



DFID Department for
International
Development

1 Palace Street London SW1E 5HE

Nick Roseveare
Chief Executive, BOND
Regent's Wharf
8 All Saints Street
London N1 9RL

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From the Secretary of State

Telephone: 020 7023 0134
Email: psssofs@dfid.gov.uk
Website: www.dfid.gov.uk

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Nick

Thank you for your letter of 27 October setting out your concerns ahead of the November GAERC about the Commission's proposals for a 'whole of union' approach to Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) and development finance.

I understand that BOND and UKAN representatives met with DFID officials on 6 October to discuss this issue. I hope that you found this meeting useful.

PCD is a key priority for the UK and we welcome the proposals to strengthen commitment to act across the entire PCD agenda and to improve how it is implemented both by Member States and the Commission. We welcome the priority given under the proposed PCD framework to five global issues as we believe that it will help focus discussion and debate around the major crises and challenges to development.

However, we share some of your concerns about the 'whole of union' approach. In particular, we do not want to weaken the EU's focus on delivering its commitments on ODA. We need further details from the Commission on what is envisaged by the 'whole of union' approach, and further discussion amongst Member States, before the concept set out in the Communication could be endorsed by Development Ministers.

I welcome our continued collaboration on this and on the crucial task of maintaining pressure on other Member States to honour their ODA commitments in order to meet the EU 0.70% target by 2015. I look forward to discussing these issues and others with you at our annual meeting.

Yours ever

Douglas
DOUGLAS ALEXANDER