

In November there was dialogue all around: at the Development Days, at the ACP-EU joint parliamentary assembly and with DG Development and DG Trade. CONCORD dialogued intensively with the institutions and other sectors of civil society, such as environmental NGOs. The impact of climate change, development education, consulting the South and the economic partnership agreements were all central issues.

CONTENTS

Click on the links to view the articles

A word from CAN on climate change and development 2

CONCORD IN ACTION

Team players: NGOs and ACP parliamentarians 3

When civil society advises DG Development 3

Will climate change affect development? 4

2007 report on Policy Coherence for Development 5

A common European strategy on development education and awareness-raising 6

A CONCORD exhibition on how developing countries see the impact of Europe 6

Climate justice: first paper from CONCORD, VOICE & CAN 7

STOP PRESS

A guide that will improve our understanding of EU policy incoherence 8

Civil Society Forum meets in Lisbon to discuss the Europe-Africa Dialogue 8

CONCORD General Assembly: a good vintage 8

Resource Centre: everything you wanted to know about NGO national platforms 9

THE EUROPE FILES

9

CONFERENCES ORGANISED BY CONCORD AND ITS MEMBERS

10

FORTHCOMING WORK MEETINGS

10

CONCORD DOCUMENTS OF THE MONTH

10

OTHER NEWSLETTERS

11



— 2007 ends soon. The next *Flash* will be out in early February.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

CONCORD is the European confederation of relief and development NGOs. Its 22 national associations and 20 international networks represent over 1,600 NGOs which are supported by millions of citizens across Europe.

CONCORD leads reflection and political actions and regularly engages in dialogue with the European institutions and other civil society organisations. It is part of the Global Call to Action against Poverty. Find out more about CONCORD on www.concordeurope.org.

10 sq. Ambiorix – B-1000 – Belgium – Tel. +32/2/743 87 77 – Fax +32/2/732 19 34

E-mail: secretariat@concordeurope.org – <http://www.concordeurope.org>

A WORD ON CLIMATE CHANGE FROM CAN

Climate change is one of the most serious threats to sustainable development, both now and in the future, with adverse impacts already being observed on the environment, human health, food security, economic activity, natural resources and physical infrastructure.

When it comes to climate change, nowadays there is no justice. Its impact is felt most heavily in the poorest countries of the world. The industrialised countries are expected to take the lead in substantially reducing emissions, through the implementation of a range of measures, but they are not doing enough. Developing countries contribute least to climate change, but many already are suffering from its negative impacts and cannot afford to build the infrastructure needed to cope with climate change...

What's needed: the 2° challenge

Unless global warming is kept to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels, it is increasingly likely that the consequences of climate change will be unmanageable. With all the impacts on food production, health and low-lying coastal areas, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is in serious jeopardy.

The UNFCCC's international climate change conference in Bali in December will be crucial for drafting a roadmap for a new global agreement on climate change in 2009. This agreement, which will come into effect in 2012, will need to mainstream climate change fully into all areas of development policy.

The increase in climate variability and extreme weather events, combined with dynamic pressures such as population growth, forced migration and economic inequity, means that more people will become more vulnerable to natural hazards such as drought, floods and hurricanes. Mitigating climate change and developing clean growth mechanisms therefore have to go hand in hand with reducing people's vulnerability to the impact that climate change is already having – and will increasingly have – on their lives and livelihoods.

The world's poorest people need to prepare their communities, societies and natural environments to cope with the impact of climate change. To enable them to do this, appropriate technology transfer is needed, in order to provide new sustainable development pathways to mitigate greenhouse-gas emissions and help societies adapt to climate change. This could include technical and infrastructural measures, such as sea walls, where feasible or appropriate, or early warning systems, or major infrastructure for water conservation. At the community level, it also means providing support for poor people

What can the European Union do?

The EU's policy must be to create synergies and mainstream climate change issues into all policy areas. It is essential for the European Union – through the allocation of resources, financing and policy procedures – to ensure that there is policy coherence. This can be achieved by promoting synergies between adaptation and sustainable development. Adaptation to climate change must be linked to critical policy issues such as sustainable land use, biodiversity conservation, and water management. Similarly, there are linkages between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Reducing vulnerability to changing climatic conditions through disaster risk reduction can help to build adaptive capacity, now and in the future.

