

COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT

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HEARING OF JUTTA URPILAINEN COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE (International Partnerships)

TUESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2019
BRUSSELS

1-002-0000

IN THE CHAIR: TOMAS TOBÉ*Chair of the Committee on Development**(The hearing opened at 9.00)*

Tomas Tobé, *Chair DEVE*. – I would like to welcome everyone to this hearing with the Committee on Development and the Commissioner-designate, Jutta Urpilainen from Finland. We have three hours in front of us and therefore we should jump right into it. First of all, a warm welcome to Jutta Urpilainen, the Commissioner-designate for International Partnership. It is great to finally start this hearing and I know that the Commissioner-designate is looking forward to this as much as we in the Committee are.

Before we start, I would like, just quickly, to go through the formalities and the setting for this hearing. First, in line with the guidelines from the approval of the Commission, Parliament evaluates the Commissioner-designate on the basis of their general competence, European commitment and personal independence. It also assesses the knowledge of their prospective portfolio and their communication skills. Before the hearing, Ms Urpilainen had replied in writing to a preparatory questionnaire. The written answers have been distributed to Members in all languages. We do note that the Committee on Legal Affairs has raised no objection to our holding this hearing. The structure of this hearing is as follows: the Commissioner-designate is invited to make an opening oral statement of no longer than 15 minutes. She will then also have five minutes at the end of the meeting for a closing statement. After the introduction, there will be time for 25 questions from Members of Parliament. The debate will be held in the format of slots of five minutes each, with one minute for questions and two minutes for answers from the candidate Commissioner. In the case of follow-up questions, the question should not be longer than one minute and with one minute also for the reply. The first round of seven questions will be asked by representatives of political groups. The second round of 18 questions is based on the overall distribution of questions among the political groups, including a representative from the non-attached Members. I would like to remind Members to keep strictly within their allocated speaking time. Today we have interpretation in 23 languages. All speakers can, therefore, use their own language, but please try to speak slowly so that we have a good interpretation. The debate will be streamed live on Parliament's website and it will also be possible to access a video recording of the hearing.

Before giving the floor to the Commissioner-designate, I would like to say a few words and draw attention to a number of issues that are very important to this Committee and on which we hope to see great collaboration from the Commission.

First, one of the big reforms we have in front of us is the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). We do hope that they will bring increased efficiency and visibility to EU development policy but also bring a substantial role for the European Parliament.

Secondly, a roadmap for comprehensive Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation and sustainable development with timelines, objectives and concrete measures are of great importance. We are already one third of the way through the timeline for the implementation of the SDGs and, therefore, we are eager to start working on the strategy. Last but not least, the post-Cotonou Agreement: in two resolutions, the European Parliament has insisted on the inclusion of

a reinforced parliamentary dimension through a strengthened ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. We do look forward to finding out how this fundamental demand from Parliament is to be met in the context of the negotiations on the institutional set-up of the future agreement.

With that said, once again, a warm welcome to the Commissioner-designate. The floor is yours.

1-004-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – Honourable Chair, honourable Members of the European Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a great honour and pleasure to be here with you as Commissioner-designate. In what follows I want to tell you who I am, what my goals are and how I think we can achieve these goals together.

I have to admit that I never imagined that I would be here on this bench when I campaigned for Finnish membership of the European Union at the age of 19, nor when I participated in the board meetings of the European Social Democratic Youth or when I co-founded and chaired a pro-European youth organisation in Finland, nor when I did my Erasmus exchange in Vienna and studied music with my fellow Europeans.

Yet it was during those times when I developed my strong European identity. It was during those times that I developed my strong belief that European integration is good for Europe and good for the world. It is my European identity and my belief in integration that have guided me to this day – from my political life as a parliamentarian, Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister – to my life as a mother and a worker in a civil society and my reasoned role as a special representative on peace mediation.

It is my European identity and my belief in an ever-closer Union that have led me to this moment, where, with your approval and consent, I hope to become a Member of the College of European Commissioners.

So, dear Members of the European Parliament, you can believe me that I sit here in front of you inspired, but also humble. Humble as a true believer in representative democracy.

Dear Members of the European Parliament, major trends reshape our world and are impacting on us all – climate change, digitalisation, migration and mobility, and inequalities, to name but a few.

Having served in civil society organisations as well as in parliamentary governmental work on foreign and development issues, I am committed to fighting inequality, supporting least-developed countries and promoting sustainable development.

As Deputy Prime Minister, I volunteered to chair the National Commission for Sustainable Development. I found it extremely important to bring together different ministries and stakeholders. It is only together that we can really achieve important goals.

Now, the President-elect has chosen the same way to proceed. In the mission letters, she has stated that the College as a whole is responsible for the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. I am proud of this holistic approach, and I intend to support fully this shared exercise in both internal and external policies. I am convinced that Agenda 2030 is a golden opportunity for Europe.

The European Commissioner for International Partnerships delivers on the implementation of SDGs in the world. My ambition is to eradicate poverty through international cooperation and development support. Our global responsibility is set out in the Treaties and in our alliance of

values of human rights and human dignity. My ambition is to do it in a strategic and effective manner, ensuring it evolves with new global realities.

Delivering on SDGs serves also our EU interests. We are talking about the sustainability of our planet. We are talking about human insecurity driving people to conflicts and forced migration.

Chair and honourable Members, before I entered politics I worked as teacher, so education is close to my heart. A sustainable, inclusive and equal world cannot be built without quality education for all. Education can help us cope with some of today's and tomorrow's challenges and make our trends.

Think about the power of education to change behaviours on the environment or climate change, or the role of education in preparing future labour markets for the digital age. My commitment to the 20% target for human development in the new financial instrument is therefore clear.

There are different kinds of needs – fragile areas definitely need our attention. So does, for example, basic education, early childhood education and education of young girls. And this brings me to a more personal point.

It is my conviction that educating and empowering women and girls is the precondition for creating truly inclusive societies. I know what it means to break glass ceilings, as the first female Chair of the Social Democratic Party of Finland and as my country's first ever female Commissioner-designate. So let me assure you today of my deep commitment to prioritising gender equality and mainstreaming it in all our policies and programmes.

I will focus on SDGs, fighting inequality and poverty eradication – but how? We need to design, based on priorities, modern country strategies and modern regional strategies that will contribute to delivering the Sustainable Development Goals. Such initiatives need the right funding.

By finalising negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework, we can show partners that we are serious about improving the lives of people. And I intend to work with you and others to facilitate an agreement on the neighbourhood development and international cooperation instrument.

In today's world, traditional measures of aid delivery are not enough. They are not enough to meet the SDGs. They are not enough to forge the kind of partnerships that are fit for the new global realities. As a European Commissioner, I will commit to using our assistance also for leveraging more domestic revenue and more private-sector capital.

21st century development policy has to harness all instruments to generate more investments, jobs, better regulation and improved governance. This includes using the fullest potential of our external investment plan.

I see the modernised title 'international partnerships' as a big opportunity. It reflects our focus on multilateralism and cooperation as equal partners. The EU working on its own cannot save the planet and prepare for the future. It will have to be done together by the EU and our partners working hand in hand. The EU will be the guardian of multilateralism and the rules-based order.

The combined assistance capacity of the EU and its Member States needs to be used coherently to promote our values and objectives, both on the ground in partner countries and also in international financial institutions.

Back in 2015, when the global community moved from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals, it abandoned the formula of ‘north-south’, ‘donor-recipient’, ‘developed-developing’. Instead, the global community set out a universal, ambitious and far-reaching blueprint agreed by all and for all. As a European Commissioner, I would make sure that the EU is a reliable and solid ally for partner countries in their SDG journeys.

A strong Europe, strong international partnerships with Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific can help us to take on many of today’s major generational issues. Also, such comprehensive partnerships will help us to unlock opportunities and to address challenges linked to migration management together.

If confirmed as Commissioner, it is my intention to build on the EU-Africa Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs, towards a comprehensive European strategy for Africa. In this effort, I will work alongside the High-Representative and Vice-President and other fellow Commissioners.

The partnership with our neighbouring continent has deepened economically to the benefit of both African and European citizens, with the private sector involved in creating jobs and providing new skills. I want to continue on this path, deepening our mutual interests and our capacity to reap opportunities jointly. We must turn our backs on the old narrative of Africa as a continent of instability and poverty. Instead we have to welcome, with open arms, Africa as a young continent of hope and prosperity.

I will also make it my priority to conclude negotiations on the post-Cotonou Agreement. We need to complete a modern, strategic and influential alliance between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific States on the international stage – one that serves our common interests and all our people. And let me assure you today that I will not waiver in my commitment to the appropriate parliamentary dimension of this future partnership.

The European Union draws its strength from all its institutions. So I want to emphasise my commitment to working with the other institutions towards the same objective. We will cement the EU as a world leader in international cooperation and development support.

As a parliamentarian, I truly believe in representative democracy, and I will do my utmost to make the special relationship between the Commission and the European Parliament ever stronger and deeper.

I am here to listen to you. I value your experience, knowledge and views. I will work closely with the High-Representative/Vice-President in making Europe an influential global player.

In the spirit of a ‘geopolitical Commission’, as announced by the President-elect, I also intend cooperating closely with other Commissioners whose policy areas affect EU external action. And I will continue driving work with Member States on joint analyses, joint programming and joint implementation, as well as on achieving the Official Development Assistance target of 0.7% of Gross National Income.

Civil society organisations are perhaps our greatest allies and must be at the heart of the European Union’s work on international cooperation and development. It is in everyone’s interest to involve them as much as possible in policy-making and the design and implementation of our programme.

We need politics for our planet, for humankind. European citizens are expecting us to act. The youth – they want more. Our children deserve that we do our best. I want to build trust together with you – trust, that our partners see a strong EU delivering SDGs and fighting poverty. Trust, that our citizens understand the reasoning and results of our development and cooperation work. Trust between people and institutions, because a more equal world is achieved only together.

So now it is time for me to listen to you and try to answer your questions.

1-005-0000

Tomas Tobé, *Chair DEVE*. – Thank you for that opening statement, Commissioner-designate. We will now start the first round with seven questions from the political groups and I would now like to give the floor to György Hölvényi from the EPP.

1-006-0000

György Hölvényi (PPE). – Tisztelt Biztosjelölt Asszony! A 2015-ös migrációs válság rámutatott arra, hogy Közel-Keleten, illetve a szubzaharai régió ingatag társadalmi, gazdasági és politikai állapota közvetlenül veszélyeztetheti kontinensünk biztonságát. A gyenge kormányzattal rendelkező államok polgárai biztonságuk hiánya miatt elveszítik a jogukat, hogy szülőföldjükön éljenek. A migrációhoz kapcsolódó problémákat elsősorban és mindenekelőtt helyben kell kezelni. A segítséget kell odavinni, nem pedig a bajt idehozni. Az embereknek szavatolni kell a szülőföldön maradás jogát, ahelyett, hogy arra kényszerítjük őket, hogy sivatagokat, tengereket átszelve kockáztassák az életüket. Az európai fejlesztéspolitikának, ezen az alapon kell nyugodnia, és ezért radikális változtatásra van szükség.

