



Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2007/2140(INI)	Procedure completed
Challenge of the EU development cooperation policy for the new Member States		
Subject		
6.30 Development cooperation		
8.20.02 Enlargement 2004: new Member States		
8.20.03 Enlargement 2007: Bulgaria and Romania		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	DEVE Development		27/03/2007
		ALDE BUDREIKAITĖ Danutė	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Development	MICHEL Louis	

Key events			
21/06/2007	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
29/01/2008	Vote in committee		Summary
12/02/2008	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0036/2008	
13/03/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/03/2008	Debate in Parliament		
13/03/2008	Decision by Parliament	T6-0097/2008	Summary
13/03/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2007/2140(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/6/50534

Documentation gateway					
Committee draft report		PE396.721	11/12/2007	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE400.318	15/01/2008	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0036/2008	12/02/2008	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0097/2008	13/03/2008	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2008)2060	09/04/2008	EC	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2008)2630	08/05/2008	EC	

Challenge of the EU development cooperation policy for the new Member States

The Committee on Development unanimously adopted an own-initiative report by Danut? BUDREIKAIT? (ALDE, LT) on the challenges of EU development cooperation policy for the new Member States. The committee recalls that, in 2006, the EU provided EUR 47.524 billion in development aid (which accounts for 57 % of development aid worldwide), a figure which is expected to rise to EUR 78.626 billion by 2010. It also recalls that the new Member States have committed themselves to achieving a development aid target of 0.17% of gross national income (GNI) by 2010 and of 0.33% by 2015 and that the priority countries targeted by the development cooperation of the new Member States are the Community of Independent States (CIS) countries and the countries in the Western Balkans.

However, even though, overall, the institutional framework of Community development aid still poses a problem to the new Member States, it is the need to build up cross-party political and public support for development co-operation that remains the number one challenge in these countries.

MEPs point out that, although the new Member States have joined the European Consensus on Development (agreeing to reach the Millennium Development Goals within the expected timeframe), they fear that many of the new Member States are not on course to meet the target of 0.17% of GNI to be spent on ODA (Official Development Aid) by 2010, and some may even see ODA fall in line with overall budget cuts, due to the need to reduce government debt.

Defending fundamental rights: MEPs emphasise the importance of good governance and the promotion of democracy in development cooperation matters. They, therefore, call on the EU to put to good use the experience gained by the new Member States in this area, in order to enrich its development policy.

Priorities of the new Member States in terms of development aid: MEPs recall that the priority of the new Member States in the area of development aid is their immediate neighbours, due to the historical links that bind them together. They also point out that the majority of the development cooperation budget of the new Member States targets the CIS countries and call on the EU to increase its strategic presence in eastern Europe, in central Asia and the Caucasus. They suggest, in particular, that the new and old Member States should work together more proactively within the EU to ensure that the situation in particular countries included in the ENP is monitored in a more timely fashion and that they play a greater role in the development and implementation of EU policy on neighbourly relations.

Main challenges: while Members recognise that one of the main problems facing the new Member States in the coming years will be the increase in the cooperation budgets, they also point out that these Member States will have to focus on awareness-raising activities. Even though the population within the new Member States is already aware of humanitarian aid, there is a real lack of awareness concerning development cooperation. MEPs call for an overall communication and education strategy to remedy this deficit, particularly through school and media initiatives.

However, the new Member States can also make a contribution by relying on their experience in terms of combating poverty. MEPs therefore call for a division of labour between the Member States with regard to the ?added-value? that each can bring to development cooperation (with the objective of working together effectively). Members request that the new Member States be fully included in the programming, implementation and evaluation of development cooperation policy and that they be given assistance in terms of adopting their new role as donors. Efforts should also be made to reinforce the training provided to employees in these countries who work in the field of cooperation.

Lastly, Members believe that the Commission should:

- launch a specific awareness-raising campaign focusing on the comparative advantages and added value of the new Member States with regard to cooperation and development issues;
- actively involve the new Member States in the preparation and implementation of this policy.

Challenge of the EU development cooperation policy for the new Member States

The European Parliament adopted, by 378 votes to 11 with 16 abstentions, a resolution on the challenges of EU development cooperation policy for the new Member States.

The own-initiative report had been tabled for consideration in plenary by Danut? BUDREIKAIT? (ALDE, LT) on behalf of the Committee on Development. Parliament recalls that, in 2006, the EU provided EUR 47.524 billion in development aid (which accounts for 57 % of development aid worldwide), a figure which is expected to rise to EUR 78.626 billion by 2010. It also recalls that the new Member States have committed themselves to achieving a development aid target of 0.17% of gross national income (GNI) by 2010 and of 0.33% by 2015 and that the priority countries targeted by the development cooperation of the new Member States are the Community of Independent States (CIS)

countries and the countries in the Western Balkans as well as a few countries which are members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States.

MEPs point out that, although the new Member States have joined the European Consensus on Development (agreeing to reach the Millennium Development Goals within the expected timeframe), they fear that many of the new Member States are not on course to meet the target of 0.17% of GNI to be spent on ODA (Official Development Aid) by 2010, and some may even see ODA fall in line with overall budget cuts, due to the need to reduce government debt.

Members stress the experience of the new Member States, in particular during the transition process and that good governance and the promotion of democracy must be the priorities for the EU in development cooperation matters. They call on the EU institutions to put to good use the experience accumulated in the field by the new Member States. Parliament also stresses the concrete benefit for the new Member States of participating in development cooperation policy, in particular in the areas of economic development and trade.

Priorities of the new Member States in terms of development aid: MEPs note that the priorities of the new Member States after the transition period are determined by their historical relations and ties with their neighbours, and that the major part of the development cooperation budget of the new Member States targets their immediate neighbours and the CIS countries. Parliament calls on the EU to seize the occasion of the accession of the new Member States to reinforce its strategic presence in eastern Europe, central Asia and the Caucasus as regions of the world hitherto less concerned by European aid but which are nonetheless facing numerous development challenges. Members suggest that the new and old Member States work together more proactively within the EU to ensure that the situation in particular countries included in the ENP is monitored in a more timely fashion so that the EU can react with greater flexibility in its policy towards these countries. They consider that a new assembly of EU and neighbouring countries (similar to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Euromed) and the Parliamentary Assembly for EU-Latin America (Eurolat)) could build on historical experience, boost the input of the new Member States in EU politics and help to co-shape the ENP and to make neighbouring countries aware of new political fields.

Main challenges: Parliament recognises that the biggest challenges for the new Member States in the coming years will be the increase in budgets and awareness-raising activities. There is a real lack of awareness concerning development cooperation. MEPs call for an overall communication and education strategy to remedy this deficit, particularly through school and media initiatives, and through developing an international volunteer tradition. The institutional framework remains one of the most important challenges of efficient development cooperation for the new Member States, as well as the need to build up cross-party political and public support for development co-operation.

Long-term projects which target partners and sectors where the new Member States have a comparative advantage and can transfer experience are of optimal utility in the global poverty eradication process. MEPs call for a division of labour between the Member States with regard to the 'added-value' that each can bring to development cooperation with the objective of working together effectively. They stress that the new Member States need to be fully included in the sharing of experience and in specific training in fields related to the programming, implementation and evaluation of development cooperation policy.

Lastly, Members believe that the Commission should:

- launch a specific awareness-raising campaign focusing on the comparative advantages and added value of the new Member States with regard to cooperation and development issues;
- actively involve the new Member States in the preparation and negotiation of Action Plans, and in monitoring their implementation.