The European Union should propose more drastic cuts to emissions. This, combined with clearly defined targets, would send out the right signals:

- ◆ That developed countries must take the lead in cutting carbon dioxide emissions in order to encourage the larger developing countries to adopt mitigation targets too.
- ◆ In discussions between developed and developing countries, recognise adaptation as a critical social, economic and ecological imperative. The wealthy and highly industrialised countries that are mainly responsible for climate change are better able to adapt, while the most severe consequences will be felt in poorer and more vulnerable countries. It is therefore a fundamental matter of social justice that adaptation is recognised as a top-line issue in discussions between developed and developing countries, such as in EU discussions around the Global Climate Change Alliance and the EU-Africa Strategy.
- ◆ Ensure that the level of financing for adaptation meets the needs of vulnerable countries, sectors and communities. All funding for adaptation should be new and additional to ODA. It is not enough to fund adaptation from 'charity' or 'aid' funds.
- ◆ The European Union should provide support to the least developed countries in attaining full involvement in climate change negotiations.

CAN is the Climate Action Network. Together with CONCORD, it organised a side event at the Development Days ([see article below](#)) on the link between development and climate change, and has produced a [briefing paper](#).

CONCORD IN ACTION

Team players: NGOs and ACP parliamentarians



Every six months the EU / ACP Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) brings together an equal number of members of parliament from the EU and the ACP countries. In Kigali last November they were not alone: a delegation from CONCORD's Cotonou Working Group and some of their civil society partners were also there to take part in the discussions (EURAC, CNCD, Action Aid International, CBMI, Eurostep, Sloga, HAND, 11.11.11). They also provided funds to enable representatives of various ACP civil society organisations to be present.

Their main aim was to influence the debates on the 10th European Development Fund (EDF), the European Economic Partnership Agreements and, more broadly, the participation of civil society and parliaments in the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement.

In practice, what did they do? Months before, the civil society organisations (CSOs) contacted Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to give them information on the European Development Fund and propose questions to be sent to the European Commission for clear answers. In Kigali, they met parliamentarians from both the EU and ACP countries and gave them Cotonou Group briefings on various issues: EDF, gender, funding for development, the environment, the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), governance, intra-ACP funds and the European Commission's financial instruments. They also organised a lunch briefing with the Eastern African Farmers Federation, ACORD and VECO to raise parliamentarians' awareness of the democratic deficit surrounding the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement. This includes the 10th EDF and the role of national parliaments in the negotiation of country strategy papers (none so far) and the negotiation of the EPAs (very limited).

Several parliamentarians and representatives from the European Parliament's Development Committee made very strong statements about the fact that there was no real balanced partnership between the European Union (EU) and ACP countries. They criticised the EU-Africa strategy, which was seen as irrelevant, and stressed that the bullying manner in which the negotiations on the EPAs had been conducted had broken the confidence pact between the European Commission and the developing countries. They said that parliamentarians and civil society organisations were being pushed away from the debates on the EDF and EPAs because of European economic and geopolitical interests. Governments should be more accountable than ever to their citizens and their parliaments. ACP and European parliaments should scrutinise European aid to ACP countries. *"When Europe has increased democracy in its aid to Asia and Latin America, how can it still deny Africa a truly democratic scrutiny process? This lack of democracy is very hard to understand while Europe keeps preaching good governance"*, concluded Florent Sebban from Eurostep and CONCORD's Cotonou Working Group.

Finally, the Joint Parliamentary Assembly produced the Kigali Declaration which calls for guarantees that no ACP countries will end up in a less advantageous situation in 2008 if they are unable to sign the EPAs by 31 December. ACP countries fear that the measures proposed by the European Commission will adversely affect their revenues and counteract their efforts to develop and to fight poverty.

The next JPA meeting will be in Slovenia in March. In the meantime, the Cotonou Working Group is planning to discuss how to promote debate between parliamentarians and civil society on the implementation of Cotonou, and to develop a guide to best practice.

For further information: Florent Sebban (Eurostep: fsebban@eurostep.org) or Gérard Karlshausen (CNCD/Belgian platform: gerard.karlshausen@cncd.be)

When civil society advises DG Development

Since 2007, DG Development in the European Commission has been organising formal meetings with civil society organisations to debate the main issues relating to development. The third meeting of this so-called "Stakeholder Advisory Group" (SAG), held on 25 October 2007, focused on the dialogue with DG Development and the involvement of civil society in country programming and in the European Partnership Agreements (EPAs). Forty-two people participated, five of them from CONCORD and 17 from the European Commission, including Deputy Director-General Bernard Petit.