Engedje meg, hogy magam és a képviselőcsoportom, az Európai Néppárt nevében a következő kérdést tegyen föl: Mit jelent az Ön számára a szülőföldön való maradás jogának – „right to stay” – biztosítása? Egyetért-e azzal, hogy mindent meg kell tennünk azért, hogy minden ember számára biztosított legyen ez a jog? Köszönöm szépen!

1-007-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you Chair, thank you Member of the European Parliament, Hölvényi. I want to take this opportunity to thank you and all the coordinators for the meeting I had a few weeks ago. I think it was a very great honour to me to have a meeting with all the political parties in Parliament.

You ask about a connection between developing policy and migration. For me, I think it's a question of root causes. When I worked as a special representative on peace mediation, I travelled a lot in Africa. And I have to tell you that it was a very heart-breaking moment to meet young people who have lost their hope for the future. But I understand them. If they don't have access to education, if they don't have access to work, it's very hard to believe in the future. So from that perspective I would say that, through the developing cooperation, we try to improve conditions in the countries of origin and our partner countries. We can do it through education, we can throw it do through investments, job creation and so on. And, of course, the whole framework for this cooperation is sustainable development goals, as I mentioned in my previous speech.

1-008-0000

György Hölvényi (PPE). – Köszönöm az Ön által elmondottakat! Azért hogy megtudjuk, mire van szükség Afrikában – és ezt nagyon helyesen mondta –, oda kell menni, és ott kell lenni, és nagy öröm volt számomra ezt hallani Öntől, és ezért nyomatékosan is kérem, hogy tegyen így, mielőtt döntést hozna. Kérdezze meg az Afrikában, Ázsiában, vagy bárhol másutt a világban a civil szervezetek képviselőit és – hangsúlyoznám – a vallási szervezetek képviselőit is. Egy konkrét kérdés – szakmaibb már –, hatékonyabb segítségnyújtás célját szolgálja a bizottság által javasolt új

fejlesztési eszköz az NDICI. Önnek is lehetősége lesz majd eldönteni, hogyan mondjuk ki. A kérdésem: hogyan fogja szolgálni Ön szerint az NDICI a helyben történő segítségnyújtás céljait?

1-009-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – I'm definitely ready to have a dialogue with you, with all the political parties and parliamentary groups and all other stakeholders, including civil society, in a way that has been a guidance in my political life to have a dialogue, even if we don't always agree on everything. As I mentioned earlier, I believe that the only way to have sustainable migration policy in the future is to try to address the root causes. We need to improve living conditions in the countries of origin, but also our other partner countries. That's the only way to give hope for the people in those societies, and I am ready to do my utmost in my work as a member of the European Commission.

1-010-0000

Udo Bullmann (S&D). – Welcome Commissioner-designate, also on behalf of the Socialists and Democrats in this House. You rightly say the sustainable development goals are a golden opportunity for all of us. We could call it also, perhaps, our very last chance: achieving the fight against extreme poverty, meeting the challenges of today like climate change and rising inequalities – also stability, I may add.

What can we do to get back on track? How can we step up our efforts? How can we get a detailed roadmap – which we lack at the moment – in Europe as well as on the international scale, and how can we better monitor and benchmark the processes ahead with binding targets? You have seen the three scenarios of the outgoing Commission. We are clearly in favour of the first scenario, because this is the only one giving us hope for achieving the goals. So we are keen to get to know what your plans could be.

1-011-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you for this very important question. Fighting inequality has always been my target. Also when I was the finance minister I found it very important to fight against inequalities. In a way, I feel that SDGs and Agenda 2030 is my compass. That should be the compass for everybody – that should be the compass for the whole Commission as well, because I don't see that we are able to reach or achieve those sustainable development goals only through developing policy. We need to have a comprehensive strategy for that, and that's why I was so happy that the President-elect has actually mentioned in many mission letters that the whole College will be responsible for the implementation of SDGs.

One tool she has also mentioned is that maybe in the future we could use – and I personally support that idea – the European Semester in the implementation of SDGs, so that's one part of the tools we have. But, as I mentioned also in my speech, I personally see that we need to support our partner countries to have their own national and regional strategies for the implementation of sustainable development goals, because this project is a common project. It's not only a project for the European Union but it's a project for the whole global society.

1-012-0000

Udo Bullmann (S&D). – Commissioner-designate, in your introductory remarks you said that we should not talk about north and south again but rather develop the idea that we are all in developing countries and we have to do our homework. You mentioned the Semester. What does it mean for your portfolio? Because I don't think that this is a peripheral portfolio; I would say this is a key portfolio if we would like to have the countries in our partner areas and ourselves on equal footing. So what could we do, from your perspective also, to reorganise domestic European policies like agriculture, food production and trade through the lenses of those partners which we need dearly to achieve our joint roadmap?

1-013-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – I personally see that my title – International Partnerships – is actually a very wise title because, as you mentioned yourself, it sends a message to the partner countries that we don't want to have this kind of donor-recipient relationship. We want to have more equal partnerships because, as you said yourself, also in the European Union there is a lot to do to be able to implement the sustainable development goals. And, of course, the European Union and the Commission, together with the Parliament and the Council, is not able to do it alone, because we need to have the Member States to be part of that process. And, as I said earlier, I think the European Semester could be one great new tool to try to implement the SDGs.

1-014-0000

Charles Goerens (Renew). – Madame la future Commissaire, j'ai été ravi d'entendre vos propos introductifs.

S'agissant du développement de l'Union européenne, vous serez en charge de la mission du premier acteur mondial en matière de coopération au développement. Vous allez donc être en charge des futurs partenariats entre l'Union européenne et les pays en développement. Partenariat, égalité des genres et appropriation font partie des principes qui régissent la coopération au développement au cours des dernières décennies.

Dans votre lettre de mission, la future présidente de la Commission attend de vous la conclusion de partenariats complets, en mettant ensemble tous les instruments et outils, très bien. C'est pourquoi, précise-t-elle, vous devriez adapter l'aide de l'Union aux objectifs de l'Union en matière de gestion des migrations. C'est là où ça commence à devenir très délicat.

Comment faut-il interpréter cette phrase? peut-on exclure une politique visant à faire dépendre l'aide publique de l'Union européenne de l'acceptation de nos partenariats, de toutes les conditions à leur imposer en matière de migration?

Peut-on exclure une stricte conditionnalité basée sur la migration en matière de coopération au développement?

1-015-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – As I already answered, I think it was the first question, I see that there is a connection between developing policy and migration. It becomes through the root causes. Because we know that in many cases, for instance, the conflict drives people away from their home countries. They need to go somewhere else to be saved and stay alive. So my personal view is that we need to continue developing cooperation between those countries, countries of origin, but of course other countries as well. We all know that the European Union is the biggest donor in the world. So of course we are not only cooperating with those countries from which we get migrants to Europe.

But at the same time – because I'm an honest person so I want to be honest – I think it's not possible to think that with conditionality we can stop migration. That's not possible. Because if we only look at the financial flows through the developing countries, we can see that the developing aid and developing cooperation is just a part of the financial flows. So, from that perspective, I would say that the Commission, the European Union should have one migration policy and, of course, development cooperation is a part of that, but it can't be the only tool in the package.

1-016-0000

Charles Goerens (Renew). – Oui, merci. Donc, si je vous ai bien interprétée, c'est le partenariat plutôt que le diktat. Je crois que pour éviter le scénario auquel j'avais fait référence, il va falloir mobiliser plus de moyens en matière d'aide publique au développement. Cela fait des générations

que nous réclamons les 0,7 % d'aide publique au développement par rapport au produit intérieur brut de nos pays et, à l'heure actuelle, seuls quatre pays de l'Union européenne ont accepté de porter leur aide à ce niveau.

Pouvez-vous nous dire ce qui, pour vous, en tant qu'ancienne ministre des finances, pose problème? Ne faudrait-il pas, à l'instar de ce qui se passe dans le cadre du Semestre européen en matière budgétaire, imposer aussi aux États membres défaillants en matière d'aide publique au développement de venir rendre compte de leurs défaillances devant cette commission du Parlement européen?

1-017-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – I would say that it's a question of political will. It's a question of political decisions, not only in the European Union, but also in the Member States. As a former finance minister, I know that it's the finance minister who proposes the budget for the national parliament. So, from that perspective and from my experience, I would say that I personally believe that we should integrate finance ministers and heads of States into this 0.7 target discussion and I'm ready to try to do that. Of course, I can only take my own part, but I think this could be one tool because if it's the only discussion among ministers for developing cooperation, I think it's not enough. So maybe this is something we could develop together in the future: how are we able to involve finance ministers and heads of States to be part of the discussion and in that way put more pressure on the Member States as well?

1-018-0000

Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE). – Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, bienvenue ici dans cette commission.

Je vais quant à moi vous poser des questions sur les crimes environnementaux. C'est bien beau de dire que nous voulons la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable pour l'agenda 2030, mais si nous ne répondons pas à ces crimes environnementaux, je ne vois pas comment nous allons pouvoir les réaliser. Il faut savoir qu'il s'agit de l'une des formes d'activité criminelle transnationale les plus rentables du monde, la quatrième en fait derrière le trafic de drogues, la contrefaçon et le trafic d'êtres humains.

Ma question est simple: quelle est votre stratégie pour lutter efficacement contre la criminalité environnementale dans les pays en développement, et notamment en ce qui concerne l'abattage illégal des arbres, la pêche illégale, le trafic illicite des déchets dangereux, la pollution, alors que les gens ne peuvent même plus se nourrir?

Seriez-vous prête à élargir les compétences de la Cour pénale internationale pour qu'elles couvrent la criminalité environnementale?

1-019-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you for this very important question because I fully believe that we all understand the importance of a clean environment.

What is the best way to take care of the environment and the fight against climate change, or different aspects of that?

I would say that the best tool for that is the Green Deal – the initiative taken by the President-elect. Maybe in the public debate, and also within the Commission and within the European Parliament as well – I suppose – we have concentrated quite a lot on the internal aspects of the Green Deal, but my personal view is that the Green Deal should also have an external dimension. That is the tool to try to increase the importance of the environmental question in our partner countries.

I know that the European Union is using over 20% of its development funding for climate environment already, but I fully agree with you that we need to do more. That's not enough. For instance, I think we need to support transition to low-emission and circular economies – including in our partner countries, and that includes those aspects you mentioned earlier.

The Green Deal could be a great opportunity to put climate and environmental questions to the fore, including in our developing cooperation with our partner countries.

1-020-0000

Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE). – *Green Deal*, c'est un beau mot, mais quand même, il faut des sanctions, il faut des contrôles.

