

Coherence of Policies with Development Policy

The European Parliament has adopted a resolution “on the coherence of the various policies with development policies.”

In the resolution, the Parliament notes the Council’s Declaration on Development Policy for the Year 2000, which recognises the linkage between development cooperation and other Community policies as well as the need to take into account their impact on developing countries. The resolution also notes the Council’s request to the Commission that it submit annual reports on the progress made in this field as well as proposals for future activities.

The chapter on Development Cooperation (Title XX, Article 178) of the Treaty establishing the European Community, provides that the Community shall take account of the objectives referred to in Article 177 in the policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries.

The Parliament recalls that Article 177 indicates the objectives of the European Community development programme as follows: sustainable economic and social development, the campaign against poverty and the integration of developing countries into the world economy. However, it notes that a lack of coherence has been observed in several areas, which hampers the effectiveness of the EU’s development policy and, by implication, the development of recipient countries. The resolution notes

building, conflict prevention and resolution; food security; fisheries; and migration). Several delegations had also noted the importance of ensuring policy coherence in other areas such as agriculture, trade and the environment. They stressed that no significant progress can be achieved in terms of sustainable development unless the EU and other major producers open their markets to developing countries’ products, and end subsidies, which are harmful to the agricultural exports of the developing countries. They stressed the need to promote local production, and the fact that protection of the environment cannot be marginalised to specific programmes only, but should be a structural component of the whole development policy, noting that the external EU fisheries policy may result in negative impacts on fish stocks and upon the local fishing industry.

The resolution, among other things,

“Urges the Commission to publish without further delay an annual report on policy coherence in connection with development cooperation;

Calls on the Council to formulate common strategies and consistent standards in terms of poverty eradication, human development, environment, human rights and good governance in order to improve the development policies of the 15 Member States;

Asks for the establishment of an inter-service working group on coherence comprising the Directorates-General of the Commission whose policies are likely to impact on European Union development policy including the Directorates on agriculture, fisheries, research, trade, external relations and development;

Emphasises the importance of a standard environmental clause in agreements with developing countries and the promotion of compliance by all parties to the objective of sustainable development as defined by the Cardiff Process and the relevant UN commitments (Rio, Copenhagen, etc.);

Draws attention to the continuing tragedy of anti-personnel landmines and their impact on the implementation of a range of Community and member

State programmes, including development policies, and requests the Commission and the Council to report on the recent measures that they have taken to improve the coherence, coordination and effectiveness of EU mine action.



European Parliament in Strasbourg

Courtesy: EP

that the Commission has not provided any report on the implementation of resolution 177 despite repeated requests in the Council.

The Council resolution identified four specific areas where policy coherence is particularly important (peace