Consultation of civil society by DG Development in 2008

The consultations planned for 2008 can now be seen on DG Development's [website](#), and CONCORD has circulated the list to its members (also available on the [CONCORD website](#)). The first consultation will be on the [preparation of a Commission Communication on Policy Coherence for Development](#) and will remain open until 30 January 2008.

Consultation of civil society in delegations

DG Development and DG External Relations (RELEX) have requested all Commission delegations to provide information on their consultation of civil society. Initial responses show examples of good practice, but also recurring obstacles:

1. Delegations think that Non-State Actors (NSAs) have quite a positive role and input in a country.
2. Thematic and geographic programmes are useful tools for involving and supporting NSAs
3. A more structured, regular dialogue is needed since the process of consulting civil society is sometimes limited by time constraints
4. The capacity-building of NSAs needs to be reinforced to facilitate their involvement

Recommendations are: 1) to reinvigorate dialogue and interaction, 2) to ensure the involvement of a broad typology of actors, 3) to move from ad hoc information to institutionalised dialogue, 4) to improve communication and transparency. These recommendations should be followed by practical action plans. Delegation coordinators have already received a good deal of training on cross-cutting development issues, such as social and environmental issues and gender and education. Trainings on disability are still needed, however. As the mainstreaming of horizontal issues is mentioned in the country strategy papers, it could be made more concrete and a list of "environmental focal points" (i.e., coordinators) in the delegations will be put on DG Development's website.

The European Economic and Social Committee also held an evaluation and proposed giving more instructions to the delegations, in order to improve consultations; mapping NSAs; creating NSA platforms; giving contact details for the delegations' civil society focal points on the delegations' own websites, not just on DG Development's site; and, in each delegation, providing an informative list of the projects and programmes NSAs can be involved in.

The civil society organisations suggested making these conclusions available to the public and ensuring that such studies involved all NSAs, especially if the dialogue was to be more structured and NSA platforms were to be set up. Also, local authorities should be encouraged to consult their own civil society.

Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)

A Communication on EPAs has been issued (COM (2007) 635 final) and in 2008 the European Commission will present a communication on economic development and regional integration in the ACP countries which will take the EPAs into account.

DG Trade was present at the meeting and promised to update civil society once a month on progress with the EPA negotiations for as long as they continued. DG Trade explained that each region was responsible for managing its own relations with civil society, and that the regional civil society platforms and national networks would not all be set up in the same way. DG Trade organised and financed regional seminars to provide information and facilitate dialogue on EPAs between the negotiating parties and local civil society. Meetings would also be held in Brussels on 14 November and 5 December.

Concerning the eventual setting-up of EPA institutions and the role of civil society in this, nothing had yet been decided. In May 2007, however, the Council's conclusions on EPAs stated that " *These Joint EPA Councils shall be assisted in the first place by Joint Implementation Committees which will assess the progress made and formulate recommendations on measures for further achievements (...). ... the Council also stresses the important role of a dialogue with parliamentarians, civil society and the business community from both ACP States and the EU.*

The Stakeholder Advisory Group will meet again early in 2008 to deepen its discussion on the same topics.

For further information: Olivier Consolo (oconsolo@concordeurope.org)

Will climate change affect development?

This was the big question in Lisbon at the beginning of November, where round two of the European Development Days tackled the issue of global warming and development.



Some 1,000 participants contributed to the reflection, including experts on climate change, NGOs and politicians. CONCORD was there with more than 40 CONCORD representatives who organised or took the floor in 12 events.

The main ones were:

- ◆ A joint CONCORD / Climate Action Network conference entitled "Climate Justice beyond 2012: Highlighting the voices and needs of the poor and vulnerable as part of a comprehensive and equitable Bali Mandate". [See article below.](#)
- ◆ The launch of the European Consensus on Development Education and Awareness-Raising organised by CONCORD's Development Education Forum and DEEEP. [See article below.](#)
- ◆ The Slovenian NGO Platform's round table on "Exchanging experiences in communicating climate change as a development issue". More information: lidija@focus.si
- ◆ The side event on "Reducing Vulnerability: Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Development Cooperation" organised by EU-CORD and VOICE's Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction. More information: Julia.ojanen@plan-international.org
- ◆ CARE International's conference on "Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance – Multiple-Benefit Forestry and Carbon Markets – Promise or Peril?" More information: steele@careinternational.org
- ◆ The opening of CONCORD's photo exhibition, "Emerging Views on Europe", on how the South sees the impact of Europe, with EuropeAid Director General Koos Richelle, Annamária Kékesi (CONCORD Board member) and Mamadou Cissokho from ROPPA (CARE International also held a photo exhibition entitled "Put a Human Face on Climate Change"). To see what Koos Richelle thinks of it, go to Blip TV: <http://euforic.blip.tv>
- ◆ The EU Coherence Programme of CONCORD and the Evert Vermeer Foundation presented its manual entitled *Policy Coherence for Development, A Practical Guide* [See article below](#)

