


EU Development Policy

Our world, our future, our dignity





"We are facing times of profound change that call for a new paradigm and a renovated European Development Policy. The "Global Development Framework after 2015" must address the root causes of poverty instead of treating the symptoms. It needs to be people-centred and rights-based, putting human dignity at the core of all our endeavours. Global good governance and bringing justice to all people through building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions needs to become the cornerstone of the new global development framework"



Davor Ivo Stier MEP (Croatia)

EPP Group Coordinator in the Development Committee of the EP,
EP Rapporteur on the "Global Development Framework after 2015"

1. What is European Development Policy and what does it do for you?

Nearly 900 million people (15% of the world's population) suffer from chronic malnutrition; more than 20% of the world's population lives on less than 1 euro a day, and almost all of these people live in developing countries.

For the EPP Group in the European Parliament eradicating poverty must remain at the heart of European Development Policy. However, we want to do more than that: promoting peace, human rights, democracy, good governance, as well as sustainable social, economic and environmental development, are also key priorities for the EPP Group.

Most EU citizens consider that tackling poverty in developing countries contributes to a more peaceful and equitable world (74%), but it is also in the EU's interest (78%). Europeans understand the growing interdependence in our world, between countries and also between policies.

The EPP Group in the European Parliament actively participates in shaping the 2015 European Year of Development and fosters a dynamic dialogue with the European citizens.

“Providing aid is not sufficient for sustainable development, without good governance onsite there is no hope for improving people’s lives. International aid needs to be focused on stimulating the countries, local markets and communities to thrive on their own”



Bogdan Brunon Wenta MEP (Poland)
EPP Group Vice-Coordinator
in the Development Committee of the EP

“Development is not only about economic growth. A strong commitment by all parties involved inevitably leads to success in our efforts as the world’s biggest donor of humanitarian aid. Throughout history wars between democracies have rarely occurred. Furthermore, if you look at the most and the least developed countries, those least developed are still better off as they are democratic”



Rainer Wieland MEP (Germany)
EPP Group Member of the Development
Committee of the EP



2. How does our Development Policy achieve these goals?

The EPP Group believes in focusing aid on the poorest countries and fragile states (often affected by conflict), where extreme poverty is widespread and aid can have the greatest impact.

Because aid will not alone create development, the EPP Group has regularly called for concrete measures to make the EU's internal policies on migration, trade, finance, agriculture and the environment compatible with global development objectives, such as the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals. The EPP Group has been very active in:

- promoting a rights-based approach in development cooperation, as well as democracy, rule of law and good governance;
- mobilising all players, including the private sector;
- calling for innovative sources of financing;
- promoting greater ownership and accountability in the developing countries;
- setting ambitious goals for sustainable development.

“The Ebola crisis underlines the necessity to support developing countries in strengthening their health systems and building local capacities. Fostering funding and efforts in global health is vital for improving the lives of populations but also for the socio-economic development of developing countries”



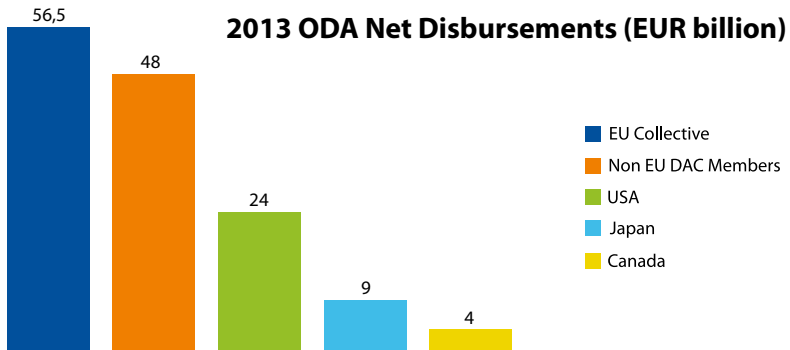
Maurice Ponga MEP (France)

EPP Group Vice-Chairman in the Development Committee of the EP



Only by adopting ambitious and coherent policies – inside and outside its borders – will the EU effectively contribute to ending poverty and attaining global sustainable development.

Official Development Aid (ODA) disbursements by the EU Institutions and Member States reached 56.5 billion euros in 2013. Aid commitments from the 28 EU Member States in the same year amounted to 66 billion euros. This makes the EU the world's leading contributor of development aid. However, the EU is still below its commitment to set aside 0.7 % of the Union's Gross National Income for development aid.



The EPP Group therefore favours a continued effort to increase the levels of development aid, in line with the wishes of European citizens. Despite economic difficulties, a majority (52 %) of EU citizens consulted in a recent Eurobarometer survey believe that aid should be increased to promised levels – and some 15 % even believe it should extend beyond that.



3. Importance of global good governance and combating corruption and illicit financial flows

Better development financing also requires fighting corruption and illicit financial flows, which cost developing countries up to 1 trillion euros each year. Therefore the EPP Group wants to set more innovative goals for building effective institutions, strengthening good governance and the rule of law, and radically reducing corruption and illicit financial flow. This is the only way to tackle the root causes of poverty and transform the current development framework.

**Example:
The Ebola
outbreak
- an
interconnected
world and
the need for
emergency
funds**

For years, our development assistance failed to recognise basic health services as a priority in the affected countries in West Africa. When the Ebola virus erupted, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia could not count on an adequate health infrastructure to contain the disease. As a consequence, their populations paid (and are still paying) an enormous toll in human lives, as well as in material losses. In an interconnected world the situation in West Africa soon became a global problem, also threatening the health of EU citizens.

In November 2014, aware of this fact, the European Parliament, with the EPP Group in the lead, passed a resolution calling on the EU to come up with a strong and cohesive position in the upcoming international negotiations on the new Global Development Framework, which will replace the Millennium Goals after 2015.

“The EPP Group is committed to maximise the impact of the EU’s Development Policy by building and reinforcing synergies between policies and institutions in order to strengthen our policy coherence for development”



Cristian Dan Preda MEP (Romania)
EPP Group Member of the Development Committee of the EP

“The European Year of Development is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to champion the rights and needs of all people, including the most vulnerable and marginalised, with particular focus on children, young people, women and persons with disabilities”



Ádám Kósa MEP (Hungary)
EPP Group Substitute Member
of the Development Committee of the EP



4. 2015 - European Year of Development

At a time of economic crisis there is a temptation for Europeans to focus on their own difficulties. The EPP Group strongly believes, however, that the EU should continue to lead the fight against poverty and is actively engaged in keeping European Development Policy high on the political agenda.

2015 is expected to be a pivotal year globally with four key international events: the Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in March, the Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July, the Post-2015 Global Development Framework Summit in New York in September, and the Climate Change Conference in Paris in December. All three events are of utmost importance in defining the future of our world and its sustainable development. This is a once-in-a generation opportunity to champion the rights and needs of all people, including the most vulnerable and marginalised, with children, young people, women and persons with disabilities in the focus. In addition, they are a test of the EU's ability to speak with one voice and match its financial contributions with the capacity to play a leading role in transforming the global development framework, and to launch with its international partners a new quest to eliminate poverty, reduce inequalities and promote sustainable social, economic and environmental development.

Under the motto 'Our world, our future, our dignity', the 2015 European Year of Development aims to:

1. Inform European citizens about EU and Member States' development cooperation activities;
2. Foster direct involvement, critical thinking and active interest in development cooperation among EU citizens and stakeholders;
3. Raise awareness of the benefits of EU development cooperation and global interdependence, and enable a broader understanding of the need for policy coherence for development.

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