



Brussels, 8 March 2007

Subject: Discussions on the Berlin Declaration and future treaty revisions

Dear Sir or Madam,

During February Eurostep and its members presented perspectives about how we believe that the role of the European Union in the world should be reflected in the Berlin Declaration. In letters to the European heads of state and government, as well as the Presidents of the European Commission and European Parliament we emphasised that we see the adoption of the Berlin Declaration as an important step in re-asserting the values and principles on which the European Union has been built, and to update these in the context of the world today. We also emphasised that in the face of globalisation and the challenges facing the world, the EU of the future will be defined as much by the role that it plays in the world outside its borders as it is by its internal actions.

We noted that the values on which the European Union has been built - democracy, equality, solidarity, social justice, human rights, tolerance and the international rule of law - must underpin, and with equal measure, all the actions of the EU both externally and internally. We stressed that consistency of approach is fundamental and that as the Berlin Declaration is part of an ongoing process laying down the basic principles of the European Community, Europe's responsible role in the world and its policies towards developing countries should be paid special attention within the declaration

Cooperation with developing countries has been one of the essential aspects of the Union since 1957. The Treaty of Maastricht created a clear legal basis for a development policy of the European Union. The legal provisions established at that time were further strengthened and clarified in the context of the drafting process of the Constitutional Treaty signed on 29 October 2004 by heads of state and government in Rome. Clearly, with the rejection of Constitutional Treaty in 2005, new approaches on securing revisions to the EU's Treaties are required. We continue to follow the debate on this issue, and the various proposals that are put forward for taking this forward. We also recognise the importance that the Berlin Declaration can have in this process.

While it is clearly important that over the coming months a way forward is found that will enable the current Treaty provisions to be updated so that the enlarged Union can work effectively for the benefit of its citizens, and take a responsible role in the world we would certainly expect any outcome to fully encompass the

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the clarified provisions on development policy achieved in the process of producing the Constitutional Treaty.

In reality, the importance of the process leading to the Constitutional Treaty was that it strengthened and clarified the provisions on development co-operation in the current treaty, and these are set out in the text of the Constitutional Treaty.

In particular development is more clearly defined as a policy in its own right, with its own objectives standing on an equal basis with other policies of the Union. The Constitutional Treaty also clearly establishes that the Union's Development policy is the principal framework for the Union's cooperation with all developing countries (as defined according to the OECD), centred on the overarching objective of poverty eradication and in line with international commitments such as the Millennium Development Goals, the conclusions of the Copenhagen Social Summit, the Beijing Platform for Action and many others.

The reaffirmed commitment to the principle of coherence of EU policies such as trade, agriculture or fisheries, with development objectives when they impact developing countries is another positive aspect of the draft constitutional treaty, which would expect to be preserved in any future renegotiation.

We would hope that when the Berlin Declaration is adopted later this month it will provide a very clear signal to citizens in Europe and the developing world, on how the European Union intends to fulfil its role in the interests of its citizens living inside and outside the borders of the Union. As a powerful global player the Union has a particular responsibility towards the global community. It is on this basis that we expect the European Union to play a responsible role in the new world order.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Stocker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Stocker
Director

CC: Permanent representations to the EU