Je vais vous parler de quelque chose de très concret. J'ai regardé le rapport spécial des Nations unies sur le droit de l'alimentation et il y est dit que l'utilisation des pesticides dans les pays en développement est responsable de plus de 200 000 décès par intoxication aiguë chaque année.

Madame la future Commissaire, que pouvez-vous faire? Car vous savez que, en Europe, nous interdisons les pesticides parce qu'ils sont très toxiques, et que nous les exportons dans les pays en voie de développement alors que ceux-ci n'ont pas du tout l'arsenal pour contrôler leur population, la santé, etc. Que pouvez-vous faire là-dessus? Parce que voilà un acte concret qui permettrait de ne pas intoxiquer les gens qui vivent dans ces pays où il n'y a pas le contrôle nécessaire pour les protéger.

1-021-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I fully with agree with you that we need to have sanctions and we need to have regulations, that is what we also need. But when it comes to agriculture, I would say that agriculture is central because millions get their income from farming, especially in the developing countries, we know that. But it is also most affected by climate change, and also an emitter of greenhouse gases. So, from my perspective, I see that we need a transformation of global food systems to provide healthy food to 10 billion people by the year 2050.

Of course, food safety is important for all of us, not only for Europeans but for all of us. So what we can do, we can support African companies and African authorities in complying with EU norms and regulations and I personally am ready to cooperate, for instance with research institutions and other stakeholders regarding this matter.

1-022-0000

Bernhard Zimniok (ID). – Frau Urpilainen! Nach unserem persönlichen Gespräch bin ich zu der Überzeugung gelangt, dass Sie sehr gut auf Ihr Mandat vorbereitet sind, und deshalb wird es für Sie auch einfach sein, auf eine konkrete Frage eine konkrete Antwort zu geben.

Seit einigen Jahren werden immer wieder Anschuldigungen laut, dass Hilfgelder für Palästinenser, die auch aus EU-Geldern für Entwicklungsprojekte gespeist werden, zur Unterstützung von Terroristen genutzt werden und somit den Konflikt weiterhin anheizen. Ein konkretes Beispiel sei hierfür der Märtyrerfonds, der wohl allgemein bekannt sein dürfte und den auch der Rechnungshof bereits 2012 in seinem Untersuchungsbericht über die Verwendung von EU-Geldern angeprangert hat. Die Kommission hat diesen Bericht geflissentlich ignoriert. Es gilt und galt: Weiter so!

Wie möchten Sie dieses Problem während Ihres Mandats nun angehen, das heißt, die Vorwürfe bereinigen und den Missbrauch von EU-Geldern verhindern, nachdem dieses Problem und auch

andere Probleme bisher ignoriert wurden? Bitte nennen Sie konkrete Maßnahmen, die dieses Problem endlich abschließend lösen.

1-023-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I believe in transparency. I think that when we are using taxpayers' money, we always need to be very open and very transparent and we also need to be able to show our achievements. So why are we using taxpayers' money, and what do we achieve with those projects that we are using taxpayers' money for? This is a question of legitimacy for me. If we want to strengthen the legitimacy of the European Union, we need to be able to show the citizens what the achievements are and what the results are of our developing cooperation projects and programmes. From that perspective, I am very committed to improving our transparency. I know that it's very good already in the EU projects, but I'm willing to do even better and more in the future. This specific project you mentioned in your question: I need to study it more closely because, unfortunately, I don't have all those facts. I have been studying hard for two weeks but I still don't know everything. I will definitely come back to you regarding this specific project.

1-024-0000

Bernhard Zimniok (ID). – Gut, dass Sie das Angebot machen, dass Sie hier diese Frage auch noch mal diskutieren. Nun, ich möchte meine Eingangsfrage noch ein bisschen ausweiten und dazu eine weitere Frage stellen.

Offensichtlich haben also all die Milliarden an Entwicklungsgeldern, die man Jahr für Jahr in diese *Palestine Authority* pumpt, bisher keinerlei positive Effekte gezeigt. Ganz im Gegenteil, sie werden weiterhin missbraucht, wofür es auch deutliche Indikatoren gibt. Wäre es da nicht endlich mal an der Zeit, über alternative Entwicklungsmodelle und eine Entwicklungspolitik in diesem Bereich nachzudenken und auch die Auszahlung der Gelder zu stoppen, um die Abhängigkeit der Palästinenser von den internationalen Geldgebern endlich zu beenden und den Jahrzehnte dauernden Konflikt, den Status quo, nicht auf Dauer zu zementieren und den Friedensprozess damit auch zu behindern? Haben Sie dazu konkrete Vorstellungen und Pläne während Ihrer kommenden Amtszeit?

1-025-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I think we all share the view of achieving peace in the Middle East. I think that's something we all would like to have.

One aspect I would like to raise is how to involve more women and young people in the peace processes because, as I mentioned earlier, I also worked as a special representative in peace mediation. In that role I was trying to look for initiatives – how to get young people and women more involved in peace processes, because I see that if we give them a stronger role it might also help us to achieve better results.

So this is one example of how to build peace in our very unstable world.

1-026-0000

Beata Kempa (ECR). – Bardzo dziękuję przede wszystkim za słowa, które Pani wypowiedziała dzisiaj i które mam nadzieję będą nową, dobrą jakością, mianowicie partnerstwo, a nie dyktat. Dziękuję za te słowa, bo to jest bardzo ważne w dziedzinie naszej współpracy, współpracy też międzynarodowej, szczególnie tam, gdzie dzieje się bardzo źle i gdzie pomoc tę trzeba nieść.

W związku z tym ja mam takie pytanie, bo istotnie Unia Europejska rzeczywiście jest największym darczyńcą, problemem jest tylko skuteczność działań, szczególnie w strefach migracyjnych. Rozmawialiśmy ze sobą, dziękuję za to spotkanie. Wymieniłyśmy się doświadczeniami z miejsc, gdzie byliśmy, które były bardzo trudne, a przede wszystkim

najbardziej migracyjenne. Dzisiaj jest tak, że znaczna część współpracy Unii Europejskiej na rzecz rozwoju realizowana jest poprzez zarządzanie pośrednie, czyli na przykład Komisja Europejska przekazuje realizację działań innemu podmiotowi i głównie były one realizowane przez instytucje finansowe albo agencje wykonawcze pochodzące głównie z kilku największych państw członkowskich. Moje pytanie jest następujące: czy zamierza Pani wykorzystać doświadczenie mniejszych krajów członkowskich, gdzie w ramach społeczeństwa obywatelskiego organizacje pozarządowe nie mają możliwości partycypacji w dużych agencjach, ale skorzystania z potężnych doświadczeń na rzecz działań ograniczających migrację, niosących pomoc?

1-027-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I am definitely willing to learn more. I am definitely willing to cooperate with the Member States. I see that that is necessary if we want to really achieve the sustainable development goals. We need to work together.

As I mentioned earlier, it isn't enough that the European Union and all its institutions are doing the work – we need to involve also the Member States to be part of that approach. And of course we need partnerships and that will involve dialogue and partnerships – this will be the way I work if I am nominated as a Commissioner.

So from my personal experience, I know that civil society and NGOs are doing excellent work in many very difficult and fragile countries and areas. So, of course, I'm willing to cooperate with them and other stakeholders as well and also learn more from the experience of our small and big Member States.

1-028-0000

Beata Kempa (ECR). – Pani Komisarz! Bardzo dziękuję za tę odpowiedź. Chciałabym tylko zapytać, czy zamierza Pani przedstawić taki swoisty raport otwarcia dotyczący skuteczności działań i skuteczności przekazywania środków przez Unię Europejską w powiązaniu ze skutkami migracji, tak żeby to był dokument stosowny, to jest niezwykle ważne, oraz określenia miejsc, gdzie jeszcze powinniśmy dotrzeć, a gdzie nie dotarliśmy, a są to rzeczywiście miejsca bardzo migracyjenne, to jest niezwykle ważne.

1-029-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I think follow-up is always necessary and it's always important. Regarding conflict areas and fragile areas, I have already met my colleague for Crisis Management and we had a very good discussion. What we try to do is to work very closely together because we see that the project called Nexus which started, I think it was one and half years ago, has provided good results, but we still have plenty of things to do. So I think this is one area where we could make achievements together and I think you personally also have experience in that field and I'm very happy to use your experience in the future if you just allow me to do so.

1-030-0000

Miguel Urbán Crespo (GUE/NGL). – Señor presidente, señora candidata, yo voy a mantener la pregunta sobre migración y desarrollo que le han hecho mis colegas, pero desde un prisma diferente. Yo creo que el gran error o el gran naufragio de la anterior Comisión fue la gestión de la mal llamada crisis de los refugiados —que realmente es una crisis de Derecho—, en la que las políticas de desarrollo fueron fundamentales para la construcción de la Europa fortaleza. Una Europa fortaleza basada en la externalización de fronteras y que tiene en la ayuda al desarrollo y su condicionamiento al control migratorio uno de sus ejes —para nosotros— más peligrosos. Y por eso yo le quería preguntar sobre esta cuestión. Primero, durante su mandato, ¿mantendrán la política de condicionar los fondos de cooperación al control migratorio? El ejemplo de Níger es

especialmente interesante. Y, segundo, ¿se estudiará el impacto de esta política sobre los derechos humanos?

1-031-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – For me, the European Union is a community of values. So I think in everything we do – within the European Union but also outside the European Union – we need to respect the rule of law and human rights. That's very, very clear to me, and of course, I'm very committed to that approach as a Commissioner-designate.

As I mentioned earlier, I don't really believe that only conditionality could solve the migration crisis or migration generally, because if you take for example Niger or some other African countries, development aid is only a little part of the financial flow to that country. So I don't see that by ending that financial flow we could try to influence that country. So from that perspective, as I said earlier, I think the Commission should have one migration policy, and of course the whole college is representing that policy and development cooperation and development aid is one part of that package, but it can't be the only tool. So for me that is very clear.

1-032-0000

Miguel Urbán Crespo (GUE/NGL). – Una comunidad de valores que naufraga convirtiendo al Mediterráneo en una gran fosa común o convirtiendo al Sahel, gracias a nuestras políticas de desarrollo, en una gran fosa común.

Níger. Níger recibe más de 1 000 millones de ayuda al desarrollo de la Unión Europea y es el país más pobre de África. Claro que hay una dependencia real y directa de nuestras políticas, justamente para acondicionar el control al desarrollo. Y por eso le pregunto, ¿qué le parece que el 10 % del presupuesto del nuevo Instrumento de Vecindad, Desarrollo y Cooperación Internacional que se está debatiendo justamente en este Parlamento se destine al control migratorio? Es que es una pregunta clara. Creo que controlar o condicionar la ayuda al desarrollo al control migratorio solo empeora la situación y es una vulneración clara de los derechos humanos en los países de origen y de tránsito. Le preguntaría explícitamente, ¿lo van a suspender?

