

The European Union & its Responsibility in the World



The National Platform
of Maltese NGOs

SKOP is Malta's broadest network
of voluntary NGOs working on
international development cooperation
and humanitarian aid

SKOP is a founding
member of CONCORD



IN COLLABORATION WITH

CONCORD

Confédération européenne des ONG
d'urgence et de développement

European NGO confederation
for relief and development



The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that address the world's main development challenges. The MDGs are drawn from the actions and targets found in the **Millennium Declaration** drafted during the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000 and signed by 147 heads of state and governments, including Malta. **The delay in attaining the MDGs can be partially attributed to badly developed policies and the lack of properly allocated financial resources necessary for achieving development. This manifesto comprises a set of proposals targeted towards candidate MEPs. It urges them to take immediate action in line with achieving the MDGs if elected.**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The European Union (EU) should put in place coherent, social, and economic, trade and security policies that promote the right to sustainable development for citizens of Europe and the rest of the world. SKOP calls on MEPs to ensure that EU policies are in line with development objectives.

GENDER EQUALITY

The EU recognises Gender Equality as a right, a development goal and a cornerstone of poverty eradication.

SKOP urges MEPs to:

- ensure that all European Member State government policies are coherent with the EU's policies for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through their policies and budget allocations.
- support the twin track approach to mainstreaming gender equality and putting in place specific actions to promote the empowerment of women and girls.

CLIMATE JUSTICE

The EU recognises the need to safeguard environmental rights both on an EU and Global level.

SKOP urges MEPs to slow down climate change by:

- urging EU Member States to domestically reduce emissions by at least 30% by 2020 and by at least 80% by 2050.
- encouraging the EU to abandon its current reliance on imported energy from bio-fuels and bio-liquids which compete with food production in developing countries.
- adopting a more sustainable and low carbon development model for EU Development. This will require a change in the mode of consumption that can be promoted through global education.
- strategising towards long-term substantial financial commitments that support sustainable development policies in developing countries.



SKOP urges MEPs to cover the cost of adaptation by:

- recognising that the cost of adaptation, particularly in developing countries, needs to be integrated into development planning and policy processes and financed by additional funds in the form of grants.
- taking into consideration the fact that disaster risk reduction relates not only to how communities prepare for natural occurrences but also to the reduction of structural vulnerabilities of communities which turn natural hazards into human disasters and adjust policy accordingly.

FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

The EU recognises that mobilising and increasing the effective use of financial resources to eliminate poverty, to improve social conditions and to raise living standards and protect our environment. However, in practice this has not been done.

SKOP urges MEPs to:

- promote pro-poor fiscal policies through policy coherence.
- encourage the adoption of innovative mechanism for financing development.
- fight tax evasion by increasing transparency and cooperation between tax authorities inside the EU and with developing countries.



On the 17th October 2008 15,533 people in Malta stood up against poverty

More than 1 in 4 adults cannot read or write: 2/3 are women

250 million people will be forced to leave their homes between now and 2050 because of climate change

4.5 million people have been killed by climate change in the last 30 years



COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP)

The EU recognises the heavy dependence that the economies of developing countries have on agricultural goods. However, the CAP has long been criticized for being irresponsible, beneficial only to a very small percentage of EU citizens and harmful to developing countries.

SKOP urges MEPs to:

- speak out in favour of reforming the CAP.
- encourage governments to make agricultural policy a main priority for overseas development work.

The average EU cow is subsidised by about €600

Ethiopia's total national income, per person per year, is around €65 (\$100)

TRADE POLICY

The EU recognises trade as an important means of development and growth that can bring economic benefits to all, provided appropriate rules are adopted and efforts are made to integrate developing countries into the global economy.

