

## Flash note on the Second global meeting of the Policy Forum on Development



Held on 1 and 2 October 2014 in Brussels, the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) gathered together more than 140 representatives from civil society organisations (CSOs) and local authorities (LAs), EU Member States, the European Parliament and the Commission. In his opening address the **PFD Chair and Director-General of DG DEVCO Fernando Frutuoso de Melo** gave an overview of the main priorities on the development cooperation agenda. He pointed out the timeliness of the meeting, coming as it did soon after the elections for a new European Parliament, with a new European Commission to be appointed shortly, with the 2015 European Year of Development just around the corner and, last but not least, with the debates on the post-2015 development agenda in full swing. Kicking off the official opening session, **Mayor Christophe Rouillon** said how pleased he was that the Committee of Regions

was hosting the meeting. He underlined the importance of working at the local level and of solidarity between local partners in the South and in the EU. **Fabio Cassesse** spoke on behalf of the Italian EU Presidency, highlighting its priorities for the next 6 months. **Mara Marinaki** spoke on behalf of the EEAS and referred inter alia to the EU roadmap for engaging with civil society as an important tool for better cooperation with CSOs. Both speakers also set the meeting within the context of the post-2015 agenda and the work toward the sustainable development goals. **Linda McAvan**, newly elected as Chair of the European Parliament DEVE Committee, formally committed to the process and noted that four members of her committee would be nominated to work with the PFD in the next years. PFD Co-chairs **Jacqueline Moustache Belle** (on behalf of local authorities) and **Jorge Balbis** (on behalf of CSOs) updated the group on the progress made by the PFD thus far and on the regional meeting in Lima last June.

The first session, on the **Global Post-2015 Development Agenda**, began with a **keynote speech by Commissioner Piebalgs**, after which a panel of PFD members discussed the opportunities and challenges for the CSO/LA community and how best they could influence the process further. Successive speakers set out the need for a framework encompassing Member States, local government and civil society as key partners, and for proper attention to be given to minimum social protection, empowerment of individuals, respect, transparency and equality. The discussion also focused on the 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals and the 169 related targets and the need to design proper monitoring and evaluation systems.



Furthermore, the session on the Global Partnership for Development Effectiveness, moderated by **DEVCO Director Luis Riera**, brought participants up to date with the current debates on implementing the post-Busan commitments and the ongoing work to “go local” with the post-2015 development agenda. It was clear that the post-2015 agenda should remain a priority in PFD debates – both in the run-up to the 2015 summit and during the implementation phase.



Moderated by **Josep Roig**, Secretary-General of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), **the session on urbanisation** opened with a presentation by **David Statterthwaite** of the International Institute for Environment and Development. Speakers, including the Governor of Kinshasa, discussed the role of **cities as centres of innovation**, striving to deliver access to services and economic development to all citizens, including the most marginalised and impoverished. The session included a call for a holistic approach to **support sustainable and inclusive cities and human settlements**.

The session devoted to the **enabling environment** agreed that responsibility for achieving a framework enabling **CSO/LAs to play their roles as development agents in their own right** should be shared between governments, donors and CSO/LAs themselves. It would remain an important topic for review and discussion at the PFD. **Strengthening links amongst local, regional and global levels** was therefore considered fundamental to speedier progress. Members agreed on the need to deepen knowledge and monitor progress at all levels, by different actors. In this context, EU country roadmaps for engagement with civil society were presented. The roadmaps, presently being elaborated in EU partner countries, provide a strategic framework for analysing the enabling environment and defining EU priorities. The session continued with the presentation of the “**Dialogue & Dissent**” policy of the Netherlands which was held up as an inspirational example of a cooperation strategy moving towards **strategic partnerships** with civil society – a trend also apparent at the Commission, where the preference is for Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) with a similar, more strategic and longer-term partnership with CSO/LAs where possible.



**Klaus Rudischhauser**, Deputy Director-General at DG DEVCO, introduced the session providing information and updates on EU-related topics such as joint programming, financial instruments and the results framework. Several speakers from the Commission and the EEAS intervened. Among them was **Roberto Ridolfi**, Director of DEVCO Directorate C, who presented details of the 2014-2020 Multi-Annual Indicative Programme on Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) and the related annual action programmes on food security, nutrition and agriculture, environment and energy. He explained also the principles behind the flagship programmes. **Veronique Lorenzo and Camilla Hagstrom** then presented the human development part of the GPGC (covering health, education, decent work, social justice, migration and asylum, etc.). **Felix Fernandez Shaw** from the EEAS provided an update of the state of play with regard to EU joint programming, while **Jan Ten Bloemendal** focused on the corporate results framework. The session ended with a presentation by DEVCO B2 of the CSO and LA 2014 Annual Action Plan and of working hypotheses for the coming years.

Encouraging concluding remarks from the PFD Co-chairs on the importance and uniqueness of the PFD as a platform for constructive open dialogue brought this second global PFD to a close. March 2015 and Brussels were tentatively suggested as the time and place for the next meeting.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that:

- on 3 October around 100 people attended a PFD workshop on the role of the private sector in development, led by DEVCO Director Roberto Ridolfi. They discussed options for launching a structured dialogue on private sector involvement in development cooperation;
- on 2 October a special lunchtime side event on migration was organised with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies to mark the launch of the Rights of Migrants in Action project.
- on 30 September a training and exchange session took place to present the Committee of the Regions, discuss a draft consultation toolkit for the PFD, understand how the Commission implements a Rights Based Approach and hear preliminary findings of the 2014 European Report on Development.

#### ALL PRESENTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON CISOCH:

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