European NGO confederation
for relief and development

CONCORD

Confédération européenne des ONG
d'urgence et de développement

CONCORD FLASH

JUNE

As usual, June is a busy month. But this year it was a bit special with the European elections taking place early June. Shortly after, CONCORD General Assembly analysed the results of the elections and explored how to engage with the new Parliament. It also approved a strategic framework that will lead CONCORD until 2015.

CONTENTS
Click on the links to view the articles

✳ **Due to the summer break, the next issue of the Flash will be released beginning of October**

CONCORD is the European confederation of relief and development NGOs. Its 22 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. It is part of the Global Call to Action against Poverty. Find out more about CONCORD on www.concordeurope.org.

Which Development for the new Europe?

The newly elected Members of the European Parliament will be faced with critical challenges during their five year term of office. While uncertainty remains over the future of the Lisbon Treaty, Parliament will undoubtedly oversee the implementation of many of the Treaty's provisions. This is important for the European Union's relations with the rest of the world. The Treaty seeks to strengthen the Union's role in the world through enhancing its common foreign policy capacity - an objective that is to be welcomed.

Throughout the EU's 50 year history its development cooperation has been the centre piece of its external policy. As a collective group of nations, the EU continues to provide more than 50% of the world's official development aid, a position that brings some responsibility for ensuring that the Union's relations with developing countries are pursued first and foremost in accordance with its development policy. However, this cannot be achieved through aid alone.

The EU's identity through development cooperation

The Lisbon Treaty should re-enforce the EU's position as a global leader in development. It reflects the emphasis of development cooperation as a nurturing policy in international relations, recognising this in the context of the Union's expanding membership. It identifies development cooperation as an independent policy area with EU competency providing the principal framework for the EU's relations with all developing countries, and sets the eradication of poverty as the single principle objective of this policy.

In so doing it establishes the relationship of this overarching objective to other external policy areas. The objective of poverty eradication must be taken into account when actions relating to other policies are planned and implemented, thereby establishing a hierarchical relationship in relation to the EU's approaches to developing countries.

A key question will be how the inevitable reforms to the institutions ensure the effective implementation of the Lisbon Treaty's provisions and intentions. They will need to ensure that there is a single dedicated development service within the Commission embracing the EU's relations with all developing countries that guarantees development as an independent policy area. Not only regarding aid delivery, but also with the capacity to assert the political interests of the Union's development policy. This requires an experienced Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid sitting as an equal with all other Commissioners in the college. The creation of the Union's diplomatic service must respect the integrity of development and humanitarian aid as a Community Policy.

In the words of Mirjam van Reisen, author of *Window of Opportunity – EU Development Cooperation after the Cold War*, "EU development policy reflects the EU's identity and the importance given to values expressed in the slogan 'unity through diversity' - upholding international human rights, supporting accountable and inclusive democracies, creating conducive environments for the involvement of women in peace-building and conflict resolution; and creating sustainable economies with regulatory frameworks that protect against excessive gaps between rich and poor."

Simon Stocker
Director of Eurostep, member of the CONCORD Policy Forum

CONCORD IN ACTION

When CONCORD meets at the Food and Agriculture Organisation

This year is crucial for the Rome-based UN agencies. The reform of the governance of the global regime on agriculture and food security is accelerating in the run up to the next World Food Summit. Since the soaring food price crisis erupted last year, both the UN system and donors have taken a long time to provide answers to the most affected populations, i.e. poor families relying on local food markets, smallholders' communities, etc.

On Thursday 25 June in Rome, a large delegation of the CONCORD European Food Security Group (EFSG) met successively with David Nabarro (Coordinator of the UN High Level Task Force on the global food security crisis) and with Maria del Carmen (President of the Bureau of the Committee on World Food Security and Representative of the Republic of Argentina to the FAO). Both speakers also had a brief, joint interaction with the participants.

The objective of the meeting was twofold: first, to discuss rational ways forward for the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security. This project was originally tabled by France at the FAO Summit in June last year, and it has since gained broader buy in (by the EU, the African Union and the G8, notably) despite some confusion during the Madrid high-level meeting in January. Second, the aim was to exchange views on the parallel process leading to the reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the different options which are being envisaged, particularly regarding Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and NGOs representativeness within the 'new' CFS.