1-033-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – My opinion is that the EU should always save people's lives. That's our mission, and that's what we tried to do with development cooperation, because we know that over 700 million people are living in extreme poverty. So that's why we do development cooperation: we do it for people, not for governments, not for companies, not for the private sector. We do it for people. That's my commitment. I definitely want to do everything I can to increase financial resources for the least developed countries in the world. We have committed ourselves to a target of 0.15 or 0.2%, but unfortunately we haven't achieved that, and that's something we need to work together on in the future.

1-034-0000

Rasa Juknevičienė (PPE). – I found very positive your intentions to work together with the European Parliament, with us.

So, I would like to address to you, dear Jutta, by definition a geopolitical Commission has to ensure that the EU adapts to a world of great powers and for that it needs strategic tools to deliver on the EU priorities abroad.

Your mandate is far-reaching – from the partnerships on migration, to active support to the oppressed civil societies across the globe and in the neighbourhood – Belarus, Russia.

What measures will you undertake to ensure that the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instruments (NDICI) helps to strengthen the fundamental values of

democracy, the rule of law, good governance, as well as nuclear safety standards in the EU neighbourhood and worldwide?

Will you support the European Parliament's position to ensure that the NDICI shall have teeth and provide you with the possibility to suspend aid in case our partners violate all these mentioned principles?

1-035-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you for this question and definitely you can call me Jutta – that's fine for me.

As I said earlier in this hearing, I personally see that we should respect the values, human rights and rule of law in everything we do – within the European Union but also outside the European Union.

And for me as Commissioner-designate for International Partnership, it will be my guidance to improve rule of law and human rights through the developing cooperation.

When it comes to the NDICI (Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument) – I have been studying that quite a lot during the past two weeks and for me I got the feeling that it makes sense to have this kind of new instrument because now we have had several different kind of financial instruments, but through the NDICI we merge those different kind of instruments to be one financial instrument and because the European Development Fund will be part of the budget – so it of course, gives more power to the European Parliament in the future also. I think as a parliamentarian, I see that's also a very positive side.

But I personally see that – and also from my experience as Finance Minister – with one tool, with one financial instrument, we are able to be more coherent, we can be more efficient and of course it will be also maybe easier to understand our work from the stakeholders perspective so I'm very committed to take that instrument in our work.

1-036-0000

Rasa Juknevičienė (PPE). – As you may be aware, the Parliament is ready to start interinstitutional negotiations on NDICI. However, the Council has adopted only a partial negotiation mandate. It is very likely that the Council will take last night's decision regarding two major aspects of that instrument: budgetisation of the European Development Fund and inclusion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument. What is your opinion on the future of the proposed regulation if the Council adopts the position not to include these two instruments in the regulation? How will you ensure that restructuring of the existing development instruments makes everybody happy – the Parliament, the Council and the partners?

1-037-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – As I said earlier, my personal view is that I think it's good to merge different financial instruments together and also, regarding the European Development Fund, I think it's also wise to have part of the budget so it gives more power to you as parliamentarians. I think I'm such an experienced politician that I don't want to speculate. So now, when we are in the middle of negotiations, I think it's wiser not to start to speculate what we will do if certain situations arise. If I were to be nominated as a Commissioner, I'd do my best to reach a common understanding with all the institutions, but we need first to get the MFF ready and negotiated because, of course, NDICI will be part of the MFF.

1-038-0000

Marc Tarabella (S&D). – Madame la commissaire désignée, Madame Urpilainen, je vais parler de la cohérence des politiques pour le développement qui est en fait fondamentale pour garantir que l'action politique de l'Union européenne tiennent compte de son impact sur les pays en développement.

Le principe est inscrit à l'article 208 des traités et est essentiel pour atteindre les objectifs de développement durable. Nous ne pouvons pas éliminer la pauvreté, éradiquer la faim ou assurer la santé ou le bien-être, si nous ne sommes pas cohérents dans nos politiques commerciales, agricoles, environnementales et sociales. Le développement de la cohérence des politiques pour le développement durable est une condition essentielle de réalisation des objectifs de développement durable, mais nous ne disposons toujours pas d'outils et de suivi d'évaluation adéquats pour évaluer cette cohérence. Or, votre rôle de commissaire sera essentiel pour garantir la promotion du développement dans tous les autres domaines politiques. Comment, en tant que commissaire, allez-vous améliorer la cohérence des politiques de l'Union européenne pour le développement? Comment envisagez-vous cette coopération avec les commissaires du commerce et de l'agriculture pour garantir la mise en place des mécanismes permettant de surveiller activement la cohérence des politiques de développement?

1-039-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I found this question very important and of course it relates to the SDGs and Agenda 2030.

As I said earlier today, I take Sustainable Development Goals as a compass for me. It should be the framework for the whole development cooperation. But you are right, definitely, because within the European Union, the left-hand needs to know what the right-hand is doing. So, it's not enough if we only concentrate on development cooperation. If we really want to achieve sustainable development goals in our partner countries, we need to have trade, we need to have agriculture, as a part of that approach – that's necessary.

So, of course, I see that cooperation with my colleagues in the College, our Trade Commissioner, the Commissioner for Agriculture, for instance, are very important to have this policy coherence within the work of the Commission.

One tool for that could also be those national and regional strategies, which we try to support our partners to prepare. So I think that through those we are also able to support them to have this comprehensive approach to achieve sustainable development goals.

1-040-0000

Marc Tarabella (S&D). – Les évaluations récentes ont conclu que les délégations de l'Union européenne dans les pays partenaires ne jouent pas un rôle suffisant dans l'évaluation et la promotion de la cohérence de ses politiques de développement.

Comment allez-vous travailler avec le Haut représentant pour faire en sorte que la cohérence du développement et des politiques soit au premier plan des travaux des services d'action extérieure?

1-041-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I have already met High Representative / Vice-President Borrell a couple of times and we had very good discussions. I'm sure we are willing to work together, because I see that, of course, development cooperation needs to be part of external relations. So my personal view is that we, as a European Union, should have first a common analysis, also a geopolitical analysis, of what is happening in the world. Then we should have a common strategy, which is based on the analysis and then, of course, we implement

that strategy through the programming. So, I'm very committed to working together with the High Representative, and I'm sure we are going to have a very good cooperation.

1-042-0000

Chrysoula Zacharopoulou (Renew). – Bonjour Madame Urpilainen, je suis très heureuse de voir pour la première fois, si je ne fais d'erreur, une femme, une future femme commissaire pour le développement.

Comme vous le savez, j'ai pu voir dans vos réponses que vous vous engagez à faire de l'égalité des gens une priorité, avec un fort accent sur l'éducation des filles, l'autonomisation des femmes et la lutte contre les violences dont elles sont victimes.

Vous connaissez bien la difficulté et/ou l'absence d'accès à la santé sexuelle et reproductive, y compris l'accès à la contraception, les mariages forcés, les mutilations génitales féminines, qui ne constituent pas seulement des atteintes graves aux droits fondamentaux des femmes mais mettent également en péril leur scolarisation, leur santé, les exposent aux violences sexuelles et menacent, en général, toutes leurs perspectives d'avenir.

Alors je voulais vous demander de quelle manière vous comptez, concrètement, exprimer votre engagement, à quelles mesures politiques vous pensez pour dialoguer avec les pays partenaires et comment vous comptez coopérer avec la société civile, très engagée sur ces sujets?

1-043-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – Thank you very much for your important question. Sexual and reproductive health will be a central focus of our work for gender equality, that's very clear for me. Maybe I could take this opportunity to thank the current Commissioner, Mr Mimica, for his work on gender equality. I think the Spotlight initiative is an important initiative, and I'm very committed to continuing that work in the future.

I also see that in the field of gender equality and gender parity we need strong partnerships around the world. Of course, we need to cooperate with international organisations, civil society, national governments and so on. Because only through cooperation are we able to achieve results.

Access to health services is of course important for all of us: for Europeans, and for our fellow citizens around the world. So this is of course something I would like to improve and strengthen when I'm working as a Commissioner, because I think that to be able to access health services is a basic right for all of us, and it should also be a basic right in our partner countries.

1-044-0000

Chrysoula Zacharopoulou (Renew). – Dans vos réponses, vous évoquez également la possibilité d'un plan d'action III pour l'égalité hommes-femmes.

Ma question est la suivante: si vous ne faites pas plan d'action III pour l'égalité hommes-femmes, quel autre instrument comptez-vous nous proposer pour garantir la continuité dans la stratégie de l'Union, étant donné que l'égalité hommes-femmes est, selon vos dires, une priorité?

1-045-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I can promise you, here in front of the Parliament, that we are going to make a Gender Action Plan III. This is something I will propose and I'm very committed to preparing, so I think that is one tool for us to provide and promote gender equality.

1-046-0000

Lukas Mandl (PPE). – Congratulations, Ms Urpilainen, for being nominated for the new European Commission. Thank you very much for providing us with the strong commitment to

parliamentarism you have shown today, and your commitment to the idea that it's all about the people, and to support people in their own lives. That is why I think this is not a technical hearing, it's a hearing with regard to your policy priorities. And so I would really like to ask, are you aware of the fact that it's all about the economy? Because opportunities for people are about the economy. And with economic strength, people can achieve a lot if they receive proper training, especially vocational training, education – that's what it's all about. And the rule of law. Education and the rule of law. So what exact measures are you intending to take to strengthen education opportunities in developing countries? Because that's something the EU should provide the world with.

1-047-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – As I mentioned in my speech I worked as a teacher before I became a politician. So in my work I was able to see personally how education can change lives. I see that we should definitely commit ourselves – and I'm ready to commit myself – to use, through NDICI, this 20% of our financing for human development. This is important for me.

What concerns me is the quality of education, because it's not only a question of access to education, but also of the quality of education. Some time ago we received a report drafted by the World Bank, and the message was that, unfortunately, many people, even if they have participated in education, are not able to read or count. So I think I would increase the focus, put more money, more finances, more resources, but I would also put more focus on the quality of education. I think that is very important. For me it's very clear that education is key for poverty reduction and will therefore be my priority.

1-048-0000

Lukas Mandl (PPE). – Thank you so much for your response. May I go deeper into the gender balance question, since it's maybe also a cultural question whether girls receive as many opportunities as boys when they are children or even adults when it comes to questions of education. So in what fields do you think and with what other Commissioners will you cooperate with in order to fulfil the EU's obligation also to influence other parts of the world with what we call European values, which is of course the same rights for men and women, especially in the field of education and for future opportunities. And thank you again for focusing on quality, since the quality needs great teachers, and that's obviously something you know since you yourself are a teacher.

1-049-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – The Commissioner for Gender Equality, of course. She plays an important role. But I would also say that the gender approach should be the approach of the whole Commission, the whole College.

I want to share with you one experience I had some time ago when I visited a refugee camp in Gambela, Ethiopia. That experience was very strong for me, because over 90 000 people are living in that camp. But what was very sad for me is that only half of the children living in that camp were able to access school. So from that perspective I see – and actually I've already talked with my fellow Commissioner for Crisis Management – that we also need to improve access to education for women and girls, and generally, in refugee camps, because I think it's important that those people living in those camps are also able to access school. That's one example: of course, we could have many more.

