



Committee on Development
The Secretariat

Brussels, 31 May 2012

Note for the attention of the Bureau Members and the Coordinators

Coordinators' decisions and recommendations: meeting of Thursday 24 May 2012

1. Appointment of rapporteurs and rapporteurs for opinion

- **Reports**

- **New own-initiative report**

Decision / recommendation (as modified by written procedure of 30.5.2012):

- Authorisation for the following new own-initiative report will be requested as soon as a slot becomes available: "*Gendercide: the missing women?*" (EPP - 2 points)

Administrator: Liverini

- **COM(2012)211 final – 2012/0106 (NLE): Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the Food Aid Committee as regards the extension of the Food Aid Convention, 1999**

Decision / recommendation:

- Appoint a rapporteur (ECR - 2 points)

Administrator: Bruynooghe

- **Opinions**

- **European Court of Auditors Special Report No. 5/2012 "The common external relations information system (CRIS)"**

Decision / recommendation:

- No action.

- **COM (2012)205 final - 2012/0100 (NLE): Proposal for a Council Decision on a position to be taken by the European Union within the Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development set up by the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Korea, of the other part, as regards the operation of the Civil Society Forum and the establishment of the Panel of Experts to examine the matters in the areas falling within the scope of the Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development**

Decision / recommendation:

- No action.

(New tables of points in annex).

2. Budget 2013 — pilot projects and preparatory actions

Decision / recommendation:

- DEVE will inform BUDG that our committee has identified the following as possible pilot projects and preparatory actions (PP-PAs) to be proposed for 2013:

- **Regional African CSO Network for MDG 5:** extension of ongoing PA proposed;
- **Enhanced Health Care for Victims of Sexual Violence in the DRC:** extension of ongoing PA proposed;
- **Piloting the use of Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia:** new PP;
- **Youth job creation in developing countries:** new PP;
- **Achieving gender equality in primary and secondary education in Sub-Saharan Africa, MDG 3:** new PP.

Administrator: Bruynooghe

3. European Commission support to Civil Society Organisations through DCI thematic programmes

Context:

- On 27 March, MEP Franziska Keller addressed the following question to the Commission:

“Question on upcoming global calls for proposals under the thematic programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP) (2011-2013)

A forecast of upcoming global calls for proposals was published on the DEVCO website in 2011, including a major call for proposals under the ENRTP thematic programme to be launched in November 2011 with an envelope of around 100 M €. The forecast for the

call then disappeared and no major call for proposals accessible to civil society organizations has been launched to date under the period 2011-2013. Could the Commission tell us what will be the support for CSOs through the ENRTP programme for the period 2011-2013?"

- The Commission indicated that, due to unforeseen new commitments, notably in the field of climate change, the initial envelope of 100M € had to be reduced to a figure around 30M € (therefore a cut of 70%). The Commission recognized the error but could not give any indication as to how it would make up for such a cut.

Decision / recommendation:

- The secretariat will check with BUDG on the situation of this budget transfer request;
- The DEVE Chair will write to Commissioner Piebalgs, requesting information on the reasons for the 70% reduction in the envelope for the call for proposals under the ENRTP for the period 2011-2013, and on the Commission's intention for compensating this reduction and keeping its commitments that "*more beneficiaries can be supported*";
- Depending on the response received to the letter, DEVE will have the necessary information to take its decisions for the budget procedure 2012. If the response does not provide a satisfactory justification for the cut, DEVE coordinators may wish to approach their colleagues in Budgets Committee about the matter.

Administrator: Illán

4. Proposals for joint initiatives with another parliamentary body

- **Presentation of DROI study on Natural Disasters and Human Rights** (29 May)
- **Presentation of FIDH study on Human Rights in Haiti after the earthquake** (29 May)
- **Presentation of DROI study on Human Rights and Climate Change** (11 July)

Decision / recommendation:

- Request that DEVE be involved in these initiatives, with the exact modality of the involvement (either association or joint meeting) to be agreed with DROI.

Administrator: Liverini

5. Feedback from the DCI Working Group

Decision / recommendation:

- The feedback note from DCI Working Group meetings on 25 April and 8 May 2012 is approved with the following change:
*"The Commission proposal to refer to the Commission Communication on the Agenda for Change as the **legal** basis for priority choices would be deleted, as a Commission Communication does not reflect a joint position by the legislators."* (one word added).

Administrator: Lerch

6. DEVE committee meeting calendar for 2012

➤ Voting time after adoption of new DEVE committee meeting calendar for 2012

Decision / recommendation:

- In principle votes will be scheduled on Tuesdays, but when a committee meeting does not continue to the Tuesday they will be scheduled as late as possible on the Monday afternoon;
- Coordinators will take a decision at their next meeting on whether they wish DEVE meetings in 2013 to be scheduled on Mondays and Tuesdays or on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

➤ Extension of DEVE committee meeting of 17-18 September, and cancellation of meeting of 8 November

Decision / recommendation:

- The 17-18 September DEVE meeting will be extended by one half-day on Tuesday 18 September pm, and the scheduled committee meeting on Thursday 8 November (am) is cancelled.

7. DEVE expertise budget: possibility of organising workshops

Decision / recommendation:

- In exceptional cases, workshops organised by the Policy Department can be used as an alternative to formal studies and briefings, but the greater part of DEVE's annual expertise budget will be used for commissioning studies and briefings in support of the committee's priority activities;
- Due to the heavy workload to be handled in ordinary DEVE meetings, workshops will be organised as informal meetings open to all interested DEVE Members (and also open to interested non-DEVE Members).

8. Revision of Brazilian Forest Code

Context:

- On 25 April, the Brazilian House of Representatives passed legislation revising the Brazilian Forest Code. According to national and global environmental groups, this bill, if signed into law, would severely roll back environmental protection for the Amazon forest and other threatened ecosystems. By giving amnesty for past illegal deforestation and opening up new land for deforestation, the Forest Code would essentially legalize deforestation on vast amounts of land. The groups, supported by at least two government

ministers, call on Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff to veto the bill, and the government has indicated that the President may indeed use her veto powers before the expiry of the legal deadline of 25 May to veto the most controversial parts of the bill¹. Should this be the case, the Congress disposes of another month to overrule the presidential veto;

Decision / recommendation:

- The DEVE Chair will write a letter to EP President Schulz, requesting him to transmit to President Rousseff the deep worries of the EP's Committee on Development about the consequences for the global environment, for climate change and its effects on developing countries should the proposed modifications to the Forest Code become law.

Administrator: Illán

¹ On 25 May, President Rousseff indeed vetoed 12 articles of the Forest Code.