



Press Release

14 October 2009

For Immediate release

Politicising development aid is a recipe for failure

The EU's development aid is in danger of being politicised, says Eurostep in response to calls for the EU's development policy to be managed within the European diplomatic service that is to be created under the Lisbon Treaty. "These calls to bring development aid together with Europe's foreign policy will inevitably lead to development becoming part of the EU's foreign policy" said Simon Stocker, Director of Eurostep. "When aid is politicised in this way, which was the approach of the Bush administration, development fails."

Development policy must remain sufficiently independent of the EU's diplomatic service for it to be able to achieve its principal objective – the eradication of poverty. The management of the EU's development policy must remain with the Commission, outside the new diplomatic service" continued Stocker.

Ireland's "yes" on the Lisbon Treaty has unleashed a rush to define how the EU will organise and manage its relations with the rest of the world. Next week the European Parliament is expecting to adopt a report on the structure of the European External Action Service (EEAS), the formal title of Europe's future diplomatic service, and EU leaders are also expected to make decisions when they meet on 29 October.

Eurostep recently published a briefing paper addressing the future management of the EU's external policies.

For further information contact Verena Winkler (vwinkler@eurostep.org) on +32 474 576 737, or Simon Stocker (sstocker@eurostep.org) on +32 479 489 147

Eurostep is a member of CONCORD

Eurostep A.I.S.B.L.

115 Rue Stévin, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel. +32 2 231 16 59 • Fax. +32 2 230 37 80

E-mail: admin@eurostep.org • Web: <http://www.eurostep.org>

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), CFSI (France), Concern Worldwide (Ireland), Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (Germany), FDSC (Romania), Hivos (Netherlands), Kepa (Finland), Manitesse (Italy), Marie-Stopes International (UK), Mellefolkligt Samvirke (Denmark), Network of East West Women (Poland), Oikos (Portugal), Oxfam International (Netherlands), People in Need (Czech Republic), Sloga (Slovenia), SNV (Netherlands), terre des hommes Germany.