



BELGIUM

According to the latest OECD statistics Belgium is significantly above the EU minimum target for 2006, registering 0.53% ODA/GNI as aid in 2005. A quarter of this, or €400 million, delivered no new aid resources for developing countries, according to our calculations. Once this inflated aid is removed however, Belgium still remains comfortably above the EU target, registering 0.40% ODA/GNI.

Belgian NGOs are pleased that their Government has met the EU minimum target ahead of schedule with actual aid. However, they urge their Government to stop inflating their ODA figures immediately. They are also concerned that in the next few years, their Government will continue inflating its figures even more in order to make the 2010 targets. This is despite the fact that Belgium is among

the few countries that has legally committed itself to a timetable to reach the 0.7% target by 2010.

Will Belgium meet its minimum EU aid target by 2006 without inflating its aid?

NGO Prediction : YES

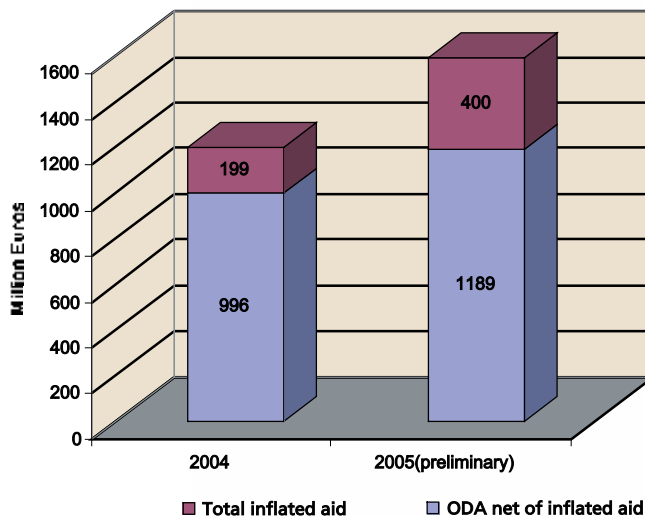
Our calculations indicate that €379 million (24%) of Belgian ODA in 2005 was spent on debt cancellation, with a significant part of this going to Iraq and Nigeria. In addition, if we draw on Belgium's official aid trends over the last four years, €21 million of Belgian ODA in 2005 was spent on housing refugees within Belgium.

Belgian NGOs fear that their Government will further inflate its ODA figures in the coming years. The Belgian minister for Development Co-operation is arguing for a loosening of ODA-eligibility criteria at the DAC-level. If this move to include military expenses is successful it will enable Belgium to boost its ODA figures even further.

Belgian NGOs call for their Government to:

- Increase the share of actual aid in the Belgian ODA budget, and decrease the amount of aid that does not result in new aid flows to developing countries.
- › Ensure 0.7% of GNI for development co-operation by 2010 and to uphold the aid budget afterwards.
- › To implement concrete measures aiming at debt cancellation of all LDCs and consider these efforts as additional to the 0.7%.
- › Pass spending on immigrants to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.
- Untie all aid.

Belgium's inflated and actual ODA



Source: OECD (2006); OECD (2005)

Organisations consulted : **CNCD-11.11.11, Coalition of the Flemish North South Movement ACODEV**