



To the kind attention of

Brussels, 28 February 2007

Dear Sir/Madam,

We would like to thank you for your kind participation in the seminar which was held in Brussels on 6 February 2007 and entitled: **“Can Europe act as a responsible social and environmental player in its neighbourhood? - The implementation of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument”**. This seminar was organised by Aprodev, Eurostep, Womnet and WWF, with the kind support of the German Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMSFJ) within the German EU Presidency, Oxfam Novib and Oxfam GB.

It is with great pleasure that we share with you the report enclosed hereby, which reflects the main points discussed and commitments made during this event.

The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) is already being implemented. Its main objective is to *“avoid new dividing lines in Europe and to promote stability and prosperity within and beyond the new borders of the Union”*. While all but two of the countries covered by the ENPI are considered as developing countries by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD, it should be made clear that stability and prosperity can only be reached in this region if the implementation of the ENPI takes full account of its broader legal and political framework. This includes article 179 of the Treaty Establishing the European Community, the European Consensus on Development and the Millennium Declaration, as well as other European and international commitments in the field of gender, environment and human rights.

In this context, civil society actors from the European Union as well as from a number of countries in the Mediterranean, south Caucasus and Eastern Europe¹ met with EU Member States representatives, Members of the European Parliament, staff from the European Commission and UN Agencies. The discussions were aimed at assessing the extent to which the implementation of the ENPI could help the EU in delivering on its commitments to fight for more social justice, advance women’s rights and promote environmentally sustainable models through its aid programmes.

The policy framework and programming process of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument were presented and debated. The discussions revealed a clear need for increased transparency in the programming and decision-making process. The involvement of national parliaments as well as civil society actors in the programming process has been seen as a primary condition to ensure that the EU acts responsibly in its neighbourhood and ensure that EU aid under the ENPI is “owned” by the recipient societies in a true spirit of partnership.

¹ Algeria, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Israel, Moldova, Morocco, Ukraine, the Palestinian Authority

The role of the European Parliament in this process has been clarified. It should be in a position to propose amendments to the Country/Regional Strategy Papers and to the Annual Action Programmes. These comments should be taken into account by the Commission when finalising these documents before adoption.

Participants also highlighted their will to see the ENPI money guaranteeing the right to food sovereignty and sustainable development instead of pushing for “reciprocity” in on-going and future trade negotiations. The need to ensure a systematic mainstreaming of gender and environment issues in the programming and implementation of the ENPI was also central to the discussions. The European Commission services should follow precise guidelines for mainstreaming cross cutting issues when drafting the “project fiches” (the last step of the programming chain of documents defining the specific projects and programmes financed by the EC assistance to the ENP region).

We thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this report.

For further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

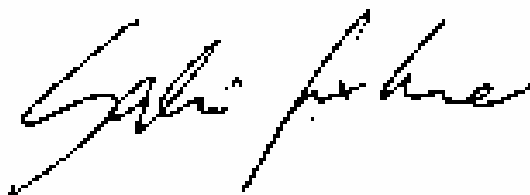
Yours Sincerely,



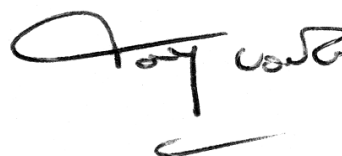
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