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Committee on Foreign Affairs

2011/2286(INI)

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Development

on defining a new development cooperation with Latin America
(2011/2286(INI))

Rapporteur: Laima Liucija Andrikiienė

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses the importance of close relationships with Latin American countries and the need to develop new forms of cooperation with emerging and middle-income countries in Latin America through the Development Cooperation Instrument and the new Partnership Instrument;
2. Underlines the fact that the EU should show a clear commitment to cooperating with Latin America (LA) with the aim of fighting poverty in middle-income countries with significant social differences;
3. Underscores the fact that social cohesion should remain a key principle of the development cooperation strategy towards Latin America, on account not only of its socio-economic implications, but also of its importance in terms of consolidating the democratic institutions in the region and the rule of law;
4. Stresses the need to enhance coordination between the European Union and Latin America in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly the actions aiming at combating poverty, at job creation and at social inclusion of marginalised groups; stresses that the MDG aiming at a global partnership for development (MDG 8) should be at the centre of the EU's cooperation policy with Latin America, with areas being selected in which to implement the new strategy of "inclusive growth" in these countries;
5. Stresses the positive regional integration synergies deriving from comprehensive Association Agreements between the EU and the various sub-regional groups; calls for new visions for bi-regional cooperation with a view to the 7th EU-LAC Summit of Heads of State and Government, to be held in Chile in January 2013;
6. Underlines the importance of EU support for integration within Latin America; emphasises the absence of a comprehensive EU policy and a regional approach to Latin America in support of South-South cooperation (SSC), and the lack of clear EU policy guidelines in regard to SSC and interregional association; stresses the need to widen the EU-LA political dialogue at different levels, such as the Summits of Heads of States and the EUROLAT Parliamentary Assembly, as important tools for the development of political consensus;
7. Calls on the Vice-President / High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European External Action Service to ensure the unity, consistency and effectiveness of the EU's external action vis-à-vis Latin America, as stated in the Treaty of Lisbon;