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Committee on Development

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on Institutional aspects of the creation of a European service for external
actions"
(2004/2207(INI))

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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:

Recital D

- D. if the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Constitution’) enters into force as scheduled in November 2006, the ‘Union Minister for Foreign Affairs’ (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Foreign Minister’) will be responsible for making ***all aspects of*** the Union’s external action ***consistent***; in keeping with that task he or she will, in his or her capacity as Commission vice-president, exercise the Commission’s external relations responsibilities and at the same time implement the Union’s common foreign and security policy as instructed by the Council (‘double hatting’), ***and take responsibility for ensuring that the various fields of foreign affairs, such as development cooperation policy and humanitarian aid, which are distinct components of the Union’s external action, are not subordinated to the common foreign and security policy or the common security and defence policy and that the competences assigned in those fields by the Constitution are respected (Articles I-28 and III-308),***

Recital D a (new)

- Da. noting that the acquis stipulates, and the Constitution reiterates, that all policies that have an impact on developing countries should take into account the development objective, and the objective of development cooperation policy is unequivocally defined as the eradication of poverty (Article III-316),***

Recital D b (new)

- Db. stressing that Articles III-316 and III-321 of the Constitution provide a clear legal base for development aid and humanitarian assistance and reflect their integrity, inasmuch as they are Union competences to which the co-decision procedure applies, and these policy areas are defined as specific policy instruments with independent objectives, which, inter alia, guarantee the neutrality of humanitarian assistance,***

Recital L a (new)

- La. the Commissioners for Trade, and Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid will remain responsible for the policy areas of Community competence, and for the Directorates General and services implementing those policy areas, while cooperating closely with the Minister of Foreign Affairs to ensure consistency in the field of external action (Article III-292(3)),***

Recital L b (new))

- Lb. the Union’s external policy should build on the Union’s strong relations with developing countries, which are founded on its status as the largest collective donor of Official Development Assistance, the source of over half of all official humanitarian***

aid and the main trading partner for developing countries,

Recital N

- N. establishment of the EEAS will help to avoid overlapping, inefficiency, and wasteful use of *human and financial* resources in the area of the Union's external action, *while safeguarding the role of different external policy fields such as development cooperation, humanitarian aid and external trade as distinct components of the Union's external action and not subordinate to the common foreign and security policy or the European security and defence policy,*

Paragraph 3 a (new)

- 3a. Notes that Articles III-316 and III-321 of the Constitution reflect the integrity of development cooperation policy and humanitarian aid, inasmuch as they are Union competences to which the co-decision procedures applies, and affirms the principle of policy coherence which dictates that all policies that affect developing countries should take the development objectives into account;*

Paragraph 5, point (e)

- (e) the Commission delegations in non-member countries and the Council liaison offices should be merged to form 'Union embassies' and headed by EEAS officials, who would take their instructions from, and be subject to the supervision of, the Foreign Minister *or, where appropriate, the competent Commissioner,* and administratively would belong to the Commission staff, on the understanding that such an arrangement would not prevent specialist advisers to the embassies being recruited from other Commission or Parliament DGs;

Paragraph 5 a (new))

- 5a. Emphasises that the establishment of the EEAS will help the Commission to continue and accelerate the reform and simplification of the Directorate-Generals of the RELEX family, and that – as part of this exercise – responsibility for both development cooperation policy and the implementation of that policy needs to be reunited under the Commissioner of Development Cooperation;*

Paragraph 5 b (new)

- 5b. Emphasises that the current practice of splitting up policy formulation, programming and implementation in the field of development co-operation policy should be put to an end, so as to increase the efficiency of EU external action, as well as to develop functioning cooperation mechanisms between RELEX services in the preparation of the EEAS and the service responsible for development cooperation;*

Paragraph 6 a (new)

- 6a. Welcomes the decentralisation of EU external aid management by the assignation of increased responsibility to the heads of delegations, and calls for this process to be continued;*

Paragraph 6 b (new)

6b. Stresses the need for future Union delegations to conduct regular dialogue with NGOs, thereby incorporating NGOs' specific field expertise into EU projects;

Paragraph 8

8. Considers that it is necessary, going beyond the steps already taken in this area, to set up a European diplomatic college to provide Union officials to be employed in external relations and, moreover, officials from the Member States with appropriate training in consular and legation procedures, diplomacy, ***(deletion)*** international relations, ***development cooperation, humanitarian assistance, international trade and human rights*** and to impart knowledge of the history, ***and workings of the institutions*** of the European Union;

Paragraph 8 a (new)

8a. Stresses that the EEAS should not be funded from budget resources under heading 4 that are intended for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and recalls that on 21 February 2005 the Committee on Development recommended that the Parliament reject the Commission's proposal for a single financial regulation for co-operation with both OECD countries and developing countries;