



ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПАРЛАМЕНТ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT EUROOPA PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
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**European Parliament Delegation
to the UN High Level Plenary Meeting on Millennium Development Goals**

New York 20-22 September 2010

DRAFT MISSION REPORT

I. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

The broad conclusions brought back from the mission can be summarised as follows:

1. Some significant progress on MDGs but more and more urgent action is needed.
2. The summit and its outcome document lacked focus and failed to target specifically the most vulnerable groups. However, greater attention was paid than in the past to governance, health, gender issues, human rights and social protection.
3. The Delegation welcomed the Commission's launch at the Summit of an EU MDG initiative worth €1 billion to make progress on the most off-track MDGs
4. Key priorities for the coming years, in the light of the delegation's bilateral meetings:
 - target the most off-track MDGs, i.e. maternal and child mortality
 - greater developing-country ownership of MDG agenda
 - present a more positive image of development policy and its successes for citizens
 - greater accountability from donor and recipient countries
 - empower women and focus on reproductive health
 - new sources of funding (including improved tax systems, fighting tax evasion and possibly a financial transaction tax)
 - involve national parliaments, the private sector and civil society (especially from the south) more effectively
 - encourage the emerging economies, especially China, to join the donor community.
5. The EU's clear leadership role on the MDGs is acknowledged and welcomed. The failure, to date, of the EU as an entity to achieve a higher status within the UN system is regrettable.
6. MEPs' place within the EU delegation, access to plenary/high-level events and relations with the EU delegation were, on the whole, satisfactory, albeit with some reservations and recommendations for future delegations.

II. MEETINGS & EVENTS

Sunday 19 September

15:30 Preparatory meeting of MEPs (hotel)

The chair of the EP delegation outlined the situation regarding MEPs' participation in the various plenary meetings, side events and other bilateral meetings over the course of the week. MEPs discussed the key points to be raised at these different meetings and the outcomes expected.

16:00 Meeting at the hotel reception for UN accreditation (UN building)

MEPs were obliged to queue on the street with NGOs etc. for over an hour and a half to obtain UN security passes. The MEPs' passes were labelled 'advisor' (these conditions did not apply to Commissioners).

17:00-18:00 Meeting with acting head of EU delegation to UN (EU delegation)



The Acting Head of the EU delegation to the UN received MEPs for a briefing. The meeting covered MEP access and status, as well as the current state of negotiations leading up to the adoption of the high-level event's outcome document.

The outcome document had recently been closed. It had achieved a broad consensus among member states, although the EU side was disappointed at the lack of focus and the failure to target specifically sub-Saharan Africa.

However, the EU had managed to include in the final document significant language on a number of its priorities, including notably human rights, governance, gender issues and health. Rich nations reiterated their commitment to 0.7% GNI for ODA by 2015 but did not go beyond that, stressing the need for alternative sources of financing for development.

MEPs also received a briefing on recent negotiations within the UN aimed at new arrangements allowing the EU to contribute more effectively to UN work, including

greater participation by the EU as a separate entity, in line with its post-Lisbon status (N.B. the EU currently has only observer status at the UN).

The negotiations had stumbled for technical and procedural reasons but will be re-launched over the coming months. Perhaps surprisingly, many of the EU's developing-country partners (including the ACP group and Pakistan) had failed to support the proposed changes.

18:00-19:30 Meeting with High-Representative Cathy Ashton (EU delegation)

The HRVP reported back on that day's UN high-level meeting on the recent floods in Pakistan. She noted that the EU, with €240 million, was the largest donor to Pakistan. Her priorities were ending the humanitarian disaster promptly, rebuilding institutions and facilitating trade links (i.e. through a lower trade tariff for Pakistan, in the hope of no WTO challenge).

MEPs and the HRVP also discussed Somalia, the Middle East and the external action service.

Monday 20 September

7:45-8:45 Breakfast meeting with Commissioner Piebalgs (EU delegation)

MEPs had a breakfast briefing with the Development Commissioner in advance of the summit launch. Mr Piebalgs stressed that achieving the MDGs is not just a question of giving more funds. We need to help developing countries move beyond the MDGs, through innovative sources of financing and new development models.

