

European Policy Group work-plan 2009/10

Policy areas

1. EU Elections (short term)

2. Institutional reforms

Cross cutting / common interest
(EU Policy Officer leading)

- Lisbon Treaty / institutional reforms
- EU Budget review
- New European Commission

3. EU development policy and practice

Members to bring in diversity of perspectives / very relevant with New Member States starting to give aid
(EU Policy Officer and members input)

- MDGs Agenda for Action (Social protection, water and sanitation ...)
- More and better aid (EU leadership) (April package)
- Review of the Cotonou Agreement
- EU Africa Strategy

4. Policy Coherence for Development

EU significant player + UK expertise (Member led)

- Taxation – Christian Aid
- Climate change – Christian Aid / Save the Children
- Human security – SaferWorld
- Emergency / humanitarian aid – Save the Children / Mercy Corps

5. Financial crisis

Issue / area	What we want to achieve / policy goals	Activities / events / materials ... and by when	How / ways of working
DFID White Paper consultation	The DFID White paper recognises and has a progressive view of the role of the UK in Europe and on Europe's responsibility in the world	Contribute to BOND's submission to the consultation taking place during February / March	
UK election manifesto process	Manifesto should include EPG asks on UK government and Europe and European perspective on the issues EPG works on	Contribute to drafting process (February / March?)	
EPG review and strengthening of the group		Analysis of the results of the review process (April) and formulation of action plan	
EU elections	<p>Good relationships with candidates and elected MEPs, we have a good group with which we can continue working in the next 5 years</p> <p>A number of MEPs have committed to follow up on our asks on the manifesto</p> <p>Friendly MEPs / the right ones have joined DEVE and other relevant Parliament Committees</p> <p>Our issues are on the agenda of the elections campaign</p>	<p>Finalise, print, launch manifesto (By end of March)</p> <p>Lobbying / meetings candidates and elected MEPs before and after the elections</p> <p>Development day in May</p> <p>Strategy for follow up from elections, should include a plan/number of activities with MEPs</p> <p>September event to present new parliament, invite as many MEPs as we can, followed by drinks/reception to give members opportunity to network</p>	
EU institutional issues			
Institutional reforms / Lisbon	Commissioner for Development	Lobbying activities (meetings, letters etc) as appropriate	EPG – EU Policy Officer leading

	<p>DG Dev responsible for formulation and implementation of development policies and covering all developing countries</p> <p>Independence for development within the European External Action Service</p> <p>EU delegations including development experts that remain independent from the more political mandate of the delegations</p>	<p>Publication (Ready by April)</p> <p>Series of high level meetings in Brussels re institutional reforms, new European Commission and EU budget (end of April / beginning of May) - (Nick Roseveare, other directors of CONCORD and BOND members if interested, Barroso, EP, Council)</p>	<p>With CONCORD taskforce (especially working with Belgian and French platforms)</p>
EU budget review	<p>More funds to Heading 4 and within that more resources for development. Those have to be ringfenced so that they are not used for other foreign policy objectives (migration etc)</p> <p>Budget should reflect the principle of poverty eradication and policy coherence that are in the article on development in the Lisbon Treaty</p>	<p>Lobbying activities (meetings, letters etc) as appropriate</p> <p>Respond to the EC communication coming out in the autumn</p> <p>Preparation / planning for work on next Financial Perspectives: members briefing and information, research, influencing strategy</p>	<p>EPG – EU Policy Officer leading ECFG also involved</p> <p>With CONCORD taskforce (especially working with Belgian and French platforms)</p>
New European Commission	<p>Commissioner for Development</p> <p>DG Dev responsible for formulation and implementation of development policies and covering all developing countries</p>	<p>Lobbying activities (meetings, letters etc) as appropriate</p> <p>One event for members after the new commission is in place to explain, introduce etc</p>	<p>EPG – EU Policy Officer leading</p> <p>With CONCORD</p>
EU development policy and practice			
Review of the Cotonou Agreement	<p>Ensure that the positive aspects of the Cotonou Agreement are retained and not watered down / lost</p>	<p>Lobbying activities (meetings, letters etc) as appropriate</p> <p>Possible event end of 2009 / beginning 2010 when review will start</p>	<p>EPG working closely with CONCORD Cotonou aid working group</p>
EU Africa Strategy	<p>Civil society are involved in Joint Expert</p>	<p>Lobbying activities (meetings, letters</p>	<p>EPG working closely with</p>

	Groups and other implementing mechanisms Specific goals on different areas when actual implementation starts	etc) as appropriate Event for members	CONCORD EU Africa working group
MDGs Agenda for Action	Mechanisms to measure progress and hold EU member states to account on MDGs Clear timetables for delivery Progress made in reaching MDGs (details in specific areas member led)	Lobbying activities (meetings, letters etc) as appropriate April Package and May GAERC EPG one day in Brussels lobbying meeting in advance of GAERC? Commission, Council, UK Permanent representation? (April?) Lobbying meeting in advance of GAERC meeting with DFID minister (May) Preparation for 2010 UN Summit (Autumn)	
More and better aid	Aid quantity: ensure that commitments are kept and clear timetables for members states to reach 0.7% Aid quality: progress made on Accra and Paris Declaration different points	Lobbying activities (meetings, letters etc) as appropriate April Package and GAERC Cooperation with CONCORD AidWatch group	EPG with UKAN and AidWatch
Financial crisis	EU positions on tax systems, reforms of IFIs etc are ambitious and the EU leads and pushes those positions in international negotiations	G20 etc	EPG with UK group on financial crisis and CONCORD taskforce
Policy Coherence for Development			
Human security			EPG member led

Taxation			EPG member led
Climate change			EPG member led
Emergency / humanitarian aid			EPG member led