



European Solidarity Towards Equal Participation of People

The EU's actions are central to the achievement of MDG8 without which the other 7 goals will not be achieved: but this goes beyond fulfilling aid commitments - financial, fiscal and economic justice are equally important

The EU's commitments made at the 2000 Millennium Summit constitute obligations to ensure that the means are in place for developing countries to achieve their own commitments. For the EU, a major global actor and the world's largest donor, this means fulfilling its part of the consensus through delivery on goal 8. This certainly means living up to its promises on aid, but also working to set in place an overall enabling economic environment that is conducive for sustainable development to be realized.

MDG 8 aims to establish an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. This must mean putting in place a global regulatory system that enables the interests of all to be promoted and protected, and not just those with wealth and power. The EU's approach must be wholly consistent with its values and principles set out in the treaty, and work for a system that is based on the principles of equity, justice and sustainability. The EU should be seeking the eradication of poverty and the achievement of the MDGs through the implementation of all of its policies, in line with requirements of the Treaty.

The development of an effective global partnership for development is key to the achievements of all MDGs.

Just to give two examples of how the international economic and financial regulatory system is linked to the success or failure of the achievement of other MDGs:

For the achievement of MDG 1 – Fighting Hunger – an effective international regulation of speculative finance (including hedge funds) in food stock exchange and future markets for food and agriculture is needed. Food speculation causes serious constraints on the budgets of developing countries, which are dependent on food imports to feed their populations, particularly in situations of humanitarian disasters.

With a view to MDG 5 – Improving maternal health, the MDG most lagging behind, where almost no progress was made since 1990 - access to key maternal health services, a secure supply of contraceptives and new preventive technologies would greatly advance women's health in all developing countries.

The EU projects itself as a global leader in the fight against poverty, and for the promotion of development strategies in poor countries which diminish inequalities, and enable people to live meaningful lives free of poverty. This can only be successfully achieved in partnership with other countries and their citizens, not least developing countries, and the least developed in particular.

However, for the EU to be recognised and accepted as a trusted partner it must fulfil all of its commitments. If it does not do so we can hardly be surprised when others do not feel obliged to fulfil the commitments they have made.

At the 2010 MDG review+10 summit next week, the EU and its member states must clearly state how it plans the practical implementation of its vision for the achievement of the MDGs. Rhetoric without action is not enough. And a vision without the political will to achieve it is just an illusion.

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