MEPs exchanged views with the Commissioner on: China's role in the MDG process, biodiversity and how to present a more positive image of development policy and developing nations in the media.

9:00-13:00 MDG summit opening (UN headquarters)

MEPs had three full access passes for plenary. The delegation was therefore split between plenary and the visitors gallery.

MEPs heard addresses from the general assembly co-chairs, the UN secretary-general, UNDP, the World Bank, IMF and other global institutions and UN agencies, followed by the member states (mostly heads of state and government or foreign ministers).

The tone was upbeat but realistic. Many speakers focused on the economic downturn, the need for fresh funding avenues and improving governance. Several EU leaders broached a possible financial transaction tax to fund development. The French president promised an extra 20% commitment to the global health fund.

13:00-15:00 Side event on "Domestic resource mobilisation" (UN headquarters)

Chair Mitchell was one of the many speakers at this event, whose panellists included Commissioner Piebalgs and the heads of the African Development Bank, the OECD, the World Bank, UNDP and the African Union.

The event addressed the fact that aid offers leverage for change but alone is not enough to bring about development. Speakers focused on ways to free up fresh funds in other ways.

Key messages targeted improving tax systems and fighting tax evasion and fraud, as well as strengthening governance and accountability in tax matters (with capacity-building support from donors). Low taxes that are easy to collect were advised.

Speakers identified a key challenge as expanding the tax base by extending the formal economy — including property ownership — and ensuring stability for investors (even more crucial than tax breaks).

The meeting also focused on the benefits of regional integration and trading blocs, with infrastructure to match. Customs unions do, of course, lead to an initial loss of revenues, which should be compensated.

16:30-17:30 Meeting with UNDP associate administrator Rebeca Grynspan and poverty reduction director Selim Jahan (UNDP headquarters)

UNDP outlined their acceleration framework roadmaps for scaling up progress towards the MDGs on the basis of current good practice.

Areas for special attention include boosting accountability (a current weak spot), supporting civil society and developing disaggregated data by regions, ethnicity, gender, etc. to focus on particularly vulnerable groups. UNDP also considered the successful EU/UNDP relationship and the BRICs shift towards joining the donor community.

MEPs focused on the need to communicate success, promote access to energy, empower women, foster agriculture and communicate development 'success stories'.

Tuesday 21 September

9:30-10:00 Meeting with Thomas Stelzer, UNDP assistant secretary general, department of economic and social affairs (UNDP headquarters)

The meeting looked at involving more effectively the private sector in the MDG agenda, at a time when north-south foreign investment has fallen by \$700 bn a year due to the crisis.

MEPs also discussed the role of NGOs and, especially, parliaments in holding governments to their MDG promises, as well as the cross-cutting issues of energy and migration.

11:15-11:45 Meeting with Robert Orr, UN assistant secretary general for policy coordination and strategic planning (UN headquarters)

MEPs heard about a number of positive developments, such as how the private sector was starting to sign up to the MDG agenda, how developing countries were taking more ownership of their MDG projects, how China was starting to engage constructively and how the UN was striving to talk directly to citizens through the media.

Mr Orr explicitly acknowledged the EU's leadership role on MDGs, welcoming Barroso's €1bn EDF MDG commitment, as well as the EU's annual billion-dollar contribution to UN agencies. He explained a number of strategic issues behind the recent failure to upgrade the EU's status within the UN system.

12:30-14:30 Lunch with President Barroso and Commissioner Piebalgs (EU delegation)

A useful and informal exchange of views held in a highly cordial atmosphere.

MEPs discussed the Commission president's €1bn MDG pledge and ongoing EU support for the MDGs. Nonetheless, even Europe is behind its targets on fighting poverty and we need "a sprint to the finish".

With 80% of citizens in favour of MDG spending, parliaments and the EP have a key role to play in shoring up public support for development. The Commission reacted favourably to MEPs' suggestion for an EU 'development award' to publicise and reward exceptional contributions in this field.

The financial transaction tax was discussed. Barroso anticipated a proposal along similar lines in the near future but warned of strong opposition from a number of member states to a new tax.

15:00-15:30 Meeting with Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, UN deputy secretary general (UN headquarters)

The deputy SG stressed the key role of parliamentarians in winning over public opinion, especially in times of economic downturn. Dr Migiro saw a key role for the EU in helping enhance accountability, governance, transparency and human rights within the MDG framework.