1-050-0000

Pierfrancesco Majorino (S&D). – Signora Commissaria designata, ho condiviso moltissime delle cose dette.

Volevo però soffermarmi su un problema: in questi anni abbiamo infatti assistito allo spostamento di risorse da obiettivi riguardanti la cooperazione e lo sviluppo a interventi riguardanti il blocco e il controllo dei confini, senza garanzia sul pieno rispetto dei diritti umani e senza nessuna capacità di effettivo controllo parlamentare.

Uno degli strumenti principali in questo senso è stato quello dei fondi fiduciari, una struttura molto flessibile dietro la quale si è nascosta, però io credo, opacità e ambiguità nel loro utilizzo, ad esempio si è finanziata nel 2018 la Guardia costiera libica, che non c'entra nulla con le politiche di cooperazione e di sviluppo.

Su questo aspetto volevo dunque chiederle cosa ne pensava dei fondi, del destino dei fondi fiduciari e come, secondo Lei, eventualmente si potevano cambiare.

1-051-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I think, for me, it's a question of also supporting the country of transit, because we know that around 85% of migrants are living in the developing countries. So I think through development cooperation we can also support those countries – so countries of origin, but also countries of transit.

I know that the Africa Trust Fund is something which divides Members of the European Parliament a little. I personally see, as I said earlier today, that transparency is a very important value for me, and I also understand that in the future, of course, if we are thinking about what will be the future of the Africa Trust Fund or generally different kinds of trust funds, I think that Parliament should have an important role.

So we will see what will happen in the future. I don't know exactly what the plans are, but I'm sure that your role as parliamentarians needs to be stronger than it is today.

1-052-0000

Pierfrancesco Majorino (S&D). – Volevo insistere su questo punto e capire se siamo dunque d'accordo sulla necessità di coinvolgere il Parlamento europeo proprio in relazione ai comitati operativi rispetto al controllo diretto dei fondi, in relazione alla coerenza dei fondi fiduciari, da una parte, e se poi Lei si sente di dire che sono incompatibili con i fondi fiduciari, finanziamenti di strumenti come quelli relativi alla Guardia costiera libica che, evidentemente, non sono il sostegno al paese di transito – questione importantissima che giustamente Lei ha ricordato – ma sono oggi semplicemente strumenti per attuare il blocco e l'esternalizzazione della frontiera.

1-053-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – Policy coherence is important, and as I said earlier today, we need to improve policy coherence in everything we do. When it comes to the role of the Parliament, I have been a member of the Finnish Parliament for over 16 years. I really respect the work you are doing. You are elected by the people. I am nominated by you (if you allow me to do so), but you are elected by the people – you are representing the people. So from that perspective, in everything I do, I value the parliamentary work and I'm ready to look for different kinds of initiatives to strengthen the role of the European Parliament.

1-054-0000

Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana (Verts/ALE). – Bonjour, Madame la Commissaire désignée.

La lettre de mission de la présidente élue précise, dans le domaine du commerce, accorder une priorité au partenariat de l'Union européenne avec l'Afrique, l'objectif à long terme étant d'établir une zone de libre-échange entre les deux continents.

Les exportations de produits laitiers européens à bas prix vers l'Afrique de l'Ouest illustrent les risques sérieux que représenterait une libéralisation du commerce des produits agricoles, qui détruit souvent la production locale des produits laitiers, ce qui touche particulièrement les femmes, qui sont au centre de cette production locale.

Madame la Commissaire désignée est-elle favorable à la possibilité, pour les États africains, de prendre des mesures visant à sauvegarder l'agriculture familiale durable face aux risques générés par l'exportation de produits agricoles européens à bas prix?

De telles mesures pourraient-elles inclure des restrictions quantitatives des importations européennes, donner une préférence aux produits locaux dans les marchés publics ou encore introduire des droits et des taxes plus élevés et variables sur les produits agricoles?

1-055-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – Also women's economic empowerment is a key priority for me. I think all of us who have visited, for instance, Africa can see that it's full of small family-run farms and agriculture. So we know that it's, of course, a very important matter for Africa.

I'm ready to take new measures. So my answer to your question is: 'Yes I am'. And I think that one possibility for that is this comprehensive strategy for Africa, which is mentioned in my mission letter.

I think that in that comprehensive strategy for Africa we need to have agriculture involved, we need to have trade involved, we need to have environmental aspects involved. I think that that strategy gives us a new opportunity also to support agriculture in Africa. So I think that's the one new tool we are able to use.

1-056-0000

Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana (Verts/ALE). – Dans quelle mesure l'Union européenne va agir pour s'assurer que les investissements agricoles européens, effectués notamment dans le cadre du partenariat public-privé, ne vont pas fragiliser le droit d'usage de la terre des peuples pratiquant l'agro-pastoralisme, a fortiori dans un contexte où des entreprises poussent les gouvernements à assouplir les règles à leur profit?

1-057-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – I think you mentioned a very important word when you said private sector, and I think we haven't talked about it very much yet today. Because if we want to achieve the sustainable development goals by the year 2030 we need to get the private sector involved, that is necessary. Otherwise, we won't achieve the sustainable development goals. Action has already been taken through the alliance initiative made by President Juncker. I think the results have been quite good. But in the coming years we need to get more investments to Africa and, of course, a private sector has to be part of that approach.

I'll just give you one example. In sub-Saharan Africa we need to create 18 million new jobs every year to be able to employ those young people coming to the labour market: 18 million new jobs every year. So we all understand that, even if we are able to increase the public finances to development cooperation, we are not surviving. So we need to have the private sector involved, but of course we also need to have regulations and rules.

1-058-0000

Dominique Bilde (ID). – Madame, votre stratégie pour l'Afrique occulte une réalité fondamentale: l'Union européenne aborde les négociations post-Cotonou affaiblie par rapport au

tournant des années 2000. De nouveaux acteurs ont émergé (la Chine, la Russie) et le poids de l'UE dans l'économie mondiale, a fortiori sans le Royaume-Uni, a décliné.

De la crise de l'euro au désaveu du Brexit, tous sont désormais conscients des limites de son modèle politique. En outre, le départ du Royaume-Uni prive l'Union d'un acteur majeur en Afrique sur les plans commercial, diplomatique et militaire. Le Royaume-Uni représentait environ 15 % du budget du Fonds européen de développement entre 2014 et 2016 et était l'un des seuls États membres en 2018 à avoir satisfait l'objectif de 0,7 % du RNB consacré à l'aide officielle au développement. Certes, l'Allemagne a annoncé un plan Marshall pour l'Afrique en janvier 2017, mais l'expérience du G5 Sahel nous enseigne que les engagements financiers peinent parfois à devenir réalité.

Ma question est simple: avez-vous envisagé toutes les conséquences du Brexit sur les relations Union européenne-Afrique post-Cotonou, et comment comptez-vous y faire face?

1-059-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – I would say that when it comes to Brexit, it is of course a question for the United Kingdom's people and politicians. But of course the UK has been a very important donor, and especially the UK's NGOs. They do very important work in the field. So from that perspective, I hope that in any case the UK will be a good partner for us regarding development cooperation.

But as we know there are plenty of questions regarding Brexit, so I think that it's not my duty and my obligation today to speculate on the different kinds of outcomes. But I see the work the UK is doing regarding development cooperation is very valuable, and I really hope that we can continue our cooperation in any case.

1-060-0000

Dominique Bilde (ID). – Il s'agit plutôt d'une question: le fait que l'Union européenne dépense autant pour l'Afrique et soit aussi peu appréciée interroge.

Je voudrais citer un document de Christie's Group, qu'a relayé un diplomate de l'Union. La Chine donne un million de dollars et obtient un communiqué de presse de l'Union africaine; l'Union européenne donne plus de vingt millions de dollars par mois et on la critique quand elle réduit ses engagements.

Je voudrais simplement dire qu'en politique, il faut faire mais il faut surtout faire savoir. Or, à l'heure actuelle, je pense que l'Union européenne semble avoir perdu la bataille la plus importante, celle de l'opinion publique.

1-061-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – I personally don't see that we have lost anything. I think that the EU is the biggest donor in the world. I think in 2018 we, as the EU, used EUR 14 billion for developing cooperation, and in total, together with the Member States, we used over EUR 70 billion for developing cooperation. It's a huge amount of money, but unfortunately we need more, because the challenges are so big. That's why I mentioned the role of the private sector, because I see that we need to invest more in Africa and we need the private sector to be part of that approach.

When it comes to the role of Africa, I see that the future of Africa is the future of Europe. These two continents are connected to each other. So, of course, I would like to change the narrative, as I mentioned already in my speech. There are 1.2 billion people living in Africa and over half of

them are under 25 years old. So it's a continent of opportunities and, of course, we need to support that positive narrative.

1-062-0000

Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR). – Madam Deputy Prime Minister, Commissioner-designate, before you answer my question, I want to say to you *Kiitos* – in your language ‘thank you’.

But before I have one important question on behalf of my political group. I will speak in Polish. Please respect the range of languages in our Parliament.

Przez lata byłem członkiem Zgromadzenia Parlamentarnego Unia Europejska–AKP. Obecnie te umowy o partnerstwie gospodarczym między krajami Unii a krajami AKP są bardzo zaawansowane. Jednak ostatnio nasz Parlament wyraził zaniepokojenie, że proces negocjacyjny jest wolniejszy niż się spodziewano ze względu na pewien sceptycyzm ze strony naszych partnerów z krajów AKP. Zwróciliśmy się do Komisji Europejskiej o nadanie temu procesowi nowej dynamiki. Proszę się do tego ustosunkować.

1-064-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I think it's very important to achieve the post-Cotonou Agreement or to finalise the negotiations on the post-Cotonou Agreement.

As I mentioned earlier today, I see that African, but also Latin American and Caribbean countries and Asian countries, of course, are very important partners for us.

So of course, if I'm nominated as Commissioner and I start my work on 1 November (hopefully), this will be the priority on my agenda – to try to finalise the post-Cotonou negotiations, of course with the support of the Parliament and other European institutions.

1-065-0000

Hildegard Bentele (PPE). – Frau Urpilainen! Ein Teil des Ausschusses hatte die schöne Gelegenheit, letzte Woche in New York zu sein, und wir haben dort die großen Erwartungen an die Europäische Union gespürt: voranzugehen mit unseren Werten und eben auch mit unserem nachhaltigen Ansatz.