Thomas Price, FAO Programme Officer from the NGO/CSO Liaison Office, conversed with the participants about the project of a parallel CSO Forum as a side event to the World Food Summit. The FAO Council had indeed confirmed the week before the meeting that a World Food Summit would be held this year (on the 16, 17 and 18th November).

As part of its work plan, the EFSG decided to continue looking closely at the CFS restructuring by providing "advice" to the *Zero draft* proposal for a reformed Committee on World Food Security. The EFSG also acknowledged the need to follow the negotiations surrounding the establishment of a high-level international Panel of Experts on food security and nutrition. Both processes are being documented intensively by the group.

For further information: Romain Philippe (romain.philippe@concordeurope.org)

CONCORD General Assembly: on the road to 2015

For its first General Assembly of 2009, CONCORD took an important initiative: the approval of its strategy plan 2009-2015. Building on 2 aims and 6 approaches, this framework states that CONCORD members work together to:

- Influence the EU's policies and practices so that the Union and its member states enhance social justice, equality and human rights throughout the world.

- Promote the rights and responsibilities of citizens, development NGOs and (where relevant to CONCORD's influencing agenda) civil society as a whole to act in solidarity with those living in poverty and to influence their representatives in governments and EU institutions.

Six approaches will help to reach these aims:
1. Ensuring that human rights and gender equality underpin all advocacy work.
2. Strengthening CONCORD's political engagement with the institutions.
3. Developing strategic alliances with southern, European and global coalitions.
4. Supporting the organisational development of CONCORD's members.
5. Ensuring that CONCORD's collective decision making combines efficiency with confederation ownership, and supports active participation of all members in CONCORD activities.
6. Basing CONCORD's work on members' energy, supported by a secretariat; balancing CONCORD's sources of income to ensure its independence and sustainability, and managing its finances prudently.

But because planning is nothing without resourcing, the financial situation of CONCORD was widely debated and workshops were organised to reflect upon resourcing it through fees, fundraising, European grants and non-financial resources. The participants also focused on the impact of the current global financial crisis on CONCORD's constituency. The result of a survey was presented, highlighting that in 2009 there were no real impacts on NGOs funding but that this would not be repeated in 2010. That said, in 2009, NGO funding of the New Member States dropped dramatically due to the end of two funding programmes and cuts in ODA expenditures in many countries.

The other key moment in CONCORD General Assembly was the reelection of 3 board members and of CONCORD President Justin Kilcullen. The General Assembly also focused on the European elections. Results were analysed and an advocacy plan explained how CONCORD will relate to the new Parliament representatives.

For further information: Agnès Philippart (aphilippart@concordeurope.org)

Spring Alliance: for a green and social Europe

A new alliance is born and CONCORD is part of it. The goal of the Spring Alliance is to influence the European Institutions' strategic agenda in the next 5 years.

It aims to put people and the planet first, so that social and environmental goals underpin all major policy proposals, particularly in policy areas such as: budgetary review; climate change; energy and natural resources; employment; internal market; economy and finance, and trade and development. Let's not forget that in March 2010, the Council of the European Union will hold its Spring Summit where it will decide on key priorities for the future of the European Union.

The "Spring Alliance" is the initiative of three leading European civil society organisations: the European Environmental Bureau, the European Trade Union Confederation and Social Platform. CONCORD has been invited to join this alliance in order to provide insight and expertise regarding the external dimension of European policies and its global responsibility.

The manifesto of the Spring Alliance is structured around the concept of "Putting People and Planet First" and calls for a new overarching European strategy, which includes:

♦ Avoiding ecosystem collapse by reducing resource use, minimising climate impacts and reversing the loss of Biodiversity.

♦ Creating inclusive societies, free of poverty and discrimination.

♦ Boosting the transition towards green, social & quality employment.

♦ Taking responsibility for a sustainable development of the world and global equality.

♦ Making economy and markets work for the benefit of people and the planet.

This alliance will present to M. Barroso on 22 of July, its manifesto that will be launched officially on 27 September in the presence of the President of the European Commission. Discover already the manifesto on www.springalliance.eu or www.concordeurope.org

For further information: Ester Asin Martinez (easin@concordeurope.org) or info@springalliance.eu.

CONCORD and the African Union Ambassador in Brussels

For the first time, representatives of the CONCORD Cotonou working group met with M. Annadif, African Union (AU) Ambassador to the European Union to informally discuss the review of the Cotonou Agreement and links with the EU Africa strategy.

