

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5151/06
by Margrietus van den Berg (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Inadequate participation by civil society and non-governmental organisations

Following a detailed investigation, Eurostep reports that the Commission is having very little success in involving civil society and non-governmental organisations in the current programming process for development aid. Unless countermeasures are taken, this will result in a serious lack of ownership of country strategy papers (CSP) on the part of our partner countries.

Is the Commission aware of this lack of a serious and systematic consultation process, in practice, on CSP programming?

Is the Commission aware of the provisions of the Cotonou Agreement in which reference is made to participation by various social actors, including civil society organisations?

Does the Commission agree that (1) participation by various social actors in partner countries, (2) ownership and (3) transparency, in both CSP programming and CSP implementation, are crucial for the success of European development aid?

Is the Commission willing - also with a view to implementing the Development Cooperation Instrument and the Cotonou Agreement - to ensure that civil society organisations in our partner countries are systematically involved in and consulted on CSP programming and implementation and that the process is clearly followed up and transparent?