

CONCORD Press reaction

Ambitious EU aid reforms could generate €4 billion a year

CONCORD reaction to EC Communication on Aid Effectiveness

Brussels, 08/09/2011

The European Commission adopted today its proposals for the EU common position on the international aid effectiveness agenda for the upcoming High Level Forum to be held in Busan, South Korea, over November 29 – 1 December. It's now up to EU Member States to hammer out the details and agree their common position.

- The Communication highlights that the EU has made some progress in improving its aid effectiveness policy. Currently, the EU is the world's biggest aid donor giving over €53 billion to partner countries.
- According to the paper, the EU would gain €4 billion a year if it properly implements the global aid effectiveness commitments that came out of the international Paris and Accra agreements. However, while these international agreements are recognized, the EC suggests dropping several global indicators to track progress in their implementation.

CONCORD, Europe's development NGO confederation, welcomes the EC Communication on Aid Effectiveness, in particular, its push to make aid more transparent and the recognition of civil society organisations as development actors.

“Yet what's missing is a clear way forward for the EU to commit to reform and lead by example in the run-up to the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in South Korea, later this year,” says CONCORD's aid effectiveness coordinator, Franz Josef Berger.

Concretely, CONCORD calls for stronger EU action to give developing countries more control over aid resources by providing funds directly to governments, spending more aid money locally, untying aid and ending policy conditionality. Human rights and gender equality are fundamental to the reforms.

The EC recommends blending loans and grants and using innovative ways of raising money to leverage additional development funds. However, it does not say how financial institutions are going to be chosen and how they can effectively track the social impact of the aid they channel.

Next steps:

14 November, EU Development Ministers to adopt its position based on the EC Communication

29 November-1 December, world governments and development organisations to gather in Busan, South Korea for the High Level Forum on Aid effectiveness

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Notes to Editors:

1. CONCORD is the European NGO confederation for relief and development. CONCORDs 26 national associations and 18 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.
2. EU Commission Communication "PROPOSAL FOR THE EU COMMON POSITION FOR THE 4TH HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON AID EFFECTIVENESS, BUSAN"