According to the AU, the review of the Cotonou Agreement (which will take place in 2010) represents an opportunity to foster the idea that Africa must be treated as a unique entity, and thus adapt the Cotonou Agreement which enshrines this view. This also needs to include the perspective of the African Regional Economic Community which is is frustrated by the Economic Partnerships Agreement (EPA) process which undermines continent-to-continent partnership.

CONCORD Cotonou working group representatives pointed out that this likely complementary process should not weaken the Cotonou Agreement. On the contrary, they underline the necessity of integrating the aquis, the "spirit" with the benefits of the Agreement in the New Common Strategy. The participation of European and African civil society in policy formulation must be safeguarded because non-state actors are considered as allies for a better implementation of the Agreement. Even if the principle is present in the Agreement and the Common Strategy, its participation must be improved, giving a more institutionalised framework (within ECOSOCC, the African Citizens Directorate, Civil Society Forums…)

Both sides agreed to pursue the dialogue. A meeting with Dr Adisa, Director of the African Citizens Directorate, and Dr Akere Muna, the Presiding Officer of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the AU (ECOSOCC), will be arranged.

For further information, Gérard Karlshausen (gerard.karlshausen@cncd.be)

ACTION OF THE MONTH
CSO Development effectiveness: the key event of the Czech Presidency

What are the key principles of development effectiveness? What is the specific role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in development that could best contribute to their full potential? How is effectiveness influenced by external conditions and how to turn these conditions into advantages? These are the questions that were debated on 23-24 June by 170 representatives from civil society organisations (CSOs), donors and governments from nearly 50 countries from around the world that gathered in Prague.

Organised by the Czech NGDO platform "FoRS" (in collaboration with CONCORD) this conference was the closing event of the FoRS programme under the Czech Presidency of the European Union. Participants discussed the principles guiding their development effectiveness, the roles of CSOs in development and the framework provided by donors and governments for CSO work.

The opening sessions presented different perspectives on CSO development effectiveness, including from Europe, Africa, Latin America and the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness. Additional workshops explored more details topics such as: sustainable technologies; migration and development; inclusive development; gender; democratic governance, agriculture and food security. The conference concluded with a lively discussion on the conference statement which sets out principles of CSO development effectiveness. Participants committed to deepen discussions of these principles within the Open Forum for CSO effectiveness.

Just 2 days before this conference, this Open Forum held a meeting to discuss how to organise their political dialogue with donors and government, funding issues, and how international CSO processes linked to the development effectiveness agenda (Open Forum and Better Aid) could be sufficiently funded.

Political dialogue: One of the key objectives of the Open Forum is to advocate for an enabling environment for CSOs as development actors. This should be achieved through a multi-level political dialogue that also includes those governments and donors that have so far remained reluctant to engage with civil society. To facilitate this dialogue, a group of supportive governments including Austria, Sweden, Canada and the UK, have mobilised their peers to create a multi-stakeholder working group linked to the OECD DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness. This working group will reach out to donors and governments and work on some CSO-specific provisions in the Accra Agenda for Action in the run-up to the next High-Level Forum in 2011.

Funding: A management group has been established. It will work closely with donors and with CONCORD for the Open Forum and IBON for Better Aid. Tentative commitments have been made by some donors, and it is expected that these will translate into concrete pledges in the weeks to come.

For further information: contact Franz Josef Berger (fberger@concordeurope.org) - www.cso-effectiveness.org - http://www.fors.cz/en/eu_presidency/seminars_conferences

Effectiveness matters in Development Education

The role of Development Education (DE) and Awareness Raising (AR) has been acknowledged as essential if the European Union is to live up to its European and international commitments to Development. This has been particularly evident in the New Member States (NMS) where a lot of effort has been spent on actions to build up public support and strengthen the emerging national ODA policies. With the increasing number of DE & AR actions in NMS, a debate on effectiveness and sustainability inevitably emerges as an imperative question to be addressed.

The European conference "Effectiveness in Development Education and Awareness Raising" held at the end of May in Prague addressed this question. Over 100 participants present represented European non-governmental organisations, national ministries, state institutions and European institutions. The event was organized by People in Need, a Czech NGDO, in co-operation with the national NGDO platform Czech Forum for Development Co-operation (FoRS) and CONCORD - with the support of the European Commission and the Czech Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA).