SKOP urges MEPs to:

- ensure policy coherence of trade policy with other EU policies.
- ensure that trade agreements are transparent and respect sovereignty of economic, trade and social policies of partner countries.
- ensure that trade agreements are built on regionally accepted norms and standards.
- encourage new modes of production and consumption in Europe, to educate present and future generations to adopt more sustainable lifestyles.
- publicly support Fair Trade as a sustainable tool to reach the MDGs, and support the European Parliament Fair Trade working group.

Unfair trade rules deny poor countries €455 billion (\$700 billion) every year



MIGRATION DEVELOPMENT

The EU recognises that migration of people can be attributed to poverty, economic and social inequalities; whether as a result of conflict, famine, natural disasters, persecution or inequitable access to natural resources.

SKOP urges MEPs to:

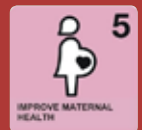
- encourage regular and systematic forums with migrants, Civil Society, government officials, MPs and MEPs, giving the EU and Member States the ability to respond effectively and humanly whilst helping officials, leaders and citizens to better understand this phenomenon.
- ensure that EU migration policy is adapted as a holistic and coherent rights-based policy that respects the rights of the migrant, country of origin and host country.
- ensure that migration issues are clearly separated from the problem of security.
- invest in increased access to higher education and better working conditions in the migrant's country of origin.
- encourage the integration of circular migration in EU Policy.
- ensure that Overseas Development Aid (ODA) is not spent on detention centres or forced repatriation.
- encourage the EU to make the formal channels for money transfer more affordable to migrants.

MORE AND BETTER DEVELOPMENT AID

The EU has clearly committed itself not only to further increasing the volume of aid, but also to increasing the quality of the aid. However, 2007 and 2008 ODA figures did not reflect this promise and funds spent on aid were distorted.

SKOP urges MEPs to:

- promote development education that empowers Europeans to provide active support for more and better aid.
- reach the agreed target of 0.7% GDP (OMS) / 0.33% GDP (NMS) for ODA by 2015 or sooner (without including debt relief or other non-aid items) and allocate 50% of this increase to Sub-Saharan Africa.
- allocate 3% of ODA to development education and awareness-raising among the European public, as recommended by the 1993 UNDP Human Development Report.
- encourage EU Member States to formulate clear timetables (with clear indicators, commitments, beneficiary countries and projects) on how they plan to increase their ODA to reach the 2015 target.



DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY

The European Parliament, Civil Society, Institutional reforms and the EU Budget all have the potential to seriously influence the way European development cooperation can attain its objective of poverty eradication.



CIVIL SOCIETY

SKOP urges MEPs to:

- focus on improving Civil Society participation by opening up the channels through which they can participate.
- improve EU governance and accountability by opening up its policy processes for scrutiny by partner country governments, Civil Society in Europe and in the developing countries.

INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

SKOP urges MEPs to:

- push for an equal role for the Development Commissioner and High Representative to end the inconsistencies caused by the gap between policy and implementation in the current structure.
- monitor the EU policy coherence with regards development.
- EU institutional set-up ensures that policy, programming and implementation go hand-in-hand.
- EU external action takes fully into account development objectives while promoting greater coherence across the EU policies and actors.
- legal instruments oriented towards development cooperation are in line with EU development policy.

10,000,000

10 million children die of hunger and preventable diseases every year



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OSISANT FIGHTS
MALARIA AND OTHER
DISEASES



EU BUDGET

SKOP urges MEPs to:

- guarantee that the EU Budget is in line with the sustainable development strategy objectives for promoting sustainable production and consumption, so that it becomes a low carbon society.
- ensure that the EU Budget promotes and anchors poverty eradication as the overarching principle of the EU's international cooperation.
- pledge that development resources should not be used to finance other external policies.

1.4 billion
people live
in extreme poverty
around the world

Nearly half
the world's
population live
on less than
€1.30 (\$2)
per day

Today almost
50% of the
world's people
do not have
access to
improved
sanitation and
nearly 20% do
not have access
to an improved
source of water



We are the first generation
that can make poverty history

Act now! Sign up!



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