Deshalb meine Frage auch noch mal nach Effizienz, Sichtbarkeit und insbesondere Kohärenz, nicht so sehr kommissionsintern, sondern in Zusammenarbeit mit den Mitgliedstaaten. Wir sehen eine Fülle von Aktivitäten seitens der Mitgliedstaaten. Wir sehen auch, dass sehr viel Geld über die VN-Organisationen abfließt. Deshalb meine Frage: Was werden Sie tun, damit das *Joint Programming*, von dem es ja erst Ansätze gibt, stärker vorankommt, sodass wir alle mit den gleichen Schwerpunkten und vielleicht auch mit den gleichen Schwerpunktländern arbeiten, sodass die Entwicklungshilfe oder die internationale Zusammenarbeit der Europäischen Union eben auch deutlicher wahrgenommen wird und auch stärker Früchte trägt?

1-066-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I think that's a very important perspective, because without policy coherence we are not able to achieve the sustainable development goals. So, as I mentioned earlier, I see Agenda 2030 as a kind of compass. It's a framework through which we should see and analyse all the policy work we are doing in different spectrums.

Of course, we cannot do this just via the European institutions: the Member States need to be part of that process. And, as you mentioned, joint planning, joint programming, and then also joint follow-up so that we are able to see the results and achievements, is an important tool to be used.

I think that the Member States have pursued different kinds of strategies regarding sustainable development goals. I know the one which Finland has used. So I think that could be something that we could try to share: examples that different Member States have been using, and also try to think if there is something we could take to be used. But I think you are correct. Without policy coherence, including agriculture, trade, external relations, we are not able to achieve sustainable development goals. It's the key.

1-067-0000

Hildegard Bentele (PPE). – Dann eine Frage zum Thema Budgethilfe. Budgethilfe ist ja ein Instrument, das gerne angewendet wird, weil es eben schnell geht und weil man dann sozusagen eine schnelle Anrechnungsfähigkeit hat. Es ist aber eben nicht so zielgerichtet. Wie werden Sie in Zukunft damit umgehen?

1-068-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I see that budget support will be the one tool in the package, also in the future. But I fully agree with you that when we are using budget support, it's important that we have very strong transparency and we also can follow up what our partner states are doing with their budget support in this regard. And if there is any kind of corruption or something like that, we need to stop the financing and then, you know, monitor what has happened.

But I also know that through the budget support we have achieved quite good results. So I think that also in the future it will be one of the tools – not the only one, but one of the tools in the package.

1-069-0000

Catherine Chabaud (Renew). – Monsieur le Président, Madame la Commissaire désignée, à mon tour de vous souhaiter la bienvenue.

En 2002, le président Jacques Chirac déclarait lors du sommet de la Terre: «notre maison brûle et nous regardons ailleurs».

Après le dramatique diagnostic établi mercredi dernier par les experts du climat, nous pouvons en dire de même de l'océan, qui joue pourtant un rôle fondamental de régulateur du climat et qui nourrit les populations.

L'océan se réchauffe en profondeur, il s'acidifie, il perd son oxygène, son niveau s'élève, il est également affecté par les plastiques et les eaux polluées. Vous le savez bien, en mer Baltique, c'est un vrai problème.

Les conséquences ont déjà été désastreuses et s'annoncent encore plus désastreuses pour l'humanité toute entière et en particulier pour les communautés et les territoires insulaires et côtiers des pays en développement, qui sont parmi les plus exposés et vulnérables aux conséquences de ces bouleversements.

Alors ne pensez-vous pas qu'il y a là un sujet majeur, d'une manière générale, pour l'Union européenne, premier espace maritime au monde et premier donateur d'aide publique au développement, et que cela doit mobiliser, en particulier, les partenariats internationaux?

1-070-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I fully agree that the oceans are essential – and not only because I have lived on the coast nearly all my life and the sea has been a very important part of my life, especially when I was young.

So, I think you are right: oceans provide food and nutrition-security but also economic growth and jobs. But at the same time we need to be aware that marine ecosystems are under threat and, unfortunately, the impact of climate change is making their situation worse.

So I know that the European Union is supporting oceans, and the development amount is something like EUR 720 million – so quite a lot, but definitely this will be very close to my heart in the future.

1-071-0000

Catherine Chabaud (Renew). – Je précise qu'il s'agit de restaurer les écosystèmes marins et côtiers, mais aussi, dans le même temps, d'aider les populations à développer leurs propres économies liées à la mer.

En 2050, vous savez que 80 % de la population mondiale vivra sur la frange côtière. Ces populations doivent donc aussi pouvoir vivre avec un océan mieux préservé, avec des écosystèmes sains, pour attirer le tourisme littoral, pour assurer l'alimentation des populations, et même pour développer des énergies renouvelables. Je pense donc que c'est un vrai sujet. Le développement investit beaucoup sur le continent, peut-être pas suffisamment sur le littoral, et sur l'océan en particulier.

1-072-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – As I said, I think the financial support for oceans and development is something like EUR 720 million. We can discuss whether or not it's enough, maybe it's not. But I see that oceans and fisheries should be part of the Green Deal. So, as I said earlier today when I was answering Ms Rivasi's question, it's not enough to have this internal dimension in the Green Deal, we also should have an external dimension in the Green Deal. Of course oceans and fisheries should be part of that external dimension. Somehow, I feel that there is broad support for the idea that environment, broadly, and the climate will be one of those priorities in the coming years regarding the work of the future College.

1-073-0000

Louis Stedman-Bryce (NI). – Commissioner-designate, your portfolio talks about building sustainable partnerships, yet look at how poorly your predecessors have treated the United Kingdom during the Brexit negotiations.

How do you expect to build sustainable partnerships when your approach seems to be to bully until your model is accepted?

It's clear now that the British public want a clean-break Brexit with a simple trading partnership. This is also clearly in the best interest now for both parties. So my first question is: will you commit to repairing the damage that was caused by the previous Commission?

And my second question is: will you commit to changing the EU's approach to the UK and seeking a simple, mutual, beneficial trade-based relationship, so we can have a sustainable partnership that your role will facilitate?

1-074-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I have to say that Brexit was not our decision nor our choice. As Mr Barnier and Mr Juncker have said in the past, I regret it, but I respect it.

So, if confirmed, and provided Brexit has not taken place by then, I will continue to work towards an orderly withdrawal of the UK from the EU – and at this point we don't know whether we can agree with the UK on its orderly withdrawal.

It would therefore not be appropriate for me to speculate now on the future development cooperation. But as I mentioned already to Madam Bilde, I respect the work the UK is doing regarding development cooperation and I hope that we can be partners in any case in the future.

1-075-0000

Louis Stedman-Bryce (NI). – Surely the people of the UK deserve some sort of response to that.

1-076-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I think we will see that answer and the outcome in the future.

1-077-0000

Carlos Zorrinho (S&D). – Senhora Comissária indigitada, seja bem-vinda. Na sua carta de missão foi encarregada de desenvolver uma nova estratégia abrangente para África em conjunto com o Alto Representante. Isso já está em curso, através das negociações pós-Cotonu com os países ACP, e deve ser ainda mais aprofundado com África. A sua carta de missão destaca sobretudo as oportunidades políticas, económicas e de investimento, mas não detalha a questão da sustentabilidade. Ora o desenvolvimento sustentável, o crescimento verde e a responsabilidade social e corporativa são fundamentais.

Não podemos erradicar a pobreza extrema e construir uma parceria genuína entre iguais se nos focarmos apenas na dimensão económica e do investimento. Queria, por isso, perguntar-lhe como pensa trabalhar com o Alto Representante no sentido de dar prioridade ao desenvolvimento sustentável nesta parceria, e mais em concreto, como pensa desenvolver iniciativas como o regulamento sobre os minerais provenientes de zonas de conflito, em que o Parlamento Europeu tanto se envolveu, e garantir que os investidores cumprem as responsabilidades em matéria de direitos humanos, direitos dos trabalhadores e padrões ambientais em África.

1-078-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I think your question is essential, because for me, sustainable development is social, environmental and economically-sustainable development. So that's the way I understand sustainable development. All these aspects – social, environmental and economic – need to be present, need to be part of that development.

As I said, the framework for our cooperation – and I think that my fellow colleague, High-Representative/Vice-President Borrell, can also share this idea – the framework is the Sustainable Development Goals. So that's the programme – I'm committed. That's the programme the whole College is committed to.

And now we need to take care of the implementation. That's the main thing. I got your greetings from the meeting, last week in New York, and I understand that we need to do more. Otherwise, we are not able to achieve sustainable development goals by the year 2030.

So my personal view is that an Africa strategy – a comprehensive strategy for Africa – is one tool for that. It's one tool to have a partnership with Africa but also to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It should be a comprehensive strategy so that different political policy sectors are part of that approach. Trade needs to be present, agriculture, the environment and so on.

This is something I'm starting to prepare, together with High-Representative/Vice-President Borrell, but I want to stress the importance of the commitment of the whole College. It can't be my process; it can't be our process. It needs to be the process of the whole College.

1-079-0000

Carlos Zorrinho (S&D). – (continuação) Sra. Comissária indigitada, muito obrigado pela sua resposta muito clara. Como sabe, uma parte essencial da parceria União Europeia-ACP é o diálogo a todos os níveis, incluindo a cooperação parlamentar.

Atualmente, no contexto do Acordo de Cotonu, existe uma Assembleia Paritária ACP-União Europeia que realiza um diálogo regular e garante a cooperação parlamentar, mas também a supervisão dos projetos no terreno.

Os países ACP têm manifestado a intenção de permanecerem como um bloco e tanto o Parlamento Europeu como a Assembleia Parlamentar Paritária declararam claramente que, no novo acordo pós-Cotonu, desejam que exista uma dimensão parlamentar semelhante e autónoma.

Como vai defender esta posição nas negociações, na qualidade de negociadora-chefe da União Europeia, de forma a garantir a continuidade da Assembleia Parlamentar Paritária? Defende essa continuidade? Vai defendê-la?

1-080-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – As I said, have been a parliamentarian for over 16 years, I really respect the work you are doing in the parliament. I also see that the parliamentary dimension has to be present in future ACP cooperation. It has to be part of that cooperation.

I know that in the current plans there is this kind of idea that we should have three regional assemblies in the future. So not only one but three regional assemblies. I think that the most important thing for me is to take care that somehow, in one way or another, the parliamentary dimension will be present. This is something we will definitely discuss if I start my work as a Commissioner at the beginning of November. It will be one of my priorities. I intend to participate in the Parliamentary Assembly in November in Rwanda, I think it is.

1-081-0000

Ewa Kopacz (PPE). – Panie Przewodniczący! Witam Panią bardzo serdecznie i dziękuję Pani za wyczerpującą prezentację. Chciałabym zadać dwa pytania: czy dotychczasowy poziom finansowania rozwoju i pomocy humanitarnej dla krajów Afryki, Karaibów i Pacyfiku zostanie utrzymany w przyszłych wieloletnich ramach finansowych na lata 2021–2027 i czy organizacje pozarządowe, które współpracują z Komisją i realizują zakontraktowane już projekty, mają pełną gwarancję ich finansowania?

