

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Development

2008/2073(INI)

17.2.2009

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on the impact of the Lisbon Treaty on the development of the institutional
balance of the European Union
(2008/2073(INI))

Rapporteur: Renate Weber

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Welcomes the fact that Lisbon Treaty stipulates that the "Union's development cooperation policy and that of the Member States complement and reinforce each other" and that the primary objective of this policy is "the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty" and stresses that development cooperation is an autonomous and distinctive policy with defined specific objectives;
2. Underlines that the Member States and the Union should strive towards enhanced donor coordination and a better division of labour, which must contribute to greater aid effectiveness and calls on the EU institutions to play a greater coordinating role;
3. Welcomes the fact that the Lisbon Treaty maintains the co-decision procedure in the area of development cooperation; stresses that this means that the Parliament must make full use of its powers to shape the content of the regulations and of its right to democratic scrutiny over all aspects of EU development cooperation policy;
4. Notes that the European Council of 11 and 12 December 2008 took the political decision to maintain the number of Commissioners at one per Member State and requests the new President of the Commission to respect, in the allocation of portfolios, the necessary specificity of development cooperation as an autonomous policy domain;
5. Welcomes the creation of the new high-profile position of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy but notes that there is a risk of prioritisation of external relations and security policies at the expense of the marginalisation of development priorities; recalls that the Lisbon Treaty puts development policy at the same level as other external policies;
6. Stresses that the staff of the European External Action Service should include a sufficient number of development experts;
7. Believes that the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty is an opportunity to revise the institutional architecture of the European Commission and improve the division of competences between its Directorate General for Development (DG DEV) and its Directorate General for External Relations (DG RELEX), aimed at increasing efficiency and coherence, namely by making DG DEV responsible for all development cooperation policies and programmes in all geographical areas (not only ACP, but also countries which are beneficiaries of the Development Cooperation Instrument) and by incorporating EuropeAid into DG DEV; in this context, calls for increased cooperation between DG DEV and DG RELEX to pursue the overarching goals of EU external action;
8. Insists that, in order to ensure policy coherence for development, there is a continued need for a specific directorate general for development at the administrative level, responsible for policy setting, advice and management of EU development cooperation.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	17.2.2009
Result of final vote	+: 20 -: 0 0: 3
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