The objectives of the conference were to contribute to the already ongoing processes focusing on evaluation and

effectiveness of DE & AR and to increase the quality in the field of DE&AR practice. The conference provided a forum for sharing best practices and discussing strategic frameworks for their implementations. The participants had more space to further discuss and develop their ideas within the framework of four working groups. Some concrete recommendations on "Citizenship education as quality development education" were: to engage youth based on their own interests and to speak with them in their own language by letting them use their media to communicate; to create opportunities for young people to have ownership of actions; to build capacity of the DE/AR practitioners; to show the connections between local acting and global changes, and to learn with and from (and not only about) the South.

The final recommendations are available on http://www.fors.cz/en/eu_presidency or contact office@trialog.or.at Information provided by Lenka Sobotová, People in Need – Out of TIS.

Let's be prepared for the UN conference on the Financial & Economic Crisis

In June, CONCORD met with the European Commission to exchange views on the European position regarding the 24-26 June conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis of the United Nations. Now that the conference has taken place, it appears that the European Commission failed to play a leadership role in the negotiations around a progressive outcome document for this conference.

Moreover, the Stiglitz Commission (an expert group tasked with finding recommendations on necessary reforms to the international financial and economic system) has not has its forward looking recommendations – largely supported by the G77 – explicitly endorsed by the European Union.

Instead, the European Union chose to focus on an agenda of "mitigation", shying away from any discussion of the reforms necessary to ensure that a crisis of these proportions does not impact on the lives of poor people in developing countries again. For more information on the outcomes of this conference, please visit www.eurodad.org

For further information: Jasmine Burnley, AidWatch Coordinator (jasmine.burnley@concordeurope.org)

The European Union and Civil Society

A voice and a vote is needed to work towards fairer globalisation and trade rules
The multiple crises involving food, finance and the economy reveal the extent to which current and dominant market incentives have failed to deliver on development that is equitable and socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.

On the top of this, many bilateral trade agreements contain commitments that limit the ability of countries to respond to the current crisis with appropriate regulatory, structural, and macroeconomic reforms and rescue packages, and may have unnecessarily exposed developing countries to risks derived from failures elsewhere in the global economic system.

In order to discuss how to shape a better Trade Policy, DG Trade organised a seminar on 'Trade, sustainable development and the global economic crisis' to reflect on how to make EU speak with one voice while respecting diverse national and political positions and the opinion of civil society.

To discuss this latest point, Karin Ulmer from Aprodev represented CONCORD in the panel "Enhancing the dialogue with civil society". She referred to the EC's objective of "keeping a finger on the pulse of civil society", as civil society organisations challenge the EC about not "paying more than lip service to dialogue" (see *European Voice* article 20/05). Civil Society organisations are important because they occupy a position between the household, the private sector and the state to negotiate matters of public concern. CSOs fight for the rights of citizens and to promote political accountability. Civil society generates the social basis for a democratic state. It provides arenas where political ideas are debated, established and contested.

Policy makers are often resistant to civil society and the evidence they provide and thus frustrate civil society participation. However, CONCORD thinks that civil society needs to stay involved in the decision-making process in order to sustain efforts to increase both voices and accountability, especially regarding vital issues such as trade. While to date, conditionality on "good" governance is only used for aid recipients countries, civil society calls on the European Union to understand governance as a coherent part and integral to its own process of making trade-policy. Transparency and policy coherence for development and accountability are key in this matter.

Civil society challenges the EU's cock-eyed approach to trade and governance and its lack of coherence with development policy:
♦ The FTA/EPA process is itself an obstacle to governance as trade talks exclude import competing and marginalised sectors and actors.

- Trade agreements do not necessarily propose the right reforms to improve existing governance, and corruption will continue if the state lacks the capacity to tackle private sector corruption.
- By reducing the scope of local government to act, government is unable to respond to citizens' concerns about important policies such as public health, environmental damage and job-intensive growth.
- Trade negotiations on regulatory frameworks strains and diverts limited state capacity considerably, when imposing highly controversial issues such as intellectual property rights in trade talks, for example.
- When shifting accountability to donors and recipient away from citizens.

For further information: Karin Ulmer (k.ulmer@aprodev.net) - http://trade.ec.europa.eu/civilsoc/index.cfm

Kick off for the Swedish presidency of the European Union

The Swedish Presidency of the European Union has started. As usual, Development NGOs will be very active. CONCORD Sweden, the national association of Development NGOs, will focus on four priority areas. Policy coherence for development is the overarching issue and aid effectiveness, climate & development and democracy & human rights will be under the spotlight during the presidency.

