeing the EU's development cooperation in all parts of the world, and for monitoring other external affairs areas to ensure that policy is coherent as regards sustainable development.

The EU's budget should be spent in a transparent and accountable manner if it is to be effective and secure the support of EU's citizens.

Civil Society

Democracy can only work in societies where every citizen can fully participate in decision-making. The EU needs to be more inclusive, so that its people and those in countries outside the EU that its policies affect can participate to a greater degree in these.

With their reach that is both deep (into communities) and wide (across national boundaries, via regional and global networks, alliances and coalitions), civil society organisations are important mechanisms that allow citizens to organise themselves, engage in policy debates and hold governments to account. They act as a link or intermediary between individuals and their political institutions. Strong civil society is thus central to a healthy democracy.

Moreover, a dynamic European civil society made up of responsible and active citizens is a pre-condition for the achievement of coherent European policies and global justice. Global and development education is therefore vital for creating awareness on development challenges, enabling Europeans to understand the causes and consequences of

international interdependencies and empowering them to press their government for non-harming policies and to adopt sustainable lifestyles themselves.⁴

In recent years, however, national security and counter-terrorism agendas have led to restrictions on CSOs' abilities to exercise their rights while new reporting and financial requirements placed on European CSOs are affecting the terms of their partnerships with their Southern counterparts.

In the light of these challenges, there is now an urgent need to strengthen the partnership between the European Parliament and (European) civil society, and to establish a dialogue and common working modes between civil society and European institutions based on common ownership, meaningful collaboration and mutual respect.

We urge MEPs to:

- focus on the demand for democratic accountability by strengthening civil society to fully participate in the building of democratic governance;
- improve EU governance and accountability by opening up its policy processes for scrutiny by partner country governments and civil society in Europe and in the South;
- ensure that the Parliament initiates a report on development education and awareness-raising and its role in the implementation of the European Consensus on Development, including through involvement of relevant parliamentary committees (such as DEVE). The report should highlight the actual and potential role of development education and awareness-raising in formal and informal education and life-long learning in Europe.

Institutional reforms and the EU budget have the potential to seriously influence the way European development cooperation can attain its objective of poverty eradication. It is important that the European Parliament ensures that the voices of citizens are taken into account.

⁴ As outlined in the "European Consensus on Development: The contribution of development education and awareness raising": http://www.deep.org/fileadmin/user_upload/downloads/Consensus_on_DE/DE_Consensus-EN.pdf

Institutional Reforms

Any future institutional framework should confirm the need to have poverty eradication as the primary objective of the European development policy and the need for the EU's external affairs to be coherent with these development objectives, as enshrined in the European Consensus on Development.⁵

We urge MEPs to ensure that:

- the specific place and objectives of development cooperation as an independent policy within the European Union is respected. This means a strong voice for development policy within the EU's external relations, operating on the basis of its own principles, objectives, institutions and instruments and on an equal footing with EU foreign, security and commercial policy agendas. This can only be realized if there is a Commissioner for Development who is on equal footing with the High Representative and is in a position to promote the interest of EU development policy within the College and towards the Council. The Commissioner should have a say not only on policy formulation and funding but also on implementation of development policies in order to end the inconsistencies caused by the gap between policy and implementation in the current structure.
- EU institutional set-up offers a coherent and effective approach to development cooperation and developing countries, where policy, programming and implementation go hand in hand;
- EU's external action takes fully into account development objectives while promoting greater coherence across the EU's policies and actors;
- legal instruments covering the EU's cooperation with developing countries are clearly oriented towards the objectives of the EU's development policy.

The EU Budget

The EU budget review, which the European Commission will carry out in the coming year, is a unique opportunity to ensure that the budget matches the EU's aim to meet its commitments, i.e., to strive for sustainable development and to engage with global issues such as poverty, climate change and conflict prevention.

The structure of the future budget of the Union must provide the means to translate European values and principles into effective action. The legal instruments that relate to the EU's cooperation with developing countries should be clearly oriented towards the EU's development objectives.

We urge MEPs to ensure that:

- sustainability, in Europe and globally, with its social and environmental dimensions, must be the overarching and fundamental goal of a new EU budget. The EU budget should be in line with the sustainable development strategy objectives for promoting sustainable production and consumption, so that it becomes a low carbon society;
- the EU budget promotes and anchors poverty eradication as the overarching principle of the EU's international cooperation, including within the fields of trade, development aid and development education. The EU budget should be gender-responsive and therefore integrate gender budget tools;
- development resources should not be used to finance other external policies such as EU foreign, security and defence policies.

Abbreviations

CAP

Common Agricultural Policy

CDM

Clean Development Mechanism

CSOs

Civil Society Organisations

DEVE

Committee on Development, European Parliament

DDR

Demobilisation, Disarmament & Reintegration

EPA

Economic Partnership Agreement

GDP

Gross Domestic Product

ILO

International Labour Organization

MDGs

Millennium Development Goals

MEPs

Members of the European Parliament

ODA

Official Development Assistance

OECD

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

UNDP

United Nations Development Programme

⁵ The 2005 European Consensus on Development is a policy statement that reflects the EU's willingness to eradicate poverty and build a more stable and equitable world. http://ec.europa.eu/development/center/repository/eu_consensus_en.pdf



This report is financed by the European Union.
The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Commission.

Publisher : O. Consolo, CONCORD, 10 sq. Ambiorix, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium. July 2008

CONCORD a.i.s.b.l : Square Ambiorix - 100 Brussels, Belgium - Tel: +32 2 743 87 60 - Fax : +32 2 732 19 34
For further information : <http://www.concordeurope.org> - secretariat@concordeurope.org