MEPs heard how attitudes to achieving the MDGs, including in Africa, have become more optimistic of late. Momentum must not be lost. Dr Migiro also focused on the increasingly important role of business and local government.

Wednesday 22 September

14:30-15:30 Meeting with Safiye Çağar, UNFPA director of information and external relations division (UNFPA headquarters)

The UN population fund representatives outlined their main activities: population and development issues; reproductive health (HIV/AIDS, contraception, family planning, child health, education); gender and human rights issues. UNFPA has been running since 1969 on a voluntary basis, both as regards countries of operation and funding. The EU contributes 90% of its budget, although EU funds have fallen away lately.

The discussion with MEPs focused mainly on abortion, female genital mutilation and the link between population explosions and climate change.

On abortion, UNFPA works within a globally-agreed UN framework (international conference on population and development). The agency treats abortion in the context of family planning, only where it is legal and safe and never as an alternative method of contraception.

UNFPA works with local communities to stamp out genital mutilation via a bottom-up approach. As regards population growth and climate change, MEPs learnt that rich nations (i.e. 10% of world population) account for 95% of global consumption and therefore the lion's share of the planet's climate change impact.

SIDE EVENTS

MEPs also attended the following meetings and side events:

Sunday 19 September	
Evening	Millennium Development Goals Awards 2010 (Millennium Campaign and UNOP) Participant: Birgit Schnieber-Jastram <i>Venue: Waldorf Astoria</i>
Monday 20 September	
15:00-18:00	Launch of two reports: --Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness in Africa 2010, and --Africa's Cooperation with New and Emerging Development Partners (OSAA/ECA/OECD) Participant: Birgit Schnieber-Jastram <i>Venue: Millennium Plaza Hotel</i>
15:00-17:00	World Development Report 2011 / Fragile States (WDR World Bank) Participant: Kriton Arsenis <i>Venue: UN HQ</i>
17:00-19:00	World's Women at the Centre of Achieving the MDGs (Denmark, Senegal and UNIFEM) Participant: Iva Zanichchi <i>Venue: UN HQ</i>
17:30-19:00	High-Level Side Event on Peacebuilding Needs in the Central African Republic Participant: Bill Newton Dunn <i>Venue: UN HQ</i>
18:00-21:30	Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Climate Change: Scaling Up Local Solutions to Achieve the MDGs (UNDP) Participant: Kriton Arsenis <i>Venue: American Museum of Natural History</i>
Tuesday 21 September	
7:30-8:45	Culture and Development (Unesco) Participant: Iva Zanichchi <i>Venue: UN HQ</i>
9:30-11:30	1,000 Days: Change a Life, Change the Future - Partnering to reduce Child Undernutrition (EUA, Ireland) Participant: Gay Mitchell <i>Venue: Intercontinental Barclay Hotel</i>
10:00-13:00	Scaling up Africa's Infrastructure to Reach the MDGs (World Bank) Participant: Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, <i>Venue: UN HQ</i>

10:30-11:00	Meeting with Commissioner Georgieva Participant: Kriton Arsenis <i>Venue: UN HQ</i>
15:00-17:00	Religion, Faith and the MDGs (Millennium Campaign, World Council for Religion & Peace, and Ecumenical Working Group Methodist Church) Participant: Gay Mitchell <i>Venue: UN HQ</i>
15:00-18:00	Leading Group on Innovative sources of financing for development (France, Belgium, Japan) Participants: Gay Mitchell, Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, Michael Cashman, Kriton Arsenis <i>Venue: UN HQ</i>
18:00-20:00	Saving Mothers and Children with Malaria Control: Count Down to the MDGs (Roll Back Malaria, IFRC and RCS) Participants: Iva Zanicchi, Michael Cashman <i>Venue: Helmsley Hotel</i>
Wednesday 22 September	
9:00-11:00	1.8 billion strong: young people driving the MDGs (UNFPA/IPPF) Participant: Michael Cashman <i>Venue: Helmsley Hotel</i>
10:00-13:00	Round table "Promoting sustainable development" Participant: Kriton Arsenis <i>Venue: UN HQ</i>
13:00-14:00	AIDS and MDGs (China/South Africa/UNAIDS) Participant: Michael Cashman <i>Venue: UN HQ</i>
13:15-14:30	The Central Role of Education for Development (Qatar, Unicef, Unesco and Save the Children) Participant: Iva Zanicchi <i>Venue: UN HQ</i>
13:15-15:00	Inclusive Finance for Development: A Path to the MDGs (United States and the Netherlands) Participant: Bill Newton Dunn <i>Venue: Helmsley Hotel</i>
14:00-16:00	Launch of the Joint Action Plan on Women and Children's Health (UK/SG) Participant: Michael Cashman <i>Venue: UN HQ</i>
15:30-17:00	Label us Able – Respect Diversity and Free the Full Potential of All Individuals (Finland) Participant: Birgit Schnieber-Jastram <i>Venue: Finish Consulate</i>
18:00-18:30	Meeting with Commissioner Potočník Participant: Kriton Arsenis <i>Venue: UN HQ</i>