The CONCORD report on Coherence will contribute to warming up the debates during the seminar on Coherence organised by the European Commission during the European Development days in October in Stockholm. There will also be a parliamentary hearing in Sweden about the report and other activities to follow. Another topic that will be highlighted during the Development Days will be the Democracy and Human rights aspect of Development Aid and Democracy Building in Development. These topics will also be emphasised during the Human Rights Days in November.

Aid effectiveness will be highlighted during the political week in Sweden in June/July when the activities of CONCORD Sweden are launched. CONCORD Aid Watch report will be used for several seminars during the presidency period, as for example, during the International Book Fair in September when CONCORD Sweden will organise several events.
CONCORD Sweden will also organise other events on climate change during the European Development Days in October and the Human Rights Days in November.

On the governmental side, Sweden will respond to the economic and financial crisis and prepare for the Copenhagen conference on climate change in December. Climate and Development will be on top of the agenda during the presidency. The meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen and the Development Days in Stockholm will be two of the most important high level meetings during the period. Sweden also wants to improve cooperation on justice and home affairs; to adopt a new strategy for the Baltic Sea region; to take forward accession negotiations with Croatia and Turkey; to put the Eastern Partnership into operation and to improve transatlantic relations, explained Reinfeldt, the next president of the European Council. The Lisbon Treaty could also come into force during the Swedish term of office. For more information on Sweden official program: www.se2009.eu

For further information on CONCORD Sweden activities: info@concord.se - www.concord.se

Brains from developing countries down the European drain.

On 25 May the Council of the European Union (EU) adopted a directive about the "Blue Card", an access card to the EU for highly skilled workers around the world. The Blue Card is expected to help tackle the ageing problem and the shortage of highly qualified workers in the labour market. A possible positive development for EU Member states, but what about the developing countries from where such highly skilled workers are recruited?

The EU Coherence Programme (of which CONCORD is the co-funder) has followed the Blue Card very closely and has drawn attention to the expected negative consequences for developing countries, as did several people in the European Commission and Parliament and numerous NGOs. There are some solutions to minimise these consequences as far as possible. Member States should not be allowed to recruit employees in sectors that suffer from shortages in developing countries, such as health care and education. This is called ethical recruitment. Preventing brain drain in any way possible is also an important part of limiting the negative effects of this EU policy on developing countries. Besides these two points, highly skilled workers should not only be allowed to visit their country of origin, but they should be encouraged to do so. Circular migration can be beneficial for people, but measures have to be taken to put this theory into practice.

The EU Coherence Programme is glad to see that the final Directive draws attention to the negative consequences for developing countries and establishes measures for Member States to prevent this from happening. But it believes that, in line with the European Parliament's opinion, there should have been firmer statements and measures to ensure that developing countries will not suffer from this European policy. Achieving the Millenium Development Goals will be impossible for certain countries when all their highly skilled workers (for whose education they have paid) are recruited to

work abroad. The European Union has a responsibility to take action here. The Member States have the power to avoid developing countries from being brain drained by using some clauses in the Directive. Let's hope that they do so.

Read Commission proposal, Parliaments opinion and the directive as adopted by the Council.
For further information: Else Boonstra (eboonstra@evertvermeer.nl)

Dialoguing with DG Development

The 6th "dialogue" meeting between DG Development and other civil society organisations about the consultations to come from the 3 external Directorates General took place at the end of June. Two mains topics were on the agenda:

The Spring package: the European Union adopted a "recovery package" to counter-balance the economic crisis, but developing countries need to be involved in this recovery. In order to boost the real economy and to encourage economic growth and job creation, the European Commission (EC) proposed that Member States increase the grant capital of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund by 500 million Euros. Nobody knows how Member States will react, but it is important to encourage them to respond positively, to meet their ODA commitments and to find these additional resources.

The Mid-Term-Review of the 10th EDF: all relevant stakeholders will be involved in this review. The guidelines for the 10th EDF mid-term-review of the country strategy papers will be shared with the civil society organisations once they are approved.

A timetable of other upcoming consultations of civil society organisations was also provided.

