



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2013/0238(COD)

24.10.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Development

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council
on the European Year of Development (2015)
(COM(2013)0509 – C7-0229/2013 – 2013/0238(COD))

Rapporteur: Barbara Matera

PA_Legam

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a decision Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) The European Union has been providing development cooperation aid since 1957 and is the largest donor of official development aid in the world.

Amendment

(2) The European Union has been providing development cooperation aid since 1957 and is the largest donor of official development aid in the world. ***EU external action needs to be visible and clear concerning the role and empowerment of women and girls in third countries.***

Amendment 2

Proposal for a decision Recital 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3a) The European consensus on development recognises gender equality as a goal in its own right and identifies it as one of the five essential principles of development cooperation.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a decision Recital 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3a) Considering the EU legislative framework and the fact that the European Year for Development 2015 can generate greater public awareness and put the EU's international development role in the spotlight, gender dimension should be taken into serious consideration.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a decision Recital 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3a) Gender-based violence, including domestic violence, prostitution, trafficking and female genital mutilation remains a widespread global phenomenon that has serious negative effects on the lives and health of women and girls, as well as significant socio-economic consequences. Rape and other forms of sexual violence are perpetrated in many contexts and are also increasingly used as a tactic of war to humiliate and dominate.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a decision Recital 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3a) The disproportionate impact of poverty on women and girls is the result

of systematic discrimination that disfigures societies and deprives millions of people from their most basic rights, including their access to water and proper sanitation, education and satisfactory health care.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a decision Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) The fight against poverty *remains the primary objective of the European Union's development policy, as laid down in Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union and Article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.*

Amendment

(5) The fight against poverty *and all forms of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression should be the primary objective of the European Union's development policy. The allocation of financial development aid should be subject to the upholding of these universal values.*

Amendment 7

Proposal for a decision Recital 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5a) The EU should ensure, by means of development aid conditionality, that third countries protect women and girls from torture. The Council should suspend aid to countries practising torture and divert aid to support victims.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a decision Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) In 2000, the international community undertook to take concrete steps by 2015 to fight poverty, with the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals, objectives which were accepted by the Union and its Member States.

Amendment

(6) In 2000, the international community undertook to take concrete steps by 2015 to fight poverty, with the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals, objectives which were accepted by the Union and its Member States. ***The promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women are seen as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to encourage sustainable development.***

Amendment 9

**Proposal for a decision
Recital 6 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6a) The Millennium Development Goals called for no individual or nation to be denied the opportunity to benefit from development and moreover that equal rights and opportunities to be assured for both men and women.

Amendment 10

**Proposal for a decision
Recital 8**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(8) Continued support for development cooperation is vital in a rapidly changing world. Around 1.3 billion people still live in extreme income poverty and the human development needs of many more are still not being met. Inequalities within countries have increased in most parts of the world. The natural environment is under

(8) Continued support for development cooperation is vital in a rapidly changing world. Around 1.3 billion people still live in extreme income poverty and the human development needs of many more are still not being met. ***It should be seriously taken into consideration in the EU development assistance programmes that women and***

increasing pressure and the developing countries are hit particularly hard by the effects of climate change. These challenges are universal and inter-related and need to be addressed by all countries acting together.

girls are most vulnerable to poverty, hunger, illiteracy, illness and all kinds of exploitation. Inequalities within countries have increased in most parts of the world. The natural environment is under increasing pressure and the developing countries are hit particularly hard by the effects of climate change. These challenges are universal and inter-related and need to be addressed by all countries acting together.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a decision

Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) 2015 should be an emblematic and pivotal year, being the last year for achieving the collectively agreed Millennium Development Goals and thus offering a unique opportunity to take stock of the international commitments from 2000. 2015 will also be the year in which a major international decision should be taken on the development framework that will replace the MDG framework over the coming decades.

Amendment

(11) 2015 should be an emblematic and pivotal year, being the last year for achieving the collectively agreed Millennium Development Goals and thus offering a unique opportunity to take stock of the international commitments from 2000, ***including commitments containing a strong focus on gender equality and women's empowerment which are essential to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).*** 2015 will also be the year in which a major international decision should be taken on the development framework that will replace the MDG framework over the coming decades.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a decision

Recital 11 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(11a) With a view to achieving the MDG and drawing up the post-2015 development framework, the European Year of Development should highlight – and put into practice – the vital role that women can play in development, also in order to reduce food and nutritional insecurity, by promoting, in parallel, women’s participation in economic activities, in particular in agriculture and the rural economy.

Amendment 13

Proposal for a decision Recital 13 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(13a) The European Year of Development should raise awareness on all forms of gender discrimination faced by women and girls in various regions, particularly in terms of access to education, jobs, and health systems as well as on forced marriage, sexual exploitation and genital mutilation and other malpractices.

Amendment 14

Proposal for a decision Recital 17 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(17a) The 2007 Commission's Communication on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development Cooperation and the related Council conclusions called for the promotion of

objectives and indicators on gender equality by assigning clear tasks and responsibilities to lead donors to this effect in all sectors.

Amendment 15

Proposal for a decision Article 2 – indent 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

- to stimulate the active interest of EU citizens and to strengthen the lead role of the EU in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in development, to raise awareness and foster debate about cooperation and combating violence against women, protection of women in armed conflicts and in times of war as well as for women's participation in peace-building processes, post-conflict reconstruction, empowerment of women through land-ownership, economic activities in SMEs as well as in political engagement;

Amendment 16

Proposal for a decision Article 4 – paragraph 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4a. The Commission shall ensure that all its development and aid projects are effective and not duplicated.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a decision Article 8 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Where appropriate, and without prejudice to their objectives and budget, existing programmes which contribute to the promotion of development may support the European Year.

Amendment

4. Where appropriate, and without prejudice to their objectives and budget, existing programmes which contribute to the promotion of development may support the European Year ***provided that there is no duplication.***

PROCEDURE

Title	European Year of Development (2015)						
References	COM(2013)0509 – C7-0229/2013 – 2013/0238(COD)						
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	DEVE 10.9.2013						
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	FEMM 10.9.2013						
Rapporteur Date appointed	Barbara Matera 10.9.2013						
Date adopted	21.10.2013						
Result of final vote	<table> <tr> <td>+: </td><td>24</td></tr> <tr> <td>–: </td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td>0: </td><td>0</td></tr> </table>	+:	24	–:	0	0:	0
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Members present for the final vote	Regina Bastos, Marije Cornelissen, Edite Estrela, Iratxe García Pérez, Zita Gurmai, Mikael Gustafsson, Mary Honeyball, Silvana Koch-Mehrin, Ulrike Lunacek, Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, Norica Nicolai, Antonyia Parvanova, Joanna Senyszyn, Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska, Britta Thomsen, Inês Cristina Zuber						
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Minodora Cliveti, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Mariya Gabriel, Nicole Kiil-Nielsen, Christa Kläß, Antigoni Papadopoulou, Angelika Werthmann						