



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Development

2012/2253(INI)

25.2.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the recommendation to the EEAS and to the Council on the 2013 review of
the organisation and the functioning of the EEAS
(2012/2253(INI))

Rapporteur: Birgit Schnieber-Jastram

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:

1. Acknowledges that, since the European External Action Service (EEAS) is a relatively young organisation, insufficient time has passed to be able fully to assess some aspects of its organisation and functioning; expresses, nevertheless, its hope that the Mid-Term Review will assess the added value of the EEAS for EU development cooperation, in particular whether it has led to an improvement in the quality and effectiveness of policy-making and strategic programming, with full respect for the objectives of, and commitments made under, EU development policy as laid out in Article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and in the European Consensus on Development¹;
2. Reaffirms the importance of ensuring better coordination and good governance on development issues at the international level, in order to allow the EU to speak with one voice and gain visibility;
3. Recalls that the EEAS plays a major role in the planning and programming of the EU's bilateral development cooperation with partner countries and regions and is in charge of preparing, jointly with the Commission and under the responsibility of the Commissioner for Development Policy, all strategic, multiannual programming documents associated with the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) and the European Development Funds (EDF);
4. Encourages the EEAS and the Commission, despite the initial difficulties, to continue their efforts to coordinate more closely the development cooperation policies and crisis management structures of the Union and of its Member States; encourages them to promote such coordination further and to build on the positive experiences of the joint programming of development aid in the next programming cycle, starting in 2014;
5. Believes that the EU should serve as an example of good coordination to its development partners; furthermore, encourages the EEAS and the Commission to explore ways to become involved in triangular cooperation initiatives;
6. Encourages the Commission and the EEAS to improve further the balance of responsibilities between the two institutions in the field of development and to ensure that their respective staffing needs are met; calls in particular for a clearer delineation between the responsibilities of the EEAS and of the Commission when it comes to the implementation of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement;
7. Is of the opinion that the Council working parties on development cooperation, humanitarian and food aid, and cooperation with ACP states, would best be served by a continuation of the existing system of a rotating chairmanship held by Member State

¹ Recital 4, Council Decision of 26 July 2010 establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service (2010/427/EU).

representatives, bearing in mind the distinctive nature of these external policy areas and the important role the Member States have in them;

8. Reiterates, in this context, the need to ensure a balanced geographical and gender presence of nationals from all Member States among EEAS staff;
9. Stresses also the importance of EEAS training on gender-related issues; stresses that such training must raise general awareness of issues relating to gender and equality between women and men;
10. Reiterates its plea to the High Representative / Vice-President (HR/VP) and the EEAS to make Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) their clear priority; urges the Commission and the EEAS to devise a clear strategy to ensure PCD, inter alia by giving PCD a more prominent place in the EU's policy dialogue with partner country governments, parliaments, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders, by including PCD in a credible and operational way in strategic programming documents, by participating in the preparation of the next rolling PCD Work Programme, and by developing a PCD training programme for all new EEAS staff;
11. Points to the potential tension between PCD and the concept of a 'comprehensive approach' to crisis management outside the EU; urges the EEAS and the Commission to make sure that the 'comprehensive approach' does not undermine the specific objectives and principles of development cooperation or divert scarce resources away from poverty reduction; similarly, insists that EU humanitarian aid is not a crisis management tool, and reminds the EEAS of its commitment¹ to promote the fulfilment of the objectives of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid;
12. Calls on Catherine Ashton, Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR), to sign the European Consensus on Development;
13. Welcomes the fact that the VP/HR has addressed the Committee on Development on an annual basis, as a significant step to improving accountability and the exchange of information on development issues; encourages the VP/HR and the EEAS to reflect on further ways to enhance their accountability to Parliament, including by mandating the competent minister of the rotating Presidency to speak on the VP/HR's behalf on issues relating to the Council's position on EU development cooperation policy.
14. Encourages the EEAS to enhance its role in international negotiations covering political and external policy issues, and in particular to use the tools of diplomacy available to the EEAS in order to promote the International Criminal Court (ICC), to remind third countries – with special emphasis on developing countries – of the need for them to support the ICC and to sign or ratify its constituent act if they have not yet done so, and to include in agreements with third countries binding clauses that require them to cooperate with the ICC, or indeed to impose restrictions on persons against whom proceedings have been initiated in the ICC.

¹ Recital 4, Council Decision of 26 July 2010 establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service (2010/427/EU).

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	19.2.2013
Result of final vote	+: 26 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Thijs Berman, Michael Cashman, Ricardo Cortés Lastra, Nirj Deva, Leonidas Donskis, Mikael Gustafsson, Filip Kaczmarek, Michał Tomasz Kamiński, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Gay Mitchell, Norbert Neuser, Jean Roatta, Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, Michèle Striffler, Alf Svensson, Keith Taylor, Eleni Theocharous, Patrice Tirolien, Anna Záborská
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Philippe Boulland, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Isabella Lövin, Gesine Meissner, Bart Staes
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	George Lyon