



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



**Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the  
Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council**

**on Policy Coherence for Development:  
Work Programme 2006-2007**

**P R E S S**

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"THE COUNCIL AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

RECALLING the Conclusions of 24 May 2005<sup>1</sup> affirming the EU commitment to promoting Policy Coherence for Development (PCD), based upon ensuring that the EU takes account of the objectives of development cooperation in all policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries, and that these policies support development objectives;

REAFFIRMING the importance of non-development policies for assisting developing countries in achieving the MDGs and the EU intention to maximise the positive contributions that these non-aid policies can make to developing countries and to minimise their negative effects;

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<sup>1</sup> Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on accelerating progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals: EU contribution to the review of the MDGs at the UN 2005 High Level Event, doc. 9266/05.

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RECALLING the Joint Development Policy Statement (JDPS) by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission: 'The European Consensus on Development', <sup>2</sup> signed on 20 December 2005, which also called for the adoption of a rolling work programme as a new tool to facilitate the implementation of EU commitments to promote PCD;

RECALLING the European Security Strategy, which calls for a more active, coherent and capable European Union thereby describing security as a precondition for development; and RECALLING the JDPS, which states that without peace and security development and poverty eradication are not possible, and without development and poverty eradication no sustainable peace will occur;

RECALLING that the Work Programme 2006-2007 should propose priorities for action, define roles and responsibilities of the Council, the Member States and the Commission and set out sequencing and timetables, with the aim of ensuring that non-aid policies can assist developing countries in achieving the MDGs;

FULLY RESPECTING the single institutional framework and the role and competencies of the relevant Council bodies;

INVITE the Member States, in cooperation with the Commission, to prepare a rolling work programme by June 2006 with a view to its subsequent adoption by the Council and WELCOME the efforts made by the Commission in its Staff Working Paper "Policy Coherence for Development: Work Programme 2006-2007" as a basis for this;

REAFFIRM their commitment to ensuring effective follow-up of all commitments on PCD, in particular as regards the 12 areas identified in the aforementioned Conclusions of 24 May 2005 (Trade, Environment, Climate Change, Security, Agriculture, Fisheries, Social Dimension of Globalisation, Employment and Decent Work, Migration, Research and Innovation, Information Society, Transport and Energy). Sequencing and calendar of work on PCD and priorities for action in the above mentioned areas will reflect the EU and international agenda and be incorporated in the rolling work programme;

UNDERSCORE the great importance they attach to the joint responsibility of the Commission, the Council and the Member States in this regard, and therefore INVITE the Commission and the Member States to provide for adequate mechanisms and instruments within their respective spheres of competence to ensure PCD as appropriate;

ADOPT the following priorities for action on PCD:

- review and improve the Council's decision-making processes to ensure effective integration of development concerns in EU decisions in full compliance with existing competences and procedures, after preparation by Coreper;

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<sup>2</sup> OJ C46 of 24.2.2006, p. 1.

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- integrate reference to PCD commitments into the examination and discussion of Commission proposals in each policy area where relevant;
- bearing in mind that PCD is also the result of appropriate working methods, request the competent Council working parties, and in particular the Development Cooperation WP, under the authority of Coreper, to
  - inform each other systematically, at the earliest possible stage, in particular at the beginning of each Presidency, about current and future activities in order to highlight dossiers with relevance for PCD to be followed more closely and to formulate priorities for action;
  - hold discussions and review progress on PCD implementation on a regular basis, for which the Council has a monitoring role; and
  - prepare follow-up debates in Council where relevant to ensure PCD;

WELCOME the Commission's intention to adopt the following priorities for action:

- monitor progress made on each of the 12 PCD commitments, including through the preparation of the biennial EU PCD report in close cooperation with Member States and on the basis of their contributions;
- evaluate its impact assessment system and reinforce existing instruments, notably its Impact Assessment Tool or other related instruments to ensure that forthcoming policies and legislative proposals are adequately screened for their impact on developing countries, and where necessary consider new ones, in support of a strengthened PCD;
- promote PCD in the context of programming at country, regional and thematic levels, particularly by incorporating it in the revised framework for the country, regional and thematic Strategy Papers;

INVITE Member States to adopt the following priorities for action:

- engage their government departments as needed in follow-up in the 12 thematic areas, respecting among others the principle of early involvement, and encouraging cross-sectoral and inter-ministerial coordination or reinforce existing mechanisms;
- exchange good practice on PCD;

and

RECOGNISE the need for sufficient capacity to be made available at the level of the Commission, the Council and the Member States to fully engage in follow-up to the aforementioned Conclusions of 24 May 2005 and the present Conclusions, as well as in the implementation of the future rolling work programme."

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