At the end of the three days CONCORD sent three spokespersons to debrief the journalists invited by the European Journalism Centre on the Development Days and the declarations made by the institutions, such as the one by Louis Michel. The European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid announced that a 'global fund' would be created to provide the huge financial resources needed to fight climate change. The world's richest countries would be responsible for paying back the borrowed money through an innovative long-term mechanism. This fund could be managed by international institutions.

At the Development Days there was a clear consensus that climate change is neither fiction nor media hype and that it is affecting the poorest of the poor, despite the fact that these people – living in the most vulnerable countries – are least responsible for the environmental phenomenon. Climate change is attacking the natural resource base of poor communities, including their land and water reserves, and people are subsequently being forced to migrate for survival. As Kofi Annan put it: " *For far too long we have considered climate change a problem for the future. But we must remember that climate change is an all-encompassing threat. It is not an issue of rich versus poor, of north versus south. It's a global issue and we are seeing its effects everywhere.*

CONCORD naturally offset the pollution caused by its trips to Lisbon by paying the equivalent to Action Carbone, which finances projects aimed at preventing greenhouse-gas emissions and encouraging carbon capture: <http://www.actioncarbone.org>

The next Development Days are likely to be celebrated in Strasbourg in November 2008, with the theme "Local governance: the role of local authorities in development". <http://www.eudevdays.eu>

For further information: Agnès Philippart (aphilippart@concordeurope.org)

2007 report on Policy Coherence for Development

Following the recent publication of the 2007 report on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) by the European Commission, CONCORD presented its comments to the Commission at the end of September and to some member states at a debate on 21 November. CONCORD appreciates the effort that the Commission has made so far to encourage all stakeholders to work on improving coherence between different policy areas and actors, and its efforts to push all member states to participate actively in providing information for the report.

CONCORD sees an important role for civil society in raising awareness on the issue of PCD, and also in the process of strengthening PCD in the European Union and international fora. CONCORD has therefore consulted not only its members but also its partners in other sectors, in order to collect their comments and proposals on the EU's Report on PCD. CONCORD hopes these comments will help the European Commission in prioritising issues and that they will

provide additional arguments emphasising the importance of the Commission in highlighting coherence in international fora.

The Commission is currently working on a major "umbrella communication", due in April 2008, on "Financing for Development, Aid Effectiveness & Policy Coherence". This communication will not contain any significant new commitments but will instead propose concrete implementation and follow-up measures in response to the recommendations contained in the PCD report. CONCORD will engage actively with the Commission on this issue, including through the online consultation process the Commission launched as follow-up to the PCD report.

Download civil society's on comments PCD from the front page of CONCORD's website: www.concordeurope.org
For further information: Alwin Loeckx (aloeckx@concordeurope.org)

ACTION OF THE MONTH

A common European strategy for development education and awareness-raising

After two years of work, a European strategy was published during the Development Days in November. It is designed to provide a framework for the implementation of development education and awareness-raising at local, regional, national and European levels.

Louis Michel, Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, attended the launch of the strategy and stated that *"this consensus on development education is as important as the European Consensus on Development. Young people are unaware of poor people's suffering. Raising awareness among young people is a day-to-day effort. Development education is a long-term process to prepare young people for the debates of tomorrow"*.

This strategic framework is indeed a contribution to the implementation of the European Consensus on Development (2005), with particular reference to the statement that *"... the European Union will pay particular attention to development education and raising awareness among EU citizens..."*

As Rilli Lappalainen, chair of CONCORD's Development Education Forum, explained, the strategy was based on contributions from stakeholders in civil society, MEPs, national governments and the EU institutions. *"A lot of action already existed, but separately. This strategy is a tool to encourage cross-cutting activities."*

"This strategy framework is the beginning of future actions. Annexes will provide details for each stakeholder's group on how to implement the strategy's principles and policy. In a year's time, we will assess what has been done. A reference manual showing best practice and lessons learned will complement the framework," said Anita Reddy from InWEnt (Capacity-Building International, Germany).

[Click here to download the strategy framework](#) and start putting it into practice!

