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Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development  
Department for International Development  
1 Palace Street  
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18 June 2010

Dear Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,

**Re: Congratulations on your new role and briefing on EU institutional reform**

It was very good meeting you at the Bond International Development Parliamentary Reception on 9 June. Thank you very much for making the time to speak at this event. We had about 40 members from both Houses present, all of whom were keen to develop a greater understanding of international development and the MDGs to enable them to support these issues in both the Commons and the Lords. Many MPs also signed EDM 179 on international development and the MDGs which was tabled ahead of the Reception by Tony Baldry MP. We will continue working with the new Parliament on international development issues particularly in the critical months ahead of the UN MDG Review Summit.

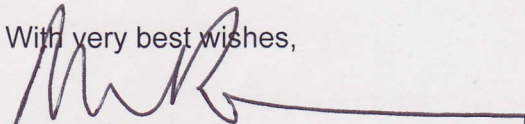
On behalf of Bond's 350+ member organisations, may I congratulate you on your appointment as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development. My colleagues and I look forward to working closely with you on the issues in your ministerial portfolio that matter a great deal to our members, principally Europe and the roles and resourcing of civil society in international development. I know that you are very familiar with the importance and contributions of UK civil society organisations and I am looking forward to working with you on this part of your portfolio.

As I mentioned in my introduction at the Reception, Bond is leading on the EU engagement of the Bond network working closely with the DFID EU Department as well as the European Commission. Together with CONCORD, the European Confederation of NGOs representing more than 1,600 NGOs across Europe, we are at the moment focusing on two key areas - the EU position towards the UN MDGs Review Summit and the reforms of the EU institutions including the creation of the European External Action Service. We regard the latter as both an important and very urgent issue which will have major implications for EU development and humanitarian policies and for the way development cooperation and humanitarian assistance are implemented in the future.

In light of current European high level meetings and for your consideration, I am enclosing our brief and position paper, which set out our concerns and recommendations. I also enclose our latest position paper on MDGs which sets out our expectations of the EU to create a successful UN MDGs Review Summit in September.

I appreciate that the coming weeks will be a very busy time for you but I hope it will be possible for us to meet soon to discuss some of these issues in more depth.

With very best wishes,

  
**Nick Roseveare**  
Chief Executive, Bond