For further information: Olivier Consolo (oconsolo@concordeurope.org)

Study on EDF support programmes for Non-State Actors

EuropeAid's Operations Quality Support had commissioned a study to capitalise on capacity building support programmes for Non-State Actors (NSAs) under the 9th European Development Fund. 40 capacity building programmes in 38 ACP countries were assessed. On the 29th May, a CONCORD delegation was invited to discuss the preliminary findings and recommendations of the draft report with officials of the European Commission (EC) and the experts having drafted the report.

The main issues identified by the experts surrounded the nature of capacity building programmes which should evolve from the 9th to the 10th EDF. "*It is necessary to develop, from the basis of a sector wide approach as regards support to NSAs, an integral approach, within which questions are raised as to the position of NSAs, in a transversal manner, in the entirety of European cooperation*". This will require a significant change in mentality and a strategy for the inclusion of NSA in all modalities and instruments, in particular as regards political dialogue.

The CONCORD delegation presented analysis and inputs from partner organisations in Surinam, Benin, Mali and Niger. Participants concluded that the up-coming Quadrilogue process ("Palermo II") will be an excellent opportunity to deepen analysis and debate on capacity building and the final report will be published soon.

For further information: Andreas Vogt avogt@concordeurope.org

Development Education Summer School 2009: a bigger role for young people

As each year, Deeep organised its Summer School. This time it was in Romania, from June 21st to June 28th and on an inspiring topic: Recognizing, motivating, engaging, Young People as Actors in Development Education, Campaigning, Advocacy".

Youth has been the major target of Development Education (DE) since its inception because schools are the main tool of education. In 2005, millions of youth from all over the world actively participated in the global campaign "Making Poverty History". But after a year the campaign was over and these young people asked: "But what now?

The important question that organisations need to ask themselves is: how much power they will give to young people? It is essential that EU countries adopt a DE national strategy in order for it to be mainstreamed in the educational system. This will enable it to become a more unified tool for understanding global or development education and, ultimately, to understand what it means to be a global citizen.

Around 2003, NGOs started to send increasing numbers of young people to Deeep Development Education Summer Schools (DESS) because they saw the importance of having a balance between youth and more experienced DE practitioners. Young people's involvement made it easier for them to relate to people from other countries and cultures,

which has gained importance in their work as well as in their everyday life. DESS has reinforced their ideas, their involvement and their commitment.

For further information: Chiara Tripepi (c.tripepi@deeeep.org). To learn more on the DESS 2009 and the proposed methodologies, download the □ pdf - video

STAFF CHANGES IN EUROPE

This column reports on the new appointments made in the last month, both in development NGOs and in the European institutions.

European NGOs
* Trócaire Director Justin Kilcullen has been elected President of **CONCORD** for a second three-year term.
* General Director Marie-Trees Meereboer will resign from **Partos** with effect from October 1st 2009.
* As of the beginning of July 2009, Pia Lichtblau will no longer be working for the Globale Verantwortung/Global Responsability (**Austrian NP**). Her replacement is Melanie Ossberger (melanie.ossberger@globaleverantwortung.at).
* Heiko NÖTSTALLER, Public relations at the **Austrian Platform** for Development and Humanitarian Aid platform is leaving as the European Union did not renew its support to the project of Global Responsibility. Contact Ruth Picker in the future in all matters: ruth.picker@globaleverantwortung.at. If you want to contact Heiko Nötstaller: Tel.: +43 650 27 27 600 / E-Mail: heiko_noe@yahoo.de
* The new board of **APRODEV** was elected. It is composed of Margareta Grape (CoS, new member replacing Jack van Ham (ICCO) the former chair), Claudia Warning (EED), Ueli Locher (HEKS/EPER) and Antti Pentikainen (FCA) who was elected as chair.
* **Eurodad** current director Alex Wilks is returning to work in the UK later this year, and the organisation is seeking a new head of office.
* The social platform welcomed 3 new members: the European Region of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), the European Region of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and the European Consumer Debt Network (ECDN). The Platform now has 42 members in total.
* Philippe Bartholmé is now working at **Interpeace** as EU Relations Officer and not at EPLO. You can contact him at bartholme@interpeace.org

