

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Development

2008/2186(DEC)

18.2.2009

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the European Union general budget for the financial year 2007
(SEC(2008)2359 - C6-0415/2008 - 2008/2186(DEC))

Section III - Commission

Rapporteur: Thijs Berman

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. whereas 2007 was the first year of the implementation of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI),
1. Draws the attention to the Commission's commitment¹ to endeavour to ensure that by 2009 a benchmark of 20 % of its allocated assistance is dedicated to basic and secondary education and basic health; calls on the Commission to provide detailed information on how this benchmark will be met through projects, programmes and budget support; calls for greater coherence between the Thematic, Country and Regional Strategy Papers in the areas of health and education, in particular when aid is provided via budget support;
 2. Stresses that priority must be given to the enrolment of children from hard-to-reach groups in countries with critical MDG indicators, including disabled children;
 3. Urges the Commission to prioritise support to partner countries to develop parliamentary control and audit capacities, in particular when aid is provided via budget support, and invites the Commission to report regularly on progress achieved;
 4. Points out that due attention must be paid to the sustainability of the Commission's interventions, including the formulation of a clear exit strategy, which does not compromise results, and monitoring of implementation; considers that the enhanced evaluation of results represents a major factor for ensuring the democratic legitimacy of EU development cooperation;
 5. Welcomes the adoption in 2007 of the EU Code of Conduct (CoC) on Complementarity and Division of Labour in Development Policy geared towards enhancing cooperation and coordination between the Commission and the Member States; calls on the Commission to redouble its efforts to ensure genuine implementation of the CoC, including by addressing persisting problems in the best interests of the partner countries;
 6. Takes the view that the consultation of civil society and local authorities prior to drawing up Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) under the DCI was not sufficient to satisfy the legal obligation established under Article 19(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1905/2006, namely that "strategy papers shall, in principle, be based on a dialogue with the partner country or region which involves civil society and regional and local authorities"; considers, in this respect, the involvement of national parliaments in partner countries indispensable for achieving genuine ownership of the process; urges the Commission to make every effort to improve dialogue with these bodies at the different stages of the programming process.

¹ Commission Declaration concerning Art. 5 DCI, Annex to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament of 24 October 2006 (COM(2006)0628).

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	17.2.2009
Result of final vote	+: 24 -: 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, Feleknas Uca
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Manolis Mavrommatis, Renate Weber, Gabriele Zimmer
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Emilio Menéndez del Valle