



Brussels, 29 November 2011

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), ACSUR Las Segovias (Spain), Alliance Sud (Switzerland), Concern Worldwide (Ireland), Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (Germany), FDSC (Romania), Kepa (Netherlands), Marie-Stopes International (UK), NEWW (Poland), Oxfam Novib (Netherlands), People in Need (Czech Republic), Sloga Platform (Slovenia), SNV (Netherlands).

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

Defend the EP's democratic role: reject the DCI-BAM conciliation compromise on Thursday 1 December

On Thursday the European Parliament will vote on the conciliation committee's compromise with respect to four sets of amendments to the Financing instruments covering the EU's cooperation with developing countries. **Eurostep urges you to vote against the proposed compromise for the regulation establishing Banana Accompanying Measures within the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI/BAM).** We believe that an acceptance of the compromise will seriously erode the legitimate democratic role that the Lisbon Treaty gives to the European Parliament and take away from Parliament the possibility to scrutinise the strategic choices being made in the use of the EU's funding for development covered by the DCI.

It is critically important that the European Parliament defends its legitimate democratic role at a time when democracy itself is increasingly being undermined in the face of the economic and financial crisis. In such times development policy itself is in danger of becoming a casualty as other pressing issues take priority. The impact can be seen on the functioning of the EEAS which relates primarily to the EU's intergovernmental framework, and the role of the EEAS in establishing external cooperation strategies.

Next week the Commission will present its proposals for the financial instruments covering its cooperation with developing countries from 2014 onwards. It is clear that the European Parliament will have to fight for its right to democratic scrutiny of strategic choices to be made by the EU in the use of development funding. The Council will continue to oppose the inclusion of delegated acts, and hence an effective role for the Parliament within the framework of these instruments, as it has in the negotiations over the compromise text that will be voted on by Parliament on 1 December. The Commission will propose delegated acts for decisions which were previously under co-decision, in order to increase its own discretionary powers, thereby reducing Parliament's democratic scrutiny powers. If Parliament accepts the DCI/BAM compromise proposal this week, it will be significantly more difficult for Parliament to assert its role of democratic scrutiny in the difficult negotiations ahead.

The Lisbon Treaty makes specific provision for the Parliament to play its democratic role as an equal to the Council in scrutinising these strategic choices. This will only be realised if delegated acts are included in the legal instruments

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that cover the use of the EU's development funding and if they are used to give Parliament the power to scrutinise the strategic decisions. The fact that this is not the case for the DCI/BAM compromise proposal must surely result in its rejection by the Parliament when it votes on Thursday. Since the Council has already adopted the Conciliation Committee's compromise for all four sets of amendments, a rejection of the DCI/BAM compromise proposal will not influence the adoption and implementation of the other three.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Simon Stocker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Simon Stocker
Director