EU institutions
* **European Parliament:** Isabelle Durant (Belgium-**Green**) is one of the vice-presidents of the new European Parliament. ♦ Joseph Daul (**EPP**), Martin Schulz (**PES**) and Daniel Cohn-Bendit (Green) remain at head of their groups ♦ The name of the Socialist Group (**PES**) has changed. It is now called "Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats". ♦ **EPP** Group elects its Vice Chairmen following the re-election of Joseph Daul as Group Chairman at its Group meeting in Brussels. They are Mr Vito BONSIGNORE (IT) ; Mrs Rumiana JELEVA (BG) ; Mr Othmar KARAS (AT) ; Mr Ioannis KASOULIDES (CY) ; Mr Marian Jean MARINESCU (RO) ; Mr Jaime MAYOR OREJA (ES) ; Mr Paulo RANGEL (PT) ; Mr József SZÁJER (HU) ; Mr Manfred WEBER (DE) ; Mrs Corien WORTMANN-KOOL (NL).   ♦ Click here for the list of the new MEPs and for the composition of the new Parliament.

* **European Commission:** Danuta Hübner has resigned from the post of **Regional Policy Commissioner** to become a member of the European Parliament. ♦ Zoran Stanèiè is the newDeputy **Director-General for Information Society and Media**. He will assist Director-General Fabio Colasanti in promoting international cooperation in information and communication technology (ICT) research and representing the Commission in negotiations on ICT development. ♦ Mr Hervé Jouanjean as Director-General of the **Directorate-General for Budget is** currently Deputy Secretary-General of the European Commission in charge of inter-institutional relations and he is responsible for representing the Commission at the Permanent Representative's Committee (COREPER). He is also the Foreign Affairs Sous-Sherpa in the G8 framework.

* **Council of the EU**: Mikaela Gavas, who used to work for DFID (**UK Government**), has become Research Associate at the **Overseas Development Institute**. She will be working with Simon Maxwell on a programme of work on EU institutional change and the future of European Development Cooperation. T. +44 (0)79 4171 3443 – E-mail: m.gavas.ra@odi.org.uk

FORTHCOMING CONCORD WORK MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

28 September	Launch of the Spring Alliance manifesto	Brussels	oconsolo@concordeurope.org
30 September	European Food Security Group	Brussels	rphilippe@concordeurope.org
1-2 October	EPAN meeting	Malta	Trialog@concordeurope.org
6-8 October	AidWatch Seminar	Brussels	Jasmine.burnley@concordeurope.org
9 October	Policy Forum meeting	Brussels	easin@concordeurope.org
13 October	CSO Development Effectiveness Working Group Meeting	Brussels	fberger@concordeurope.org
14-15 October	FDR meeting	Brussels	An.vangoey@concordeurope.org
15-16 October	Development Education Forum	Brussels	t.troll@deeep.org
22-24 October	CONCORD Board meeting & European Development Days	Sweden (Stockholm)	PA-Director@concordeurope.org aphilippart@concordeurope.org
18-19 November	📢 General Assembly	Brussels	PA-Director@concordeurope.org
25 November	European Food Security Group	Brussels	rphilippe@concordeurope.org
December	Board Strategy meeting	Elewijt (Belgium)	PA-Director@concordeurope.org

For further details on any of these CONCORD-related activities do not hesitate to contact the CONCORD Secretariat or check the extranet.

CONCORD DOCUMENTS OF THE MONTH

♦ Press release about the reelection of Mr. Kilcullen as President of CONCORD.

♦ Paper on "Which Development for the new Europe?" 4 June 2009

♦ Climate change working paper – 26 May 2009

♦ CONCORD small ads "Member to Member": 15/06/2009 -02/06/2009

OTHER NEWSLETTERS

♦ Take a look at the newsletters of CONCORD members

♦ Trialog: latest news of this project aiming to raise awareness of development issues in the enlarged EU and to strengthen dialogue and partnerships between development NGOs in accession countries, EU countries and developing countries.

♦ Deeep (Development Education Exchange in Europe Project): this second issue of *Development Education Times* will provide you with information on upcoming events, resources and publications related to development education. It also features a range of articles on funding opportunities for development NGOs.

♦ CSCG (Civil Society Contact Group): the CSCG brings together eight large European NGO platforms in the following fields: culture (EFAH); development (CONCORD); environment (Green 10); human rights (HRDN); lifelong learning (EUCIS); public health (EPHA); social (Social Platform) and women (EWL), to develop the dialogue between civil society organisations and the EU institutions as an essential part of strengthening participatory democracy.

♦ Euforic News: click here to subscribe and find out the latest news about development.