For more information: Alwin Loeckx (aloeckx@concordeurope.org)

A CONCORD exhibition on how developing countries see the impact of Europe

The European Union is the biggest economic player and aid donor in the world. But how do people living in recipient countries really view the influence of Europe?

To find out, CONCORD asked people from developing and emerging countries to send photos and comments illustrating how Europe positively or negatively influences their lives and their country. The result is a photo exhibition that will tour Europe to raise awareness among the public and stakeholders. It is available free of charge to civil society organisations and the institutions.



The main themes that emerged were migration, the impact of trade policies and the influence of Western culture on the habits and dreams of the population, and also the importance of being supported in getting organised and voicing their concerns. More traditionally, the importance of aid in education, health and access to food and drinking water came out strongly.

The exhibition, entitled "Emerging Views on Europe", was presented recently at the European Parliament, at the Development Days and at CONCORD's General Assembly. It comes with a tool-kit offering suggestions for how to use the exhibition to complement your own activities, or mount a special one around it, ranging from the traditional school visits to designing a TV set and treasure hunts.

CONCORD hopes the exhibition will help make the public – and also the decision-makers – in your country more aware of the impact that decisions taken by the EU and national governments can have on developing and emerging countries. As Kenyans say: " *The problem of North/South relations is not that the South does not keep its word, it is that the North has no ears*".

This photo exhibition is yours!

For further information about this free exhibition, contact: Agnès Philippart – aphilippart@concordeurope.org – tel: +322 743 87 77 or visit the website: <http://www.concordeurope.org/Public/emergingviews/Page.php?ID=5029>

Climate Justice: the first paper from CONCORD, VOICE & CAN

For the first time, CONCORD has joined together with the Climate Action Network¹ to do joint advocacy work on the linked issues of development and climate change. At the Development Days they organised a side event entitled "Climate Justice beyond 2012: Highlighting the voices and needs of the poor and vulnerable in dealing with Climate Change".

How can we enhance the role of development within an appropriate, equitable post-2012 framework? This was the key question posed by the conference, where representatives from not just CAN but also the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Institute for Environment and Development, the Bangladesh Centre for Applied Sciences and DG Environment (European Commission) explained their points of

view.

Climate change is one of the most serious threats to both current and future sustainable development, with adverse impacts already being observed on the environment, human health, food security, economic activity, natural resources and physical infrastructure. Developing countries have contributed least to the problem, but they suffer first and worst from the effects of climate change, so highlighting the voices, concerns and needs of vulnerable and poor communities and countries will be essential to striking a fair deal on climate change.

The debate put the spotlight on historical responsibility and on the socio-economic capacity to deal with climate change. It deepened reflection on what was needed to make a success of December's Bali conference on climate change. What elements must be included in a comprehensive post-2012 package on climate in order to make it both appropriate and equitable? Who can facilitate and finance mitigation, technology transfer and adaptation strategies and techniques, and how?

For this event, CONCORD, VOICE and CAN produced their first joint issues paper, demanding climate justice beyond 2012. The paper gives an overview of the climate change debate and focuses on the roles played by EU development policy and policy stakeholders in the global dialogue.

For further information: Agnès Philippart (aphilippart@concordeurope.org) – [click here to read the paper](#)

STOP PRESS

A guide that will improve our understanding of EU policy incoherence

As you know, CONCORD and the Evert Vermeer Foundation (EVF) have a joint programme to monitor the coherence of the EU's policies. Now they have produced *Policy Coherence for Development, A Practical Guide*. This manual,

¹ With over 109 members in 25 European countries, CAN Europe is broad network which works to prevent dangerous climate change and promote a sustainable energy and environment policy in Europe: <http://www.climnet.org>

illustrated with several concrete examples of incoherent policies, is a practical guide that gives an insight into the coherence – or lack of it – of EU policies. The seven case-studies (on, among other things, biofuels, fisheries and illegal logging) show clear evidence of practices in which several EU policies are undermining development objectives.

During the European Development Days, the EU Coherence Programme was invited to voice its concerns at the side event on coherence organised by the European Commission. As the only NGO representative on the panel, Rachel Castermans spoke critically about the European Commission's first report on the improvement of policy coherence in the European Union. Françoise Moreau, Head of DG Development's Policy Coherence Unit, also stressed the significance of coherence in certain policy areas, especially as regards biofuels and the Fisheries Partnership Agreements.

Policy Coherence for Development, A Practical Guide examines all these topics, and was quickly sold out after the debate – only Louis Michel managed to get one at the stand. Click [here](#) to read more about the side event on Policy Coherence for Development.

