

David Lidington MP
Minister for Europe
The Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London
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17 June 2010

Dear Minister,

I am writing, on behalf of Bond's 350+ member organisations, to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister for Europe. This is a key portfolio for international development concerns and leverage and we welcome somebody with your experience taking it forward. Bond is the UK network of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in international development and we are leading and coordinating UK NGOs work on the EU.

Bond members welcome Prime Minister David Cameron's public commitment to play a strong and positive role together with partners in Brussels on global poverty and climate change.

Among other priorities Bond works in the UK and the EU to ensure that the EU delivers on its commitments to eradicate poverty, promote economic justice including and protect and promote human rights.


At the moment, Bond together with CONCORD, the European Confederation of NGOs representing more than 1,600 NGOs across Europe, is focusing on institutional reforms of the EU and on the establishment of the new European External Action Service. This is a key and very urgent issue which, as you know, will have major implications for EU development and humanitarian policies and for the way development cooperation and humanitarian assistance are implemented in the future.

I enclose here our brief and position paper, which set out our concerns and recommendations in this regard. 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 would very much welcome an opportunity to meet with you to brief you further on Bond's work so that we may discuss when and how we should cooperate on these issues to obtain the best possible outcomes.

May we follow up with your office about the possibility of a meeting and to try to identify a mutually convenient date if you are agreeable to this. I look forward to hearing from you in due course and congratulate you on your new role once again.

Yours sincerely,


Nick Roseveare
Chief Executive, BOND