

European Commission's April Package and Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions Compared

A twelve-point EU action plan in support of the Millennium Development Goals

June 2010

	Commission Communication	Council Conclusions
Aid Commitments	Call for fair international burden-sharing with other international donors – including emerging – to raise their level of ambition in line with that of the EU	The EU calls on all other international donors – including new and emerging partners – to raise their level of ambition and to increase their ODA efforts to a level similar to the EU, thus contributing their fair share to the global development efforts
	Establish realistic, verifiable annual action plans for reaching individual targets and publish the first plans before September 2010	The Council asks Member States to take realistic, verifiable actions for meeting individual ODA commitments until 2015
	Strengthen EU accountability mechanism: based on Member States' annual action plans and the Commission's monitoring report, the Council should hold an EU internal 'ODA Peer Review' and report the results to the European Council. These action plans need to outline at least the planned ODA spending for the next budgetary year and estimates for the remaining years until 2015	Underlining that this issue falls within the competence of Member States, the Council invites Member States to share information on these actions and, within their respective budget allocation processes, on their planned ODA spending for the next budgetary year as well as their intentions for the remaining period until 2015. The Council will examine a report in the framework of the Monterrey process and will assess progress annually.
	Consider enacting national legislation for setting ODA targets, based on experience in Belgium or the United Kingdom	-
Aid effectiveness	Progressively bring together the timing of national and EU programming cycles at partner country level by 2013 and use the joint programming framework to share development priorities and objectives in developing countries to avoid duplication and overlap	On joint programming, the Commission will present a proposal to the Council by 2011 for progressive synchronisation of EU and national programming cycles at partner country level and based on partner countries' development strategies and taking into account their programming cycles. This process should speed up progress to

		develop joint EU country strategy papers and multiannual programmes where appropriate.
	Use the common timing and build upon the joint programming framework to develop European country strategy papers and multi-annual programmes, as has been done by the EU for Haiti, thus meeting our commitment to deliver on aid effectiveness and predictability to partner countries	-
	Within the existing Aid Effectiveness Operational Framework, improve EU Division of Labour not just in, but also across recipient countries (notably by ensuring its neutral impact on aid volumes, addressing the orphan's gap issue ⁸ , and introducing a systematic process for sharing information); and establish a common EU approach for implementing commitments on mutual accountability and transparency, to be then promoted broadly	The Council has agreed to complete the subchapter on cross-country division of labour in the EU Operational Framework on Aid Effectiveness which will also allow addressing together the orphans' gap and improving situations where partner countries are lagging behind in the MDGs. The Council calls on the Commission to make proposals on a common EU approach for implementing commitments on mutual accountability and transparency in order for the Council to adopt a 4th chapter in the EU Aid Effectiveness Operational Framework at its November 2010 meeting. This should include concrete measures such as undertaking a leadership role in partner countries through the establishment of simple and cost effective mutual performance assessment frameworks, supporting the engagement of civil society organisations, media, local governments and partners in this process, transforming the EU Monterrey Report into a model of transparency and accountability, and providing comprehensive and comparable information on development expenditure and actively participating in international efforts to forge common aid information standards.
	Encourage other donors – including emerging – to apply the	The EU calls on all donors, traditional and new or

	aid effectiveness agenda	emerging, to spend their ODA in line with the international Aid Effectiveness principles in order to achieve results and maximise aid impact. The same principles have to apply to all spending that is channelled to developing countries in the framework of the cooperation known as South-South cooperation, by non-state actors, local authorities and charity organisations, including climate and biodiversity finance. Effectiveness has to guide also ongoing reform processes of international development organisations, including vertical and Global Funds.
Fragile states and most off-track countries	Ensure EU coordination mechanisms for taking decisions and organising the division of labour in fragile states in the short term. This has started with Haiti	The EU aims to adopt in 2010 an EU Action Plan for situations of conflict and fragility to better address such situations in a comprehensive and integrated way, and better integrate development objectives in planning and implementing peace operations.
	Keeping an appropriate balance between rewarding performance and responding to needs, re-allocate funding to the most-off track countries, taking into account national policies and capacities. At EU level, the Commission will propose this in the framework of the 2010 mid term review of ACP programmes, as well as propose to increase country allocation for the period 2011-2013 in Afghanistan and Pakistan.	The EU and its Member States will pay special attention to countries most off-track, including those in situations of conflict and fragility, and those developing countries that make firm commitments through their development policies and plans by targeting progress on MDGs by 2015. The Council invites the Commission to propose a list of priority countries on the basis of needs for progress towards the MDGs.
Improving the impact of policies in key sectors	In education and health, concentrate EU and Member States action in those countries where need is greatest and sustainable policies can be supported. The list of priority countries will be prepared ahead of September	-
	In health, through enhanced policy coherence and further EU political and financial	-

