

P6_TA-PROV(2005)0528

EU Development Strategy

European Parliament resolution on a Joint Statement by the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on European Union Development Policy: 'The European Consensus on Development'

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the consensus reached by the General Affairs and External Relations Council of 21 and 22 November 2005, in agreement with the Commission, on a "Joint Statement by the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on European Union Development Policy: 'The European Consensus on Development'",
 - having regard to the European Community's Development Policy Statement adopted by the Council and the Commission on 10 November 2000,
 - having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 and the amending agreement, signed in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005,
 - having regard to the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which sets out the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as criteria established jointly by the international community for the elimination of poverty,
 - having regard to its resolutions of 17 November 2005 on the proposal for a Joint Declaration by the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on the European Union Development Policy - "The European Consensus"¹; of 17 November 2005 on a development strategy for Africa²; and of 12 April 2005 on the role of the European Union in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)³,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
1. Welcomes the initiative by the Commission to revise and update the 2000 Development Policy Statement and in particular to involve Parliament in this process; welcomes the Commission's resolve to ensure that all its services and delegations managing the programming and implementation of Community development assistance use the "European Consensus on Development" as the key reference for the Community's objectives and principles for implementation of all development cooperation;
 2. Welcomes the fact that for the first time the EU and its Member States have agreed to act together to promote a common EU vision of development, setting out common objectives and principles and reaffirming the EU's commitment to poverty eradication and to ownership, partnership, delivering more and better aid and promoting policy coherence for development, which will guide Community and Member States' development cooperation

¹ *Texts Adopted*, P6_TA (2005)0446.

² *Texts Adopted*, P6_TA (2005)0445.

³ *Texts Adopted*, P6_TA(2005)0115.

activities in all developing countries;

3. Is particularly satisfied with the resolve expressed by the signatories of the "European Consensus on Development" to stress that poverty eradication and the achievement of the MDGs are the overarching objectives of EU development policy, to ensure policy coherence for development and to harmonise procedures between the Community, the Member States and other donors, to define more clearly the specific role of the Commission, to stimulate debate and dialogue with local economic and social partners on development policy and the implementation of the MDGs, and is determined to continue to monitor closely and, where appropriate, to take initiatives in order to achieve these objectives;
4. Regrets that only scant reference is made to children's rights, which should be mainstreamed into all development activities; regrets as well that Parliament's strong emphasis in the negotiations on human development, in particular both health and education, has not been fully taken on board in the Statement; and remains determined to continue working to ensure that these remain priority areas of Community aid;
5. Welcomes the intention expressed in the "European Consensus on Development" to strengthen the control of EU arms exports, with the aim of preventing the use of EU-manufactured weaponry against civilians, and take concrete steps to limit the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW), but calls on the Commission to intensify and speed up de-mining and disarmament programmes in post-war regions;
6. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to develop a set of measurable objectives and targets for implementing the agreed development policy and for assessing its progress at regular intervals;
7. Expresses its satisfaction that a truly inclusive and transparent negotiating process between Parliament, the Council and the Commission has made it possible to obtain a "European Consensus on Development"; notes with satisfaction that many of Parliament's suggestions have been incorporated into the document and stresses Parliament's crucial role in reaching this ambitious and significant agreement; calls on the Council and the Commission to regard this process as a model for future negotiations on crucial policy matters;
8. Considers that the document largely corresponds to Parliament's priorities in the field of development policy, as expressed in its various resolutions on the subject; and emphasises its intention to play an active role in the promotion of the "European Consensus on Development", particularly by working towards greater policy coherence for development in Community policies, and by seeking dialogue with citizens and the civil society on EU development policy;
9. Gives its assent to the Joint Statement by the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on European Union Development Policy: 'The European Consensus on Development';
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States.