

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Development

2009/2000(INI)

19.2.2009

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the proposal for a recommendation to the Council on EU priorities for the
64th Session of the UN General Assembly
(2009/2000(INI))

Rapporteur: Glenys Kinnock

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- a) to exercise global leadership in galvanising international action to deliver on the MDG pledges in view of the growing evidence that the world is falling far short of the MDGs promise, and that over one billion people still live in extreme poverty, more than one billion people lack access to safe drinking water, 6 000 people die of AIDS each day and 750 million adults cannot read, ,
- b) to welcome the initiative to convene the September 2008 UN High-Level Event on the MDGs;
- c) to welcome the reaffirmation, at that meeting, of the EU's collective funding commitments for 2010 and 2015, but to express particular concern that some EU Member States are failing to honour these pledges, and that the share of GNI that Member States devote to Official Development Assistance has, on average, fallen since 2005,
- d) to support the 'MDG gap task force' initiative to monitor global commitments on aid, trade, debt relief and access to essential medicines and technology,
- e) to recognise that deep-rooted inequalities of opportunity based on gender, wealth, ethnicity and region are holding back progress towards achieving the MDGs, and to advocate that developed and developing country partners strengthen their focus on social justice and improved equity, by establishing 'equity targets' and reporting on progress in reducing unfair gaps in life chances,
- f). to ensure that, in the face of global economic slowdown, the global food crisis and global warming, the Council focuses on achieving the MDGs, and honouring funding pledges,
- g). to underline, in the context of deepening global recession, that developing countries could be set back by decades as a result of falling commodity prices, lower investment flows, financial instability, and a decline in remittances; to further recognise that the value of existing EU aid commitments will fall by nearly USD 12 billion a year, because they are expressed as a percentage of Member State GDP,
- h). to call for the urgent organisation of the high-level UN conference on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, which was agreed at the 2008 Doha Financing for Development conference,
- i) to welcome the inclusion of the MDGs on the agenda of the World Economic Forum in Davos, but to express its disappointment that the G20 statement barely referred to the world's poorest countries, and to ensure that developing countries will be given a voice at the G20 meeting due to be held in April 2009 which will discuss the reform of international financial institutions,

- j) to pursue discussions of the Business Call to Action initiative and the commitments to funding and supporting MDG efforts, including how this could be matched by an increase in accountability from the corporate sector,
- k) to advocate in tandem with all these initiatives, for a subscription to the Paris Principles of aid effectiveness, and to the Accra Agenda for Action, to improve the quality and delivery of aid,
- l) to use the occasion of the 64th General Assembly to report on the progress made towards meeting the benchmarks set out in the EU Agenda for Action on MDGs,
- m) to invite the Commission to report on the progress made in implementing MDG Contracts and to encourage other donors to deliver more of their aid on a long-term, predictable basis in the form of budget support,
- n) to communicate in the strongest terms to the European public the consequences of failure to achieve the MDGs not just for those most immediately affected, but for future international prosperity, stability and security.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	17.2.2009
Result of final vote	+ : 23 - : 0 0 : 0
Members present for the final vote	Alessandro Battilocchio, Thijs Berman, Thierry Cornillet, Corina Crețu, Alexandra Dobolyi, Fernando Fernández Martín, Alain Hutchinson, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Filip Kaczmarek, Glenys Kinnock, Maria Martens, Gay Mitchell, Luisa Morgantini, José Javier Pomés Ruiz, José Ribeiro e Castro, Toomas Savi, Frithjof Schmidt, Jürgen Schröder, Felekna Uca
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Manolis Mavrommatis, Renate Weber, Gabriele Zimmer