



Press Release – 7 November 2011

Report: *'Spotlight on EU Policy Coherence for Development'*

www.coherence.concordeurope.org

Stop EU policies violating the rights of poor people say NGOs

EU policies are continuing to seriously undermine rights in developing countries says a new report by CONCORD, the confederation of European development NGOs. The report shows incoherencies between EU development objectives and other policies, coming at an important time as the EU reforms its agricultural, trade and development policies.

Rilli Lappalainen from CONCORD: "You can't deny that European policies have effects overseas. Our report shows that European agriculture, trade and migration policies have negative impacts on the developing world, undermining EU taxpayer's support for reducing global poverty."

The report finds that:

- The EU is failing to meet its obligations under the Lisbon Treaty to make its policies coherent so that they do not undermine development objectives.
- The EU can greatly improve the impact of its €53 billion per year in development aid if it shows a clearer commitment to Policy Coherence for Development [1].

The report shows how the EU is looking to meet increasing European demand for **raw materials** by signing unfair trade agreements with resource-rich developing countries.

But in failing to account for the affects of policies such as the EU Renewable Energy Directive on human rights and the environment, the EU is implementing policies which break its development commitments.

"Some EU policies are doing more harm than good", said Laura Sullivan of ActionAid.

"For example, we're seeing massive rights violations in the developing world as European companies, fuelled by EU targets and financial incentives on offer, are grabbing land in poor countries to produce biofuels – which themselves have questionable green credentials".

"This undoes the good work being done with EU aid. The EU must provide a means through which these complaints can be heard and address the unintended consequences of EU policies. Current provisions aren't putting people's rights ahead of European commercial interests".

With the world on the edge of a new food crisis, **food security** matters more than ever. The report shows that 925 million people went hungry last year – that's almost 1 out of every 7 people on the planet. At the same time one third of all food produced for human consumption is wasted.

"The EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) must stop affecting food insecurity in poor countries. It has reduced export subsidies in successive CAP reforms, but EU exports made artificially cheaper by subsidies are still squeezing local farmers out of the production chain and their local markets".

"The EU must realize that global food security can only be achieved if poor countries are enabled to develop and safeguard their own sustainable domestic production," said Laust Gregersen of CONCORD Denmark.

CONCORD calls on the EU to walk the talk of the Lisbon Treaty and demonstrate greater political will to make Policy Coherence for Development a reality, for the benefit of poor children, women and men in developing countries, and in the EU's long-term interest.

EU Institutional timing: The report precedes the release of the 3rd biennial EU progress report on PCD, and also comes before the 1st report of the European Parliaments Standing rapporteur on PCD, both due before end 2011.

Key recommendation: The European Commission should assess the potential impact of its upcoming policies on development and put in place a complaint mechanism open to the affected communities outside Europe.

For more information and interviews contact:

CONCORD Communications officer, Daniel Puglisi on +32 2 743 87 77,
Daniel.Puglisi@concordeurope.org

CONCORD Policy Coherence for Development Coordinator, Blandine Bounioul on +32 027438761,
Blandine.Bounioul@concordeurope.org

Notes to Editors:

[1] *"The Union shall take account of the objectives of development co-operation in the policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries"* **Article 208 of the Lisbon Treaty**

What is Policy Coherence for Development?

Policy Coherence for Development is about ensuring that the aims and objectives of EU development co-operation policy are not undermined by other EU policies, such as those on climate, trade, energy, agriculture, migration, and finance matters. These issues are highlighted in CONCORD's report.

Who is CONCORD?

CONCORD is the European NGO confederation for relief and development. CONCORDs 26 national associations and 18 international networks represent over 1,600 NGOs which are supported by millions of citizens across Europe. CONCORD leads reflection and political actions and regularly engages in dialogue with the European institutions and other civil society organisations. www.concordeurope.org

About the report

The report is the joint effort of European development NGOs and civil society organisations, coordinated by CONCORD. It follows a first report in 2009. In the 2011 report, throughout the thematic chapters of relating to food security, natural resources management, human security, and migration, CONCORD uncovers some incoherencies of current EU policies and proposes alternative, fairer measures that respect the Human Rights of all.