

European Parliament vote is a win for sustainable development

CONCORD welcomes crucial steps forward in the EP's commitment to development financing as the Foreign Affairs and Development committees vote on amendments to the NDICI.

BRUSSELS, March 4, 2019

In a time when the prevailing trend puts development cooperation at the service of foreign policy, securitisation and privatisation, today's vote in the Foreign Affairs and Development Committees shows that the European Parliament is doing its part in shaping the upcoming MFF to be a true budget for solidarity and sustainability.

In a joint session today, March 4th, the Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation committees in the European Parliament voted on a proposal for establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), the new single instrument which is set to combine 12 previous external instruments under the new EU Budget. It was an important vote, as the results set the foundation for further negotiations of EU development actions between 2021-2027.

CONCORD, the European NGO confederation for relief and development, has been closely following the negotiations led by the co-rapporteurs Charles Goerens (ALDE, DEVE), Cristian Dan Preda (EPP, AFET), Pier Antonio Panzeri (S&D, AFET) and Frank Engel (EPP, DEVE) ahead of today's vote.

CONCORD believes the text adopted today represents an **improvement to the original proposal** of the Commission and **a step in the right direction** to make sure the new instrument promotes a principled, **human rights-based approach** to development and safeguards the EU's unique role and reputation as a leading donor.

CONCORD welcomes the explicit reference to Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. Particularly, we take note of the commitment to include ambitious targets, such as:

- an increase from the initial 25% to combined **45% for climate and environment**
- at least **20% of ODA ring-fenced for human development and social inclusion**
- **Gender mainstreamed in 85% of programmes** in line with the Gender Action Plan II (2016-2020). However, **CONCORD regrets the absence of a 20% benchmark** for targeted actions, which would create real impact on gender equality.

Allocating **10% of the NDICI to migration is excessive**. However, CONCORD acknowledges that the Parliament has set 10% as a maximum and welcomes rights based language on displacement and a more balanced development approach to migration throughout the text.

CONCORD supports strong and clear safeguards (such as fossil fuel exclusion) and clearer language on [European Fund for Sustainable Development+](#) (EFSD+), stating private support should only be an addition to public funding and should not divert from public service provision particularly in key

areas such as health and education. We agree with a stronger focus on local markets and local private actors.

CONCORD **particularly welcomes** that Europe's elected parliamentarians have given a strong signal that they are determined that the EU will live up to its international obligations and the EU's political commitments on **sexual and reproductive health and rights**.

Today's results will be put to a vote in the European Parliament plenary at the end of the month. CONCORD **calls on the plenary of the European Parliament to confirm this text**, which will guide the newly elected MEPs in the future negotiations with the Council and Commission and to **ensure key improvements are maintained** in the final regulation.

CONCORD will continue to monitor negotiations to ensure **just and adequate financing for sustainable development**. The €89 billion euro allocated to NDICI must respect the European Union's international commitments, support sustainable development and be spent where it is most needed.

[More on the MFF](#)

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Notes to Editors

1. CONCORD is the European confederation of Relief and Development NGOs, made up of 28 national associations, made up of 28 national associations, 24 international networks and 3 associate members that represent over 2.600 NGOs, supported by millions of citizens across Europe. www.concordeurope.org

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