

## **A coherent and ambitious EU development policy**

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Budapest, Hungary on 19 to 21 November 2015:

### **Considering that:**

- 55% of the total development cooperation in the world comes from EU Member States;
- common European development aid is distributed through EuropeAid;
- roughly one third of all EU development aid is distributed through EuropeAid;
- the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) makes up 15% of the total amount of European Development Aid;
- decentralisation processes play a crucial role in improving governance, participatory democracy and addressing those needs which are of local nature;
- local and regional government play a big part in not only raising awareness among citizens of the importance of development aid, but also helping share knowledge to make aid more efficient and effective;
- member States adopted on 25 September the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, a universal agreement to eradicate poverty and put the world on a path of sustainable development, and the EU is determined to play its full part in the implementation of this agenda;
- all EU Member States have committed to the goal of spending 0.7% of their GDP on official development aid;
- in 2015 only 0.44% of Accept EU GDP was actually spent on development aid;

### **Believing that:**

- development policy is an important area of European foreign policy;
- neither the EU nor its policies should hamper global freedom, equal opportunities and prosperity, so individuals around the world can flourish;
- the aim of EU development policy should be to foster democracy, human rights, freedom, rule of law, state-building measures, peace and security, and economic development;

### **Also considering that:**

- tax loopholes, EU trade barriers and agricultural policies negate the fruits of development aid;
- the United Nations' Agenda 2030 sets the primary focus on the reduction of extreme poverty;

### **Resolution:**

A coherent and ambitious EU development policy

### **Year and Congress:**

Budapest, Hungary  
2015

### **Category:**

Foreign Affairs

### **Page:**

1

- a comprehensive strategy for development aid through an holistic approach that also includes adoption of European internal policies is key, as money alone will not end poverty
- the effectiveness of aid is compromised by too many donors with different systems and policies;

### Stressing that:

- contributing to peace, freedom and prosperity is in line with European values;
- a more prosperous developing world contributes to global stability and security, and a more stable and sustainable pattern of migration;
- the common component of EU development aid can be effective in reducing the effect of externalities rooted in a lack of coherent policy;
- a coherent EU development policy takes into account multiple policy fields, such as trade, taxation and climate;
- a comprehensive development policy makes for a more effective contribution when a common EU development aid programme more effectively complements initiatives by EU Member States in combating poverty;
- the European Union is currently facing an enormous foreign policy challenge that is manifesting itself through the refugee and immigration crisis;
- sheltering refugees in the region of the country they fled from should be *one of the elements* of the EU's development policy;
- the European Neighbourhood Instrument can be an important if not crucial factor in streamlining and strengthening the Union's response to the refugee and immigration crisis by providing increased funding to regional care for refugees - in countries such as Ukraine, Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt and Libya;

### Therefore calls for:

- a comprehensive strategy for development aid that builds on the new Sustainable Development Goals, including the climate dimension;
- the EU local and regional authorities to be recognised as playing a more central role in EU development policy, both because of their political expertise in areas such devolution of powers, strengthening institutions, local governance and sustainable territorial development and because the substantial added value that they can bring to third countries in these fields and in key sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, environment and aquaculture;
- the implementation of common EU development policies to be subject to three conditions: i.e. to advocate economies of scale, to eliminate

### Resolution:

A coherent and ambitious EU development policy

### Year and Congress:

Budapest, Hungary  
2015

### Category:

Foreign Affairs

### Page:

2

conflicting or competing policies, and to significantly increase effectiveness;

- European citizens to be enabled to take part in volunteer work, with a focus on capacity building;
- EuropeAid to be granted the administrative resources needed to strengthen the common development policy;
- priority to be given to development projects focussing on refugees, such as in the Middle East;
- greater progress in making EU funding for international cooperation and development as efficient as possible, and more transparent in accordance with the International Aid Transparency Initiative;
- policy coherence for development, especially by eliminating protectionist measures and subsidies that harm developing countries and negate the positive effects of EU development aid;
- development policy to be focussed on strengthening ownership, good governance, structural reforms, sustainable economy and trade
- proposing accountability measures to ensure development aid is provided without corruption, maladministration and tax evasion;
- encouraging involvement of investors and private partnerships, as well as focus on entrepreneurship and business culture in developing countries;
- all EU Member States to live up to the promise of spending 0.7% of their GDP on ODA;
- making full use of the respective comparative advantages at sector or country level of EU member countries through delegating authority and leadership accordingly in EuropeAid and other multilateral development cooperation, in order to increase aid effectiveness, address harmonisation and further trade relations;
- committing to donor harmonisation, especially in fragile states, through focus on upstream analysis, joint assessments, joint strategies, coordination of political engagement; and practical initiatives such as the establishment of joint donor offices, joint methodology for measuring results, accountability measures and fund application processes;
- increasing donor-recipient coordination and communication, while recognising that aid must be demand-oriented in order to achieve sustainable results and guarantee ownership by the recipient country;
- A program designed to support the development of effective governance mechanisms in developing countries to counter tax evasion.

**Resolution:**

A coherent and ambitious EU development policy

**Year and Congress:**

Budapest, Hungary  
2015

**Category:**

Foreign Affairs

**Page:**

3