Finally, on 26 November the EVF and CONCORD – together with SID and ECDPM – organised a briefing session for Members of the European Parliament entitled "Policy Coherence for Development: rhetoric or reality?", with active participation from Commissioner Louis Michel, Françoise Moreau (EC), Louka Katseli (formerly OECD, now Greek MP) and others.

Read the case-studies on www.eucoherence.org or order the brand-new manual from eboonstra@evertvermeer.nl

Civil Society Forum meets in Lisbon to discuss Europe-Africa Dialogue

The Civil Society Forum on the Euro-African Dialogue was the key event in the Portuguese NGOs' programme for the Portuguese presidency of the European Union (EU). It took place in Lisbon from 15 to 17 November, bringing together over 100 civil society representatives from Africa and Europe with the main objective of working towards the formulation of a strong, shared vision of the partnership between Africa and Europe. This event was part of a process that began years ago at the Cairo Summit of 2000, regarded as one of the milestones in the development of this European-African dialogue.

In line with the Portuguese NGDO Platform's priorities for the EU presidency, the Civil Society Forum addressed four main topics: Trade and Development, Governance, Migration and Development, and Cooperation and Partnership. The opening and closing sessions were held in conjunction with the Euro-African Parliamentarian Forum organised by the North-South Centre (Council of Europe). The final outcome of the Forum included a proactive political declaration focusing on the future of relations between Europe and Africa, which will be presented to the Summit of Heads of State and Government on 9 December.

In addition, the four workshops came up with a number of recommendations to decision-makers and civil society organisations, to do with the particular aspects of Euro-African dialogue tackled during the Forum.

For further information: Pedro Krupenski (pedro.krupenski@plataformaongd.pt) or www.plataformaongd.pt

CONCORD General Assembly: a good vintage

The second General Assembly of 2007 was held in Brussels on 27 and 28 November 2007, with the future of CONCORD as its main focus. Once the action plan and budget for 2008 had been approved, the Assembly studied the strategic plan and discussed CONCORD's long-term "Vision". What advocacy work should CONCORD do as regards the EU's role in the international institutions in the years to come? How many members should CONCORD have in the future? Should CONCORD be opened up to other civil society players? If so, giving them what status? What role do our partners in the South play in the governance of CONCORD? Is CONCORD answerable to them?

The comments from member organisations were favourable. Nonetheless, several speakers said they would like to see greater emphasis and more work on cross-cutting issues, the human rights-based approach, development education and awareness-raising.

The group responsible for formulating CONCORD's Vision will take these suggestions into account and will submit a new version of the paper to the Board. In February 2008 all CONCORD members will be invited to approve the final version of the CONCORD Vision.

Day 2 was devoted to development financing. After an introduction by Richard Murphy entitled "Taxes and Financing for Development", members broke up into four workshops which discussed several different aspects:

- ◆ Is international trade a development tool?
- ◆ How can we ensure that developing countries' debt becomes tolerable over the long term?
- ◆ How will the new sources of financing work?
- ◆ How should we handle systemic issues (such as the reform of the international financial institutions)?

After the workshops came an information session in plenary where there was a discussion on the political actions on development financing that could be organised in the run-up to the Doha Summit at the end of 2008. It was decided that a task force – coordinated by members, and with a limited mandate – would be set up to draft a policy paper on FFD by the middle of February.

For further information: Agnès Philippart aphilippart@concordeurope.org

Resource Centre: everything you wanted to know about NGO national platforms

An International Resource Centre (IRC) for National NGO Platforms was set up in September. This initiative, launched by five national platforms from the five continents (ABONG in Brazil, ACCION in Chile, CONGAD in Senegal, Coordination Sud in France and VANI in India), is financed by the UNDP, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Fondation pour le Progrès and the Ford Foundation. It aims to facilitate cooperation between national platforms and coordination between regional coalitions of NGOs.

The launching of the IRC (www.ong-ngo.org) reflects three objectives:

- 1) To reinforce the national, regional and international structuring of national NGO platforms.
- 2) To facilitate the exchange of good practice and cooperation between national NGO platforms.
- 3) To support the standpoints of national NGO platforms in international negotiations.

CONCORD played an active part in this project by collecting and analysing information on its members in order to provide the newly launched IRC with up-to-date information on European national platforms, such as their history, their governance and the partnerships and financing of the different platforms.

This International Resource Centre will undoubtedly be very useful for NGOs in finding appropriate partners worldwide and in carrying out advocacy campaigns across the globe.

