

The Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP
Secretary of State
Department for International Development
1 Palace Street
London SW1E 5HE

27 October 2009

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you to express my serious concern at ongoing EU policy discussions which may result in proposals being adopted at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) meeting on 16-17 November that will cause significant harm to the EU's development agenda for the future, and to respectfully request that you oppose these proposals.

As you will know, on 15 September the EC published a communication entitled "Policy Coherence for Development – Establishing the policy framework for a Whole of the Union approach".

The central proposal of this communication is to adopt a Whole of Union (WoU) approach to Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) and development finance – we believe that this will weaken the EU's development agenda for many years to come. This is because it contains proposals to track non-ODA financial flows, increase the use of ODA to leverage other financial flows and narrows the PCD agenda; our concerns on these ideas are presented in our letter of 16th September.

Since these proposals were made there has been widespread opposition to them by European NGOs (see the CONCORD response, endorsed by 1600 NGOs from across 22 EU member states) and from many EU member states. This level of protest is extremely unusual from civil society and ought not to be ignored.

Nevertheless, we are informed that these proposals are still being considered and are being supported by a number of EU member states. This is of enormous concern to us, especially given that the economic crisis is expected to push an additional 90 million people into poverty and threatens to reverse recent development gains. With such devastating impacts expected, as we are both agreed, now is the time for the EU to strengthen its commitment to development not to weaken it.

We therefore urgently request you to do what you can to ensure that at the November GAERC:

- **the Whole of Union approach to PCD and development finance is not adopted by EU member states**
- **EU member states renew their individual aid commitments and agree to take immediate action to increase their aid levels**
- **the PCD process is given impetus by EU member states strengthening their commitment to act across the entire PCD agenda and address issues of non-ODA financial inflows and outflows**

Such a response is consistent with the type of progressive and responsible EU development agenda that is so desperately needed at this time, and we hope you can play your part in making it happen.

We would welcome an opportunity to exchange our views in more detail in a personal meeting ahead of the GAERC meeting on 16-17 November.

Yours Sincerely,



Nick Roseveare
Chief Executive, BOND

In copy to: Gareth Thomas, Minister of State for International Development