	<p>involvement in the 'Global Fund to fight Aids Tuberculosis & Malaria' and the 'Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation', ensure that they act as a platform for aid effectiveness, adhere to the International Health Partnership principles and contribute to strengthening of health systems</p>	
	<p>In education, increase support for national education sector plans that will achieve quality education, through bilateral and multilateral channels as well as through the Education For All Fast Track Initiative</p>	<p>The EU and its Member States will enhance their support for national education plans that will among others improve access, inclusion and quality of education available for all children, regardless of their background, ethnicity, gender, disability, health, home language or socio-economic status. This support shall be given through bilateral and multilateral channels including through the Education for All Fast Track Initiative, the reform of which its EU partners will continue to support.</p>
	<p>Address all aspects of food security, focusing on ecologically efficient agriculture, on smallholder farmers, supporting sustainable national and regional policies (including through increased financial support to the 'Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme' and accelerated implementation of the African Land Policy Guidelines), and promoting better integration of nutrition, particularly in South Asia</p>	-
	<p>Improve the accountability and monitoring of gender equality through the use of the OECD policy marker in all MDG-related actions (with a view to applying it to at least 80% of EU and Member States' actions)</p>	<p>Bearing in mind that gender equality is not only a goal in itself but also central in achieving all MDGs, the Council has adopted the EU Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development (2010-2015) (see Annex). Gender equality, women's political and economic empowerment and women's enjoyment of human rights are</p>

		essential for poverty reduction and sustainable development, for women as economic actors and for addressing the main health challenges, with particular links to nutrition, water and sanitation, and maternal mortality. A progress report regarding the implementation of the plan will be presented and discussed annually and a mid-term review will be conducted in 2013. The EU also firmly supports the establishment of a composite UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.
	Continue to prioritise actions to tackle Global health, agriculture and Food security within the EU research framework programmes.	the Council refers to its Conclusions on an EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges 1 and on the EU role in Global Health Global 2 where it prioritises strategies and actions that improve the impact of policies essential to the achievement of the MDGs.
Enhanced ownership	Use the Africa-EU Partnership on MDGs as a platform to enhance regional coordination of MDG monitoring in Africa, working together with regional organisations	The EU will work actively with partners to enhance regional dialogue on progress in MDGs, including in the framework of the Africa-EU Partnership on MDGs.
	Promote the inclusion of MDG targets in developing countries' own development strategies	Developing countries have primary responsibility towards achieving the MDGs. The EU calls on them to reinforce their ownership and leadership, notably by incorporating the MDGs into national development strategies
Policy coherence for development	Use the PCD Work Programme proactively and early on as a tool to guide EU decision-making on the broad range of decisions that affect developing countries beyond development assistance	In accordance with its Conclusions on Policy Coherence for Development of 18 November 2009, the Council encourages consultation with Member States with a view to a proactive and early use of the PCD Work Programme as a tool to guide EU decision-making on the broad range of decisions that affect developing countries beyond development assistance.

<p>Tax and development</p>	<p>Strengthen the capacities of developing countries for domestic revenue mobilisation through tax reforms and administration. Increase capacity of customs administration of developing countries to contribute effectively to national development goals.</p> <p>Enhance support for initiatives that promote revenue transparency and domestic accountability, such as the 'Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade' and the 'Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative' and improve donor coordination</p>	<p>The EU will support developing countries in building their capacities, and will also push for a more development-friendly international framework. In this regard, following on from the Commission Communication on Tax and Development of 21 April 2010, the Council has adopted Conclusions on Tax and Development – Cooperating with Developing Countries on Promoting Good Governance in Tax Matters.</p>
	<p>Promote good governance in tax matters and support fight against tax evasion through international standards, cooperation to facilitate the conclusion and implementation of agreements such as Tax Information Exchange Agreements and, where appropriate, Double Taxation Conventions, adoption and implementation of the OECD transfer pricing guidelines in developing countries and ongoing research on country-by-country reporting standard for multi-national corporations</p>	<p>-</p>