1-082-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I know that the Finnish Presidency is working hard on the MFF and, of course, we are all following very closely what is going to happen in that regard – because our financing for developing cooperation, financing for humanitarian aid is dependent on the MFF, so what happens there affects and has influence on our financing as well. I can say personally that I am very happy that the Commission proposal includes increasing financing for development cooperation. So, I believe that we should have more resources for international cooperation, including developing cooperation. As for what I said about NGOs and civil society organisations, you probably know that my background is in NGOs. I have worked, for instance, in World Vision in Finland, so I definitely see their role as a very important partner for us and I want to cooperate together with them in the future.

1-083-0000

Ewa Kopacz (PPE). – Chciałbym poznać Pani ocenę tego, jak brexit, jeśli do niego dojdzie, wpłynie na politykę rozwojową, handel i współpracę między Europą a krajami Afryki, Karaibów i Pacyfiku? Jakie jest Pani zdanie?

1-084-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – I understand that we are all very interested in Brexit, and we would like to know what will happen at the end of October, but unfortunately I feel that it's not my place to speculate on the subject. So we might come back to this issue later on.

1-085-0000

Manon Aubry (GUE/NGL). – Je voulais vous parler d'un sujet qui, étonnamment, a été très peu abordé par cette commission jusqu'à présent, alors que ce sujet est constamment d'actualité.

Pas plus tard que cette semaine, avant-hier, neuf Soudanais ont déposé une plainte contre une grande banque française, la BNP Paribas, pour avoir financé les crimes de guerre et crimes contre l'humanité commis par le régime El Bachir au Soudan. Faute d'un cadre juridique européen pour accueillir ces plaintes, depuis des décennies, les victimes de violations des droits humains par les entreprises n'obtiennent pas réparation et les multinationales jouissent d'une quasi totale impunité.

Pourtant, la Commission européenne est extrêmement active pour promouvoir les acteurs privés dans les pays en développement: elle a de plus en plus recours aux partenariats public-privé dans l'aide au développement et signe un nombre croissant d'accords de libre-échange, offrant une protection juridique aux entreprises multinationales.

Alors, si nous voulons établir de véritables partenariats avec les pays en développement, nous devons tenir les entreprises européennes responsables des violations des droits humains qu'elles commettent.

Deux opportunités s'offrent à nous, et c'est ma question. La première est de prendre exemple sur les États membres, dont les Pays-Bas, la France et peut-être bientôt l'Allemagne, qui sont dotés d'une loi sur le devoir de vigilance dans les chaînes d'approvisionnement internationales de leurs entreprises. Un projet législatif similaire est étudié en ce moment par la DG Justice. Soutiendrez-vous la mise en place d'un devoir de vigilance obligatoire vis-à-vis des droits humains et de l'environnement pour les entreprises opérant dans l'Union européenne, sachant son impact sur les pays en développement?

1-086-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – As I said earlier today – I think it was my answer to Mr Urbán Crespo – we build development for the people. That's the key. We do it for people, not for companies or for governments and, of course, in everything we do, we must ensure that we don't cause more pain to the most vulnerable people by, for instance, cutting aid for dealing with problems in local governance or societies. In a way, I believe that it's a kind of win-win situation which we should aim for because, for instance, promoting a global level playing field for EU companies operating worldwide also means supporting European jobs. So, my understanding today is that the Commission promotes the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. That's the position of our Commission and, personally, I believe that that's the right position – because for all the work we do, we need to respect human rights, and that's my commitment.

1-087-0000

Manon Aubry (GUE/NGL). – Vous savez certainement que la différence entre les principes directeurs des Nations unies et la demande, portée par des dizaines et des dizaines d'ONG depuis des années, mais aussi par la société civile, c'est l'aspect obligatoire de la régulation.

On voit bien que tous les principes volontaires ne suffisent pas aux victimes des droits de l'homme, en particulier dans les pays en développement, où l'état de droit est défaillant, pour

demander des comptes. Aussi cette réponse qui consiste à évoquer et à soutenir les principes directeurs des Nations unies n'est-elle, à notre sens, pas satisfaisante, et ne permet pas de répondre aux attentes portées par les ONG depuis des années.

Ma deuxième question de suivi sera en lien avec cela. D'ici quelques semaines auront lieu des négociations aux Nations unies sur un traité international. Nous passons donc du niveau européen à un niveau international. Pour l'Union européenne, j'imagine qu'il serait idéal d'avoir un cadre contraignant relatif aux droits de l'homme. En ce qui concerne les droits de l'homme et les entreprises, je sais que la Commission a annoncé avoir effectué une analyse du texte provisoire. Quelles sont les conclusions de cette analyse? Allez-vous enfin définir un mandat de négociations clair et proactif pour l'Union européenne?

1-088-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – How I have understood the situation is that it's a mandate of the current Commission because the meeting will be held in October, but the information I got – because we had a very nice discussion about this – is that the Commission is going to participate in that meeting in Geneva in October. I agree with you that we need obligations and I promise you that I will study this subject very closely when I started my work as a Commissioner.

1-089-0000

Jackie Jones (S&D). – First of all, I'd like to thank you for acknowledging UK NGOs' work on the ground and I would like to acknowledge the work of UK NGOs on the ground in the UK who are fighting very hard campaigning to remain, and there's a growing sphere for that. Now, the question that I was going to ask has already been highlighted – that's one of the things about coming last or coming towards the end of the list. I welcome your full commitment to women's sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as abortion services and health services. I also welcome your commitment to the Spotlight Initiative and the EU Gender Action Plan. I am absolutely delighted to hear that that will go forward. What my question would be is about financing and gender budgeting, making sure that it's adequately funded for a lengthy time and making sure the civil partnerships are involved at every level.

1-090-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – Maybe one aspect I would like to add is the political participation of women. I think that we, as politicians, are in a way examples for their partner countries. We need to get more women to be part of politics because if we have more women as politicians, I'm sure that, in a way, we are able to provide gender equality, although in the different policy areas. When it comes to financing, I am very happy that in the future Commission, there is a Commissioner for Gender Equality, and I'm definitely looking forward to cooperating closely with her. I think that this is a subject where we can together try to provide, so that in every policy area the Commission is working on, the gender aspect is more strongly present. Of course, that includes financing – that we could be able to have that perspective in the common budget in the future. I'm very delighted about that idea.

1-091-0000

Jackie Jones (S&D). – That's reassuring to hear, but a commitment to adequately funding all of those initiatives would be even better, I would suggest, and also in the comprehensive strategy for Africa and further afield as well because without adequate funding, it would be very difficult for NGOs, in particular, because of austerity measures that have occurred for the last 10 years. They've been stripped of their funding across the board, around the world, and, as we know, in order to fulfil our Agenda 2030 commitments, it's about leaving no one behind. To enable that to be done, especially for women and girls, who are subject to violence wherever they go, it's really key to have adequate financing as well as personnel, so please consider that, and it's really crucial

in order to fulfil our Spotlight Initiative commitments and our commitment to end violence against women and girls throughout the world.

1-092-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – As I said, gender equality is a key priority for me, so of course I will try to look for more resources for that as well. I fully agree with you that we need to mainstream gender equality. We have to remember that gender equality is part of the Sustainable Development Goals. We have all committed ourselves to those goals, so also from that perspective, I believe that if we want to improve the living conditions and political or any kind of participation of women, we need to have this kind of holistic approach and I'm ready to work on that.

1-093-0000

Ellie Chowns (Verts/ALE). – As a British MEP who believes that the EU is an excellent example of strong international partnership for the public good, I can only apologise for the action of a small minority of Brits who use opportunities like this for rather inept political grandstanding, rather than engaging in the substance of this committee.

I have a question on substance. It's on pollution and health, which is an issue that I think addresses those triple dimensions of sustainable development – environmental, social and economic. President Von der Leyen has made a Green Deal one of her top priorities, as you've said. She's included a zero-pollution ambition within it. But although I'm glad to see that you have talked about the external dimension of the Green Deal, it hasn't appeared on paper so far, or in the other discussions. I find this really rather surprising, given that the authoritative Lancet report in 2017 and recent work by the World Health Organization show that pollution is the largest environmental cause of disease and death worldwide. This particularly affects people in low- and middle-income countries. It kills three times as many people as AIDS, TB and malaria in low- and middle-income countries, and yet tackling pollution receives relatively little development assistance even from Europe, which we would expect should be a global leader in giving cost-effective assistance that addresses the needs of the poorest. Pollution is also a trans-boundary issue: food and products produced in low-income countries come over here as well.

So how will you ensure you're fully part of the zero-pollution team and integrate that closely with tackling poverty?

1-094-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you for this important question. As you personally said, pollution is the largest environmental cause of disease and death in the world today, and unfortunately nearly 90% of these deaths happen in low- and middle-income countries.

I definitely think that this aspect should be part of the Green Deal package, and as I have said many times in this hearing, I hope that you as a parliament would support us, so that we would have this kind of external dimension in the Green Deal. I think if you agree on that, I think it would be a good idea to also show your support for that idea, because I think that through the Green Deal we will be able to support clean and sustainable energy, for instance, in our partner countries, and we will be able to support a circular economy transition, for instance.

So in a way, that Green deal gives us many opportunities. Of course when it comes to the finances, I see that NDICI is a good tool for that, because we have committed with NDICI to give at least 20% or even more finance to the climate and environmental programmes. So I think it's also a very strong commitment.

1-095-0000

Ellie Chowns (Verts/ALE). – Thank you for that response. You’ve talked about how your title reflects the understanding that we need to move away from these old binaries of ‘developed’ and ‘developing’ – although I notice that many of us seem to find it hard to do that in reality. I would argue that the way we measure development itself is very old-fashioned. It hasn’t changed for decades – GNI per capita, GDP growth – and such a narrow focus on these flawed economic measures gives us a very narrow picture of poverty and development. So I’d like to ask you: do you agree that what gets measured gets managed and, therefore, how should we change the way that we measure development to take account of and better reflect the fact that development is multidimensional, social, environmental and economic? What changes would you like to see and what actions will you take in your term of office to push this forward?

1-096-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I personally believe that if we want to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, which I think we all want to achieve, we need to have this kind of holistic approach. We can’t think, you know, this is the development policy that the EU is doing, this is the trade policy that the EU is doing, this is the agriculture policy that the EU is doing – so that we just look from the old silos instead of taking a holistic approach. If we want to really achieve sustainable development, which is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable, we need to have a holistic approach. I think this is something that we really tried to do with this comprehensive strategy for Africa. All the Commission, the whole College, should be part of that preparation. So that all my colleagues, not only me and Mr Borrell, will be preparing that strategy, but also the Commissioner for Trade, the Commissioner for Agriculture, will be part of that. I think that this is, in a way, a new approach, at least from my perspective, and I’m very committed to at least trying to get also better results through that kind of approach.

