



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Development

2011/2030(INI)

23.3.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the proposal for a European Parliament recommendation to the Council on EU priorities for the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (2011/2030(INI))

Rapporteur: Michèle Striffler

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its draft recommendation:

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- a) to exercise a strong leadership, following the 2010 UN Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, in order to promote the following objectives:
 - reinforce the determination to meet the targets by 2015,
 - start a discussion on how the international community's strong commitment to sustainable development and poverty eradication can be sustained and continued after 2015, basing this on the lessons learnt and mistakes made in the ongoing attempts to achieve the MDGs,
 - support statebuilding, good democratic governance and conflict prevention and take necessary measures to fight corruption, tax avoidance, tax evasion and capital flight,
 - call on the UN General Assembly to put in place a binding mechanism to circumvent illicit capital flight and tax evasion from developing countries in order to guarantee full transparency in international financial transactions,
 - give priority to addressing tax-related aspects of development by supporting effective and viable tax systems in developing countries to ensure a sustainable source of development financing with the long-term objective of replacing foreign aid dependency,
 - improve the implementation of innovative financing mechanisms, such as a financial transaction tax, for meeting the MDGs and climate change goals;

Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

- b) to address the current farmland acquisition issue, particularly in LDCs, which is led by government-backed foreign investors and, if not handled properly, threatens local food security and may lead to serious and far-reaching social unrest;
- c) to give priority to food security, productive capacity in agriculture, infrastructure, capacity building, inclusive economic growth, favourable markets and new businesses, access to technologies, and human and social development in the LDCs, in accordance with the Programme of Action adopted at the IV UNLDC;
- d) to ensure the efficacy of monitoring and audit mechanisms connected with the implementation of the UNLDC Programme of Action;
- e) to assure that long-term and sustainable development remains a comprehensive and coherent endeavour in the LDCs' and their partners' action plans;

Fighting inequalities

- f) to ensure that middle-income countries with high inequalities continue to receive support and funding to reduce poverty and improve social cohesion, as most poor people live in middle-income countries;
- g) to support the reduction of gender inequalities and women's empowerment in development, as women are disproportionately represented among the poor;

Aid effectiveness

- h) to examine how the aid effectiveness agenda can be transformed into a development effectiveness agenda, devising in this context concrete strategies with respect to fragile states and post-conflict environments;
- i) to make all the objectives of the Accra Agenda a reality, ensuring the effective engagement of parliaments, civil society organisations and local authorities;
- j) to ensure that social, political, economic and environmental challenges are addressed coherently;

Right to Development (RTD)

- k) to support the 1986 UN Declaration on the Right to Development which stipulates that 'States have the duty to co-operate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development ... realize their rights and fulfil their duties in such a manner as to promote a new international economic order based on sovereign equality, interdependence, mutual interest ...';
- l) to keep the Right to Development (RTD) high on the agenda, given that this year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Right to Development;
- m) to recommend consolidation of the findings of the High Level Task Force, in order to ensure an effective implementation of RTD;
- n) to take appropriate measures to make RTD an integral part of development policy, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and UN human rights' treaty bodies and mechanisms;

International humanitarian aid

- o) to establish an international humanitarian aid agenda to address the breadth of humanitarian challenges, the increase in humanitarian needs and the complexity of humanitarian situations;
- p) to strengthen worldwide humanitarian funding and improve the functioning and effectiveness of the humanitarian system;
- q) to take joint international initiatives to strengthen the interaction between humanitarian

aid and development and the linking of relief, rehabilitation and development.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	22.3.2011
Result of final vote	+: 26 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Thijs Berman, Michael Cashman, Corina Crețu, Nirj Deva, Leonidas Donskis, Charles Goerens, Catherine Grèze, András Gyürk, Eva Joly, Filip Kaczmarek, Franziska Keller, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Gay Mitchell, Norbert Neuser, Bill Newton Dunn, Maurice Ponga, Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, Alf Svensson, Eleni Theoharous, Patrice Tirolien, Ivo Vajgl, Anna Záborská, Iva Zanicchi, Gabriele Zimmer
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Proinsias De Rossa, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Santiago Fisas Ayxela, Isabella Lövin, Judith Sargentini, Jan Zahradil
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Josefa Andrés Barea