For further information: Andreas Vogt avogt@concordeurope.org – www.ong-ngo.org

THE EUROPE FILES

This column reports on the new appointments made in the last month, both in development NGOs and in the EU institutions.

European NGOs

- ♣ Maria Winnubst from Misereor, and chair of CONCORD's FDR Group, is moving to EuropeAid. A big thank-you for her hard and very professional work. You can contact her now at: winnubst@directbox.com.
- ♣ Robert Shawn, Press Officer from ActionAid International, is going back to journalism. You can contact him at: +32(0) 496 205 447.
- ♣ Welcome to Tobias Troll, the new Advocacy Officer of DEEEP (Development Education Exchange in Europe Project): tel: +32 (0) 2 743 87 88 – t.troll@deep.org.
- ♣ Wiske Jult is the new European Policy Officer at 11.11.11 (Coalition of the Flemish North-South Movement), replacing Rein Antonissen: Wiske.jult@11.be.
- ♣ The new Policy officer of Trialog, based in Brussels, is Rebecca Steel: You can contact her at: trialog@concordeurope.org -Tel: 0032 2 743 87 78
- ♣ Mr Marcus Lens van Rijn is the new project manager 'European Alliance against Malaria' (EAAM) of the Red Cross/EU Office: Tel: + 32 2 235 06 87 - marcus.lens@redcross-eu.net. The EAAM is of a coalition of humanitarian organisations that aims to develop a cohesive partnership amongst civil society, private sector, media, advocacy specialists, decision-makers and MEPs, in the fight against malaria.



EU institutions

- 6 European Commission: At DG Development, Mr [Maciej Popowski](#) will take up his position as Director of Directorate A (EU development policy: horizontal issues) on Wednesday 16 January 2008.
- 6 European Parliament: [Dissolution of the Tradition and Sovereignty \(ITS\) group](#) (extreme right) on Wednesday 14 November following the departure of three more Romanian group members (two had already left, see EUROPE 9542): Viorica-Pompilia-Georgeta Moisuc, Cristian Stanescu and Daniela Buruiana. These defections (by five of the six Romanian members) bring the number of ITS MEPs down from 23 to 18, below the number required (20) for forming a political group in the EP. All former members of the now defunct group will sit with the non-attached members (NI), and the additional logistical and financial support they enjoyed as group members will be withdrawn.
Outgoing members: [OCCHETTO, Achille](#) (Italy, PSE); [KLICH, Bogdan](#) (Poland, PPE-DE); [KUDRYCKA, Barbara](#) (Poland, PPE-DE); [SAMUELSEN, Anders](#) (Denmark, ALDE), and [SEEBERG, Gitte](#) (Denmark, ALDE).
Incoming members: [JOUYE DE GRANDMAISON, Madeleine](#) (France, GUE/NGL); [DONNICI, Beniamino](#) (Italy, ALDE).

CONFERENCES ORGANISED BY CONCORD AND ITS MEMBERS

- ◆ 9-18 January: CONCORD photo exhibition at the permanent representation of Slovenia in Brussels: aloeckx@concordeurope.org – marjan.huc@guest.arnes.si
- ◆ 21-25 January 2008: CONCORD photo exhibition at European Parliament, Brussels (3rd floor). Contact: philippart@concordeurope.org
- ◆ 10-11 March: Seminar on Trade, Food and Agriculture – Brussels
- ◆ 3-4 April: Conference on EU aid effectiveness: main event of the Presidency organised by Sloga – Slovenia (tbc): marjan.huc@guest.arnes.si
- ◆ 16-17 May: Conference on new approaches to development. Trialog/CONCORD – Prague: c.bedoya@trialog.or.at
- ◆ 9-10 June: Development education conference: implementation of the European framework on Development education and awareness-raising – Slovenia: aloeckx@concordeurope.org – c.tripepi@deEEP.org
- ◆ June: CONCORD photo exhibition – Slovenia: philippart@concordeurope.org – marjan.huc@guest.arnes.si
- ◆ 22-29 June: Summer School on election processes – the Netherlands: c.tripepi@deEEP.org
- ◆ 30-31 October: Development education forum – Austria: aloeckx@concordeurope.org – c.tripepi@deEEP.org