PROGRAMME

Sunday 19 September

Arrival of the members in New York
Hotel check-in

Stay at: *St Giles Hotel Tuscany New York*
120 East 39th Street
New York City, NY 10016
Tel.: (212) 686 1600
Fax: (212) 519 8583

- 15:30 Preparatory meeting with MEPs (hotel)
- 16:00 Meeting at the hotel reception for UN accreditation
Note: The UN Pass and Identification Office is located in the UNITAR building on the corner of 45th Street and 1st Avenue. Contact: 212-963-7533
- 17:00-18:00 Brief Meeting with Acting Head of Delegation
Venue: EU Delegation, 20th floor
- 18:00-19:30 Brief Meeting with High Representative Ashton

Monday 20 September

- 7:45-8:45 Breakfast meeting with Commissioner Piebalgs
Venue: EU Delegation, 20th floor
- 9:00-13:00 Opening of the MDG Plenary Meeting
- Participants (Initial Speaker list):
- The two co-chairs
 - The secretary-General
 - US as host country
 - President of the ECOSOC
 - President of the World Bank
 - Managing Director of IMF
 - Director-General of WTO
 - SG of UN Conference on Trade and Development
 - UNDP Administrator
 - Chair of the UN Development Group
- Venue: UN General Assembly Hall*
N.B. to be followed from the listening room

- 13:00-15:00 Side event: "Domestic Resource Mobilisation: Achieving Development and the MDGs in a sustainable way"
- Participants:
 The two co-chairs: Andris Piebalgs and Donald Kaberuka (President AFDB)
 Panellists: Angel Gurría (OECD), Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (WB), Mr Ping (AUC). TBC: Mrs Clark (UNDP), Mr Niebel (German Federal Minister representing the ITC).
 Speakers:
 Mr Ablorh Quarcoo (African Tax Administration Forum); Mr Baker (Global Financial Integrity), Mr Andersson (BusinessEurope), Mr. Gay Mitchell.
- Venue: United Nations Delegates Dining Room (lunch served)
 Ground floor of the UN HQ building*
- 16:30-17:30 Meeting with Rebeca Grynspan, Associate Administrator, UNDP, and Selim Jahan, Director, Poverty Reduction Group, UNDP
Venue: UNDP, DC-1, 21st Floor

Tuesday 21 September

- 9:30-10:00 Meeting with Mr. Stelzer, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Venue: UN HQ, DC2 (2 UN Plaza, Room 1949)
- 11:15-11:45 Meeting with Mr. Robert Orr, Assistant Secretary General for Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning, Executive Office of Secretary-General, UN Secretariat
Venue: North Lawn Building (NLB) room 3004
- 12:30-14:30 Lunch with President Barroso
Venue: EU Delegation, 20th floor, EU DEL Buffet, room A
- 15:00-15:30 Meeting with Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary General, UN Secretariat
Venue: NLB, 3rd floor

Wednesday 22 September

- 14:30-15:30 Meeting with Safiye Çağar, Director of Information and External Relations Division, and Dr. Werner Haug, Director of Technical Division, UNFPA
Venue: Nafis Sadik Room, 19th floor of the UNFPA offices, 220 East 42 St