



Part of the act4europe campaign initiated by the Civil Society Contact Group

Press release

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Towards a development instrument for the EC

Eurostep welcomes today's votes in the European Parliament on establishing a legal instrument for the EU's cooperation with developing countries. "We congratulate the European Parliament for its unambiguous position on establishing a separate and clearly defined Development Co-operation Instrument for the EU" said Simon Stocker, Director of *Eurostep*. "*Eurostep* fully supports the position taken by the Parliament's Development Committee, led by Irish MEP Gay Mitchell, to create such an instrument" he continued.

In voting for the Mitchell's proposals the Development Committee is proposing that the European Parliament establishes a Development Co-operation Instrument by splitting the Commission's original proposals for a single instrument combining the EU's co-operation with developing and industrialised countries into two separate and distinct instruments. "It is vitally important for the EU's credibility, both inside and outside Europe, for its co-operation with developing countries to be driven by the Union's development objectives" said Stocker. "This can only be assured with a separate instrument for development. The votes in all relevant Committees of the Parliament today demonstrate the determination of the European Parliament to do this and give a clear signal to the Commission and the Member States on what Parliament expects" added Rein Antonissen from the Belgian NGO 11.11.11.

Eurostep also supports the Development Committee's provision for separate regulations to be established setting out the Union's thematic and geographical priorities for its development co-operation. "The European Parliament must retain its role in setting the EU's development priorities, and this is best done through a separate layer of thematic and geographical policy regulations" said Paddy Maguinness, Chair of *Eurostep* and deputy CEO of the Irish organisation CONCERN.

The report of the Development Committee will now be presented to the Plenary for adoption as the Parliament's first reading under the co-decision procedure.

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Eurostep is a network of autonomous European non-governmental development organisations working towards peace, justice and equality in a world free of poverty. Its membership, rooted in their own societies, works together to influence Europe's role in the world, particularly in pursuing the eradication of injustice and poverty. It advocates changes in Europe's policies and practice based on the perspectives drawn from direct experiences of an active involvement of its members and their partners in development in over 100 countries across the world. The members of *Eurostep* include: 11.11.11 (Belgium), Accur las Segovias (Spain), Alliance Sud (Switzerland), Concern Worldwide, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (Germany), Hivos (Netherlands), Kepa (Finland), Maniteze (Italy), Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke (Denmark), NIZA (Netherlands), Oxfam International, People in Need (Czech Republic), Oikos (Portugal), SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, terres des hommes Germany.

Eurostep is a member of CONCORD