

Parliamentary questions

24 July 2012

E-007416/2012

Question for written answer to the Commission

Rule 117

Ian Hudghton (Verts/ALE)

Subject: EU contributions to India

During a meeting of Parliament's Committee on Development on 18 June 2012, a report was presented on a recent delegation of that committee to India. During a segment regarding a meeting with ministers of the Indian Government, it was reported that a consensus was developing that there is no need for further EU contributions which would take important funds from the federal budget. For example, India is becoming a development partner in its own right with Bhutan and Nepal and therefore the continuation of the EU financial support may be unjustified.

Has the Commission reviewed the agreement in question, or does it have plans to do so?

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Answer given by High Representative/Vice President Ashton
on behalf of the Commission
(12.9.2012)

The programming of EU development cooperation under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) for the period 2014 – 2020 is currently taking place. It has been proposed that EU development assistance in future be focussed on fewer sectors, and in fewer countries, where its impact may be maximised and where the assistance is most needed.

In this context, in view of India's increasing economic power and its capacity to finance and implement its own development programmes without the need for external assistance, it is not considered appropriate to continue to provide financing for the EU-India bilateral cooperation programme. As the Honourable Member stated, India is indeed itself a source of development funding for a number of developing countries.

India is nevertheless a very important partner for the EU, and one with which activities of mutual interest will be continued, notably under the Instrument for cooperation with industrialised and other high income countries and territories (ICI+) which will, from 2014, be replaced by the new Partnership Instrument.

Some EU-India development cooperation activities will also continue in the future under DCI-funded thematic budget lines and the regional cooperation programme.