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Subject: EU Instrument for Development Cooperation

Dear Dr. Schilder,  
Dear Mr. Post,  
Dear Dr. Eisenblaetter,  
Dear Mr. Stocker,

Thank you very much for the letter from 23 January 2007 to my colleague, Mr. Christoph Rauh, and myself, in which you raise several questions regarding the implementation of the new EU Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), especially on the content of the new Country Strategy Papers (CSPs).

As you know, the draft CSPs which were provided by the Commission are now being successively discussed in the EU institutions – most of them currently in the DCI-Committee. At the same time the CSPs are in the hands of the European Parliament, which will discuss these drafts until the end of February and will consult with the EU-Commission. The EU Commission has made a commitment to take into account the results of the consultation with the European Parliament during the implementation of the CSPs. As the current EU presidency we will pay specific attention to this.

The German Government shares the concerns that you have pointed out.

As a member state that is traditionally very active on development policies in the DCI-Committee (former ALA-Committee) but also as EU Presidency, we have therefore been engaged insistently and successfully for changes to the Commission's drafts. Many are related to your concerns.

For instance the – indicative – financial allocations of the Asian developing countries have by now been substantiated (in addition to the well-known allocation of funds for 2007 – 2010 it now also includes the period of 2010-2013).

Moreover, the European Commission has accorded detailed documents to the DCI Committee and the European Parliament, in which

- the DAC Code is provided for each focal sector of EU development aid (since measures under the geographical programmes of the DCI need to be 100% in compliance with ODA-DAC-criteria).
- the Commission outlines the consultation process with representatives from civil society, partner governments, the EU member states and other donors in the preparation of the draft CSPs.

Furthermore, the DCI Committee unanimously decided that activities on the fight against terrorism would be removed without substitution from the Commission's draft CSPs. The member states have made clear that they do not believe that such activities should be financed through the DCI.

Additionally, in regards to the choice of focal sectors for each CSP the DCI Committee has made multiple, substantial changes. For instance, the fight against HIV/AIDS, which you righteously pointed out in your letter as being very important, is now included in several CSPs, e.g. India.

For the future the German Federal Government will also engage actively in the different responsible committees on the implementation of the DCI, both regarding the individual programming and different strategy documents.

For us it is in this regard especially important to ensure, that the implementation of the DCI truly recognises the respective regulations of the DCI, established by the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament, as legally binding. So that the development politics of the EU focus as much as possible on contributing to the achievement of the MDGs and that a maximum of the funds is used for programmes and sectors which are in compliance with the criteria for official development assistance by the OECD/DAC.

Sincerely,

Dr. Friedrich Kitschelt

Head of the European Union Division  
German Federal Ministry for Economic  
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)