

# **Luxembourg Presidency 2005**

## **Development cooperation programme**

### **A. Meetings under the Luxembourg Presidency**

#### **I. Council of Ministers of the European Union**

7 January: Extraordinary Meeting of the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC)

31 January: GAERC

14 to 15 February: Informal Meeting of the Ministers for Development Cooperation

23 February: EC-ACP Ministerial Meeting on the Review of the Cotonou Agreement

18 to 22 April: ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Mali

25 to 26 April: General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) addressing in particular development cooperation issues

12 to 13 May: EC-ACP Council of Ministers

#### **II. Relations with the European Parliament**

19 January: Presentation of the Presidency programme to the Committee on Development and Cooperation of the European Parliament

#### **III. Other meetings**

21 to 23 March: High-level seminar organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture on '*How to achieve food safety: a major challenge for policy coherence*'

#### **IV. International conferences**

8 to 14 January: Conference on Insular and Landlocked Countries (on the Island of Mauritius)

1 to 2 March: Second high-level Forum on the Harmonisation and Strengthening of the Effectiveness of Development Aid organised by the DAC/WB (in Paris)

11 to 22 April: Committee on Sustainable Development (in New York)

2 June: High-level dialogue of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS (in New York)

27 to 28 June: High-level dialogue of the General Assembly on Development Financing (in New York)

29 to 30 June: ECOSOC: High-level segment (in New York)

## **B) Issues to be addressed**

### **1. Central objective: The fight against poverty**

The fight against poverty is the central objective of Luxembourg Presidency's programme.

It will seek to further examine a number of causes of poverty and policies capable of eliminating them. The specific aim will be to make globalisation more social and more humane so that its benefits can be shared more effectively.

The Millennium Development Goals, the fight against AIDS and policy coherence are the three priorities of the Luxembourg Presidency.

### **2. Millennium Development Goals (MDG)**

In September 2005, a 'Major Event' Summit will be held in New York to assess the follow-up which has hitherto been devoted to implementing the **Millennium Development Goals** (MDG) and to define the efforts which still have to be made to ensure these goals are achieved by 2015, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In order to achieve these goals, and in particular to reduce extreme poverty and the number of people suffering from starvation by half, the international community must make substantial additional efforts, above all with regard to Official Development Assistance (ODA).

The EU intends to play a leading political role in this process and make a steadfast and efficiently coordinated contribution to examining the progress made towards achieving the MDGs.

To this end, the European Council will adopt a synthesis report in April 2005 on the basis of a proposal submitted by the European Commission. In particular, the Council will have to agree on setting new objectives regarding ODA for 2009-2010.

### **3. The fight against AIDS**

Together with war, AIDS is the most terrible scourge the world had to face during the last 15 to 20 years of the 20th century. It also remains one of the main challenges we will have to face in the years to come.

The Luxembourg Presidency will base its action on the global nature of its strategy. This action will focus on the balance between prevention and treatment of AIDS. To this end, the Presidency will seek to fully develop and draw from the experience we are currently gaining, together with other European actors, through the ESTHER<sup>1</sup> project in Rwanda, which links two Luxembourg hospitals with two hospitals in this country.

The adoption of a new EU framework for external action with regard to the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria will be prepared.

The issue of the fight against AIDS will be included on the agenda of all political meetings with third countries affected by this scourge and, above all, with African countries. In particular, it will feature on the agenda of the EC-ACP ministerial meeting to be held in May 2005.

#### **4. Policy coherence**

Progress in north-south relations depend also on **policy coherence**.

As part of its work, the Luxembourg Presidency has decided to tackle the issue of policy coherence with regard to food safety. We wish to examine the responses that the EU's agricultural, external trade and development cooperation policies could make to the development needs of southern countries, also with regard to food safety and rural development.

With regard to the new common market organisation for sugar, the Luxembourg Presidency fully understands the concerns of the ACP and LDC countries over the reform which is being prepared.

#### **5. Review of the Cotonou Agreement**

The Luxembourg Presidency intends to intensify relations between the European Union and ACP countries governed by the Cotonou Convention, particularly on the occasion of the ministerial meeting scheduled for May 2005.

It furthermore intends to conclude the negotiations currently being held on the review of this convention before the end of February 2005.

A decision will also be taken on the financial means that the European Union will make available for its cooperation with ACP countries during the period 2007-2013.

#### **6. Review of the Common Declaration of the Council and the Commission relating to the European Community's development cooperation policy**

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<sup>1</sup> Ensemble pour une Solidarité Thérapeutique Hospitalière En Réseau (Together for a network of therapeutic solidarity)

The European Union will update the Common Declaration of the Council and the Commission relating to the development cooperation policy made in November 2000. In concert with the European Commission, the Luxembourg Presidency will continue to contribute to the introduction of an extensive consultation process in a bid to conclude the review as quickly as possible.

## **7. Effectiveness of aid**

The European Union has been called upon to play a leading role in the Second high-level Forum on the harmonisation and strengthening of the effectiveness of development aid in Paris. There, the Luxembourg Presidency will outline the European Union's position on the basis of the Council decisions of November 2004.

## **8. Respect of the Monterrey commitments**

The European Council will carry out the annual examination of the follow-up of the commitments that the European Union made at the Monterrey Conference on development financing. It is recalled that within this context, the European Union had at that time undertaken to increase its Official Development Aid (ODA) to 0.39% of its gross national income in 2006.

## **9. Financial perspectives**

The budgetary envelope to be made available for European Union cooperation with third countries during the period 2007-2013 will be decided against the background of the work on financial perspectives.

This decision will have to demonstrate the EU's political will to contribute towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.