1-097-0000

Martin Horwood (Renew). – I’m not, you’ll be relieved to know, going to ask you about Brexit, but I for one look forward to being here for the full five-year mandate, working with you to tackle important issues like how to help the world’s poor. I can’t think of many more important things. I’m going to ask you about transparency, which you mentioned in your opening remarks. The Commission is committed to increased aid transparency and to meeting the International Aid Transparency Initiative standard (IATI) in particular. This won’t just enable citizens to know where their money is spent, as you said, but it will also help to reduce corruption and inefficiency and it will help to defend the whole idea of vital European aid against its critics and detractors and those who think it is a waste of money. How will you, as Commissioner, though, help to promote transparency in general and the IATI standard in particular, not just within Europe, but around the world amongst other development actors as well?

1-098-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – This is a very important value to me because, as a former finance minister, I know that when you use taxpayers’ money, you always need to be very careful and you always need to be ready to defend where you have used people’s money. From that perspective, I think that we need to improve transparency. Unfortunately, I don’t yet have concrete new initiatives to give you, but if you have some ideas on how to improve transparency, I am definitely willing to listen to you. But I’m very committed to improve transparency in everything we do – our programming, our common projects and everything. As I said earlier, it’s important to be able to explain to people how we are using the money, what the achievements are, what the results are. Of course, it is also important to be able to show that we are efficient. I have to say that now I have been sitting together with my DG for two weeks, I really respect their knowledge, their commitment and also their efficiency. I am really looking forward to having this opportunity to work together with them, but still I believe that there is always room for improvement, so, please, if you have some ideas, I’m very happy to listen to you.

1-099-0000

Martin Horwood (Renew). – I have one idea. It's obviously very important to hear your very welcome commitment to transparency and it's one of the advantages of 28 countries working together that we can use the weight and force of the European Union in international forums to promote transparency and the IATI standard in particular, the International Aid Transparency Initiative standard. But only half our own Member States meet that IATI standard, so it is difficult for us to tell other people around the world to meet the highest standards in transparency if only half our own Member States do that. So will you work to ensure in your five-year term that all EU Member States meet the IATI standard at the very least and therefore give us a better platform on which to promote transparency and aid spending worldwide?

1-100-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I'm such a experienced politician that I'm very careful with promises. I only promise what I can definitely keep, but I promise to do my best and, as I said earlier, for me it's a question of legitimacy, the legitimacy of the European Union. We need to be able to show the people the results we have achieved. That's the way to the strengthen the legitimacy of the European Union. I will try my best.

1-101-0000

Frances Fitzgerald (PPE). – Welcome, Commissioner-designate. I'm delighted to hear your commitment to gender issues today, and indeed the focus it has got at the Committee here today. We know that Europe and the world will not reach the 2030 Agenda goals and particularly the climate goals without significant financial investment. Experience from the Small Island Developing States is showing us that the private sector can play a significant role, building climate resilience in economic development and in post-disaster recovery as well. How can the European Union focus most effectively on the vulnerable and leveraging the support of others, particularly in the private sector as well as the public, of course, building in appropriate standards, to effectively support both development and climate solutions, especially related to clean energy transitions?

1-102-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner-designate. – I think it was important what you said about least-development countries, and of course that will be our priority. We need to support those countries which are least-developed countries. But at the same time I want to raise another aspect, because we know that more and more countries are middle-income countries, which is of course good, because we can see the development or improvement they have they have made. And unfortunately in many middle-income countries, inequality is very high. So from that perspective, my personal commitment will be to fight against inequalities, because I think this is a huge challenge, not only for the middle-income countries but also almost in every European Union Member State. So these will be the guiding principles for me, that we are able to fight against inequality with different kinds of tools. When it comes to the role of the private sector, I fully agree with you that we need to have the private sector involved, and we already have different kinds of measures for that. We have, of course, blending. We have other tools as well, and I think that in the future we need to have multiple equipment so that we have different kind of tools to be able to use. But without the participation of the private sector, we are not able to achieve sustainable development goals. I think it's quite honest to say that, and of course from that perspective it's necessary to have a strong commitment also from the private sector that this is a common approach and they will be part of our partnership.

1-103-0000

Frances Fitzgerald (PPE). – Of course I agree with you about fighting inequalities and using every tool available to us, but clearly climate change, if it's not handled properly and we don't deal with the challenges, is going to lead to even greater inequality. So a specific question: the UN has said it is very disappointed on the whole question of the funding that's currently available for the

Sustainable Development Goals, so what would you do in particular to develop cooperation and synergies between the public and the private sector, as I said already, building in very clear human rights standards? But the level of investment right now is very, very low.

1-104-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – I fully agree with you regarding climate change, and I think we have been talking about a lot about the Green Deal and I think it's one of the examples of the commitment of a future college relating to climate change. I also see that the alliance initiative taken by President Juncker was a good start – how to get more private investments, for instance, to Africa – so we don't need to begin from the beginning. We have good examples, we have already achieved good results, so my duty, of course, is try to look for new initiatives. How to get more private investments to Africa, for instance, and I'm ready to do that.

1-105-0000

Tomas Tobé, **Chair DEVE**. – Thank you, and thank you to all members: yes, it's over. No, we have a couple of minutes: wait. I would like to thank the Members for all the questions. Of course I would also like to thank the Commissioner-designate for your answers. I would also like to thank you for the length of your answers. I think there was some Finnish efficiency there.

We actually have a lot of the time left, but the rules are very clear: it's only 25 questions. But I would like to say to the Commissioner-designate that if you are confirmed, we do look forward to the statements that you have made to the commitment of working very closely with the European Parliament.

The coordinators know that we will have an evaluation meeting, and you will have the details about that. That meeting will be behind closed doors.

I would, lastly, also would like to invite the Commissioner-designate, if you want, to say some closing words before we end this public hearing, so please.

1-106-0000

Jutta Urpilainen, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you. Because I haven't used my own language in this hearing, so I really hope that it's okay for you that I say a few words in my own language, Finnish.

Arvoisa puheenjohtaja, hyvät Euroopan parlamentin jäsenet. Haluan sydämeistäni kiittää teitä käymästämme keskustelusta. Kuten olen monta kertaa tämän kuulemisen aikana todennut, parlamentti on minulle tärkeä paikka. Uskon lujasti edustukselliseen demokratiaan ja siihen, että mahdollisessa asemassani komissaarina tarvitsen teidän kauttanne eurooppalaisten ihmisten tuen. Maailman ja Euroopan kestävä tulevaisuus on mahdollinen vain eurooppalaisten instituutioiden yhteistyöllä.

Haluan kiittää teitä myös siitä, että haastoitte minut tänään painavaan sisältökeskusteluun. Keskustelumme painoarvo heijastaa kansainvälisten suhteiden merkitystä. Olisi suuri kunnia saada tehtäväksi niiden suhteiden rakentaminen yhteistyössä kansanne.

Mielestäni tämän päivän keskustelu on vahva osoitus siitä arvostuksesta ja kunnianhimmasta, joka kehityspolitiikkaan Euroopan parlamentissa kohdistuu. Tämä minulle esitetty portfolio on selvästi aivan keskiössä, kun Eurooppa jättää positiivisen kädenjälkensä kestävään globaaliin kehitykseen ja miljoonien ihmisten elämään.

Näen kehityspolitiikan uudelleen nimetyn portfolioni sydämenä, keskiönä, aivan kuten olemme tänään keskustelleetkin. Itse asiassa minusta kansainväliset kumppanuudet terminä kertoo samalla sekä arvokkaasta että vahvasta kehityspolitiikan perinnöstämme mutta samalla vielä

jostain enemmästä. Se kuvaa mahdollisuuksiamme – EU:n mahdollisuuksia – todella vaikuttaa maailman kehitykseen ja tulevaisuuteen yhdessä ja tasavertaisina kumppaniemme kanssa.

Globaalin kestäväen kehityksen työn keskiössä on köyhyyden vähentäminen. Aivan kuten ensimmäinen kestäväen kehityksen tavoite niin hyvin toteaa, meidän on lopetettava köyhyys sen kaikissa muodoissa kaikkialla. Työtä riittää, sillä YK:n mukaan 780 miljoonaa ihmistä elää edelleen köyhyysrajan alapuolella. Tämä on myös minun kompassini, mikäli saan kunnian toimia komissaarina. Kuten myös tänään keskustelimme, meidän on jatkettava sinnikästä yhteistyötä kohti 0,7 prosentin tavoitetta kehitysavussa.

Samaan aikaan kehityspolitiikan vahvistaminen edellyttää aitoja kumppanuuksia tasavertaisten toimijoiden kesken. Se ei tarkoita, että me yksipuolisesti autamme muita, vaan että vastaamme globaaleihin haasteisiin yhdessä. Se tarkoittaa, että käymme entistä parempaa vuoropuhelua kumppaniemme ja erilaisten sidosryhmiemme kanssa.

Myös kestäväen kehityksen tavoitteet viitoittavat jo aavistuksen moderniin ajatteluun. Tavoitteen mukaanhan meidän tulee tukea vahvemmin kestäväen kehityksen toimeenpanoa ja globaalia kumppanuutta. Riittää kun vertaa perinteisen kehitysavun kokoa suhteessa muihin globaaleihin rahavirtoihin, niin huomaa, että tarvitsemme enemmän resursseja käyttööme.

Tarvitsemme siis kehityksen avuksi suuremmat resurssit. On erittäin tärkeää kytkeä mukaan niin kansalaisyhteiskunnan toimijat kuin yksityiset yritykset. Samalla kun meidän on luonnollisesti huolehdittava yritysvastuun toteutumisesta ja arvojemme mukaisesta toiminnasta, on selvää, että nimenomaan investoinnit luovat kasvua ja hyvinvointia, työpaikkoja sekä uusia ammattitaitoja heille, joilta ne puuttuvat.

Olen vakuuttunut, että kansainvälisten kumppanuuksien titteli ei varjosta sitoutumistamme globaaliin kehityspolitiikkaan. Mikäli tulen valituksi, aion keskittyä kestäväen kehityksen tavoitteiden saavuttamiseen, epätasa-arvon kitkemiseen sekä köyhyyden vähentämiseen. Tämä on tulevaisuus, jollaista me haluamme rakentaa. Tämä on meidän tehtävämme globaalissa kestäväen kehityksen työssä.

Hyvät ystävät, olen optimisti. Yhdyn Mahatma Gandhin ajatukseen siitä, että ihmiskunta on kuin valtameri. Vaikka joukossa voi olla likaisia pisaroita, ei se tee valtamerestä likaista. Uskon ihmiskunnan hyvyyteen ja kykyymme tehdä yhdessä tästä maailmasta parempi myös tuleville sukupolville.

Lopetan toteamalla, että olen ylpeä meistä ja Euroopasta. Tämä keskustelumme tänään osoitti jälleen, että yhteisen ponnistelun ja yhteistyön näkökulmasta Euroopan unioni on merkittävä globaali toimija, ja sellaisena meidän on pidettävä se myös tulevaisuudessa.

1-108-0000

Tomas Tobé, *Chair DEVE*. – And on that note we end this public hearing.

(The hearing closed at 11.35)