FORTHCOMING WORK MEETINGS

2007

- ◆ 4 – 5 December: Gender Working Group – Brussels: newing@concordeurope.org
- ◆ 10-11 December: Advisory Group – Brussels: philippart@concordeurope.org
- ◆ 11 December: Cotonou Group – Aid Sub-Group – Brussels: easin@concordeurope.org
- ◆ 11-12 December: Board strategy meeting – Brussels: newing@concordeurope.org
- ◆ 12 December: Meeting of the informal “Human Rights-Based Approach” group – Brussels: Salvatore Parata, brussels@iftdh.org
- ◆ 14 December: Enlarged task force on CSO aid effectiveness – Brussels: avogt@concordeurope.org

2008

- ◆ 16 January: meeting of the task force on Policy Coherence for Development: aloeckx@concordeurope.org
- ◆ 12 February: Gender Training – Brussels: newing@concordeurope.org
- ◆ 13 February: Board meeting – Brussels: newing@concordeurope.org
- ◆ 7 March: Policy Forum meeting – Brussels: easin@concordeurope.org
- ◆ 18-19 March: FDR meeting – Brussels: easin@concordeurope.org
- ◆ 10 April: Board meeting – Brussels: newing@concordeurope.org
- ◆ 4 June: Board pre-GA meeting – Brussels: newing@concordeurope.org

- ◆ **U** 4 – 5 June: General Assembly – Brussels: newing@concordeurope.org
- ◆ 7-8 June: Development Education Forum – Slovenia: aloeckx@concordeurope.org – c.tripepi@deeeep.org
- ◆ 24-25 June: FDR Group meeting – Brussels: aloeckx@concordeurope.org
- ◆ 28 or 29 June: Board Meeting – Brussels: newing@concordeurope.org
- ◆ 11 September: Board Meeting (tbc) – Brussels: newing@concordeurope.org
- ◆ 14-15 October: FDR Group meeting – Brussels: aloeckx@concordeurope.org
- ◆ 26 November: Board pre-GA meeting – Brussels: newing@concordeurope.org
- ◆ **U** 26 – 27 November: General Assembly – Brussels: newing@concordeurope.org
- ◆ 10 – 11 December: Board Strategy Meeting – Brussels: newing@concordeurope.org

For further details on any of these CONCORD-related activities please contact the CONCORD Secretariat or check the extranet.

CONCORD DOCUMENTS OF THE MONTH

- ◆ [Climate Justice beyond 2012: issue paper from CONCORD-VOICE-CAN. November 2007](#)
- ◆ [The European Consensus on Development: a strategy framework for development education & awareness-raising – November 2007](#)
- ◆ Reader on Financial Regulations 2003: now also available in French and Spanish This reader interprets the 2003 version of the EuropeAid Grant Standard Contract for external actions. The Standard Contract sets out the rules that apply to grants from the Commission within the framework of external actions. The CONCORD reader gives a clear explanation of all articles in the Standard Contract and also points out differences between it and the 2000 version. It is a tool to help CONCORD members and other NGOs to improve their handling of contractual issues with the EC delegations. The European Commission has endorsed the work done on this reader. CONCORD is currently working on an update of the 2006 and 2007 versions of the reader for the Standard Grant Contracts, but in the meantime we have published French and Spanish translations of the 2003 reader, which will be useful for partner organisations in non-English-speaking countries. See www.concordeurope.org
- ◆ Policy Coherence for Development, A Practical Guide read about cases of lack of coherence between European policies on www.eucoherence.org or order the brand new Manual from eboonstra@evertvermeer.nl

OTHER NEWSLETTERS

- ◆ Have a look at the [newsletters of CONCORD members](#)
- ◆ Newsletter focusing on the EU Presidency Project of the Portuguese NGDO Platform. Gives information on the main activities and themes connected with the project, such as the Europe-Africa Dialogue. Click here: [Newsletter #3 – October/November 2007](#)
- ◆ [Trialog](#): latest news of this project aiming to raise awareness of development issues in the enlarged EU and to strengthen dialogue and partnerships between development NGOs in accession countries, EU countries and developing countries.
- ◆ [Deeep](#) (Development Education Exchange in Europe Project): *Development Education Times* provides you with information on upcoming events, resources and publications related to development education as well as a range of articles on funding opportunities for development NGOs.
- ◆ [CSCG](#) (Civil Society Contact Group): the CSCG brings together eight large European NGO platforms in the following fields: culture (EFAH), development (CONCORD), environment (Green 10), human rights (HRDN), lifelong learning (EUCIS), public health (EPHA), social (Social Platform) and women (EWL), to develop the dialogue between civil society organisations and the EU institutions as an essential part of strengthening participatory democracy.
- ◆ Euforic News: [click here to subscribe](#) and find out the latest news about development.