

Press Release

EU aid needs better coordination shows new OECD report

(Brussels 24/04/2012) European development aid programmes risk suffering from poor institutional coordination despite positive improvements over the last five years outlines a new report today by the OECD presented at the European Parliament in Brussels.

Improvements in EU aid

"Overall, EU aid has improved in several key areas such as working more closely with partner countries, which is welcome. The EU also shows progress in establishing common standards and principles for development policy across 27 member states, which is no easy task," says Olivier Consolo, Director of Concord, the European confederation of Relief and Development NGOs.

Institutional problems in coordinating aid

"Five years on from the EU's last aid review, a major issue is the coordination of aid efforts across EU institutions. In particular, the EU's new foreign policy arm, the External Action Service, is failing to integrate development policy in its remit and clarify its role vis a vis the Commission. It's important that the EU wastes no more time in getting its act together for the support it gives to millions in need," says Wiske Jult from 11.11.11, the Belgian platform of Concord.

Aid commitments

"EU member states should follow the OECD's call to continue to push to meet commitments to give 0.7% of their GNI to development aid with a clear binding roadmap to achieve the 2015 target. A great deal still needs to be done to implement aid effectiveness commitments. The financial crisis should not be used as an excuse to cull aid budgets, which would leave many in need without support." Olivier Consolo also commented.

Making EU policies more coherent

"The OECD recommends to give greater concern to making EU policies more coherent with development objectives. This is a clear area where the EU needs to step up its game especially at a time the EU is looking to overhaul its agricultural, trade and energy policies." says Karine Sohet, from development organiastion APRODEV.

ENDS

Media contacts : Communications Officer, Daniel Puglisi, Daniel.puglisi@concordeurope.org Tel. 32 (0) 2 743 87 77

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. OECD EU aid review: http://www.oecd.org/document/39/0_3746,en_21571361_44315115_50170663_1_1_1_1,00.html
2. Concord's report on the European External Action Service (EEAS) 'One year on, what progress for poverty eradication' published in January 2012, shows that the EU is marginalizing anti-poverty objectives within the new service. Competition rather cooperation prevails between the EEAS and the EU Commission's DG DEVCO. http://www.concordeurope.org/Files/media/0_internetdocumentsENG/4_Publications/EEAS-year-A4-lowdef.pdf
3. 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.