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Committee on Development

2005/2241(INI)

21.2.2006

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on a stronger partnership between the European Union and Latin America
(2005/2241(INI))

Draftsman: Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez

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:

- having regard to the Joint Statement by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission entitled "The European Consensus on Development",
- A. whereas the EU is the biggest development cooperation and humanitarian aid donor in Latin America,
- B. whereas the primary and overarching objective of EU development cooperation is the eradication of poverty in the context of sustainable development, including pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)¹,
- C. whereas the number of people living in poverty in Latin America amounted to 227 million in 2003, which is equivalent to 44.4% of the population²,
- D. whereas there are wide disparities of income between Latin American countries, ranging from Low Income Countries (LICs) to upper Middle Income Countries (MICs), and also huge inequality within countries where many pockets of desperate poverty remain,
- E. acknowledging the notable effort made by certain Latin American countries, within whose societies significant progress has been made towards achieving the Millennium Development Objectives;
- F. greatly welcoming the activities of those countries under South-South solidarity and cooperation programmes, which are having notable effects in the fields of healthcare, education and action to combat disability in the Caribbean, in the least-developed countries of Latin America and even in Africa;
- G. deeming the fact that the Ibero-American Conference of Nations has been set up as a permanent institution to be of great importance to the EU's involvement in the development of Latin America;
- 1. Stresses that the overarching objective of EU development cooperation - the eradication of poverty in the context of sustainable development, including the pursuit of the MDGs - must guide Community and Member State development cooperation activities in all Latin American countries;
- 2. Supports the Commission's intention to make social cohesion, in the context of poverty eradication, the priority issue in its aid and development policy for Latin

¹ Text taken from "The European Consensus on Development", Joint Statement by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission.

² Figures from the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

America and insists that this be centred on the reduction of social inequalities and the inclusion of groups that are currently marginalised from mainstream society and excluded from opportunities;

3. Stresses that the principles of aid effectiveness, national ownership, partnership, policy coherence, coordination, harmonisation, alignment with the recipient country system and results orientation, as defined in the European Consensus on Development and the Paris Declaration Commitments, must be applied to cooperation with all developing countries;
4. Welcomes the intention of the Commission to target the greater part of poverty-reduction funds at LICs and lower MICs, but insists that actions also address social inequality, poverty and social exclusion in the other countries of the region;
5. Recommends that cooperation in the fields of basic education and basic health, which are key to the achievement of the MDGs, should be included and given high priority in the development programme;
6. Considers useful the building of an EU-Latin American and the Caribbean common area of higher education but stresses that special attention must be also paid to basic education to meet the needs of the poorest sectors of Latin America society;
7. Welcomes the commitment of the Commission to step up cooperation to improve governance in Latin America and points to the usefulness of capacity-building as a tool to achieve this objective;
8. Stresses the need to ensure the sustainability of Latin American development and recognises the value of the meetings between Environment Ministers proposed by the Commission but insists that tangible support also be offered via development actions;
9. Recommends that the European Union - as regards its development-cooperation policies relating to Latin America - coordinate its activities with the Ibero-American Conference of Nations and refer to this European/Latin American body when deciding upon and pursuing those activities;
10. Agrees that aid be tailored to the needs of the countries concerned; notes, however, that some proposed cooperation sectors are of more urgent priority to donors than to beneficiaries, such as migration, counter-terrorism and combating illicit drugs; insists that cooperation in such areas must not be to the detriment of poverty-focused measures;
11. Emphasises the need for greater cooperation with Latin American countries which have not only succeeded within their own societies in progressing towards achievement of the Millennium Development Objectives but are also playing a leading role in generating extensive South-South cooperation and mutual support involving other countries in the Caribbean and the rest of Latin America by using their own human and economic resources to implement ambitious programmes in the fields of education, healthcare, communication and action to combat disability;

12. Points out that that budget support is most effective when targeted at specific sectors; insists that minimum conditions of public finance management be a prerequisite for all budget support and that accompanying measures always be included;
13. Welcomes the support of the Commission for setting up an EU-Latin America transatlantic assembly, as called for by the European Parliament.

PROCEDURE ⁽¹⁾

Title	on a stronger partnership between the European Union and Latin America
Procedure number	2005/2241(INI)
Committee responsible	AFET
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	DEVE 15.12.2005
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez 25.1.2006
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	25.1.2006
Date adopted	21.2.2006
Result of final vote	+: [9] –: [0] 0: [0]
Members present for the final vote	Danutė Budreikaitė, Thierry Cornillet, Alexandra Dobolyi, Michael Gahler, Glenys Kinnock, Maria Martens, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Gay Mitchell, Luisa Morgantini, Józef Pinior, Pierre Schapira, Frithjof Schmidt, Jürgen Schröder, Feleknas Uca
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	John Bowis, Milan Gaľa, Fiona Hall, Linda McAvan, Manolis Mavrommatis, Karin Scheele, Anne Van Lancker, Anders Wijkman, Zbigniew Zaleski, Gabriele Zimmer
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	
Comments (available in one language only)	