



**TRIALOG Study Visit to Brussels with focus on  
Policy Coherence for Development**

**REPORT**

**27 – 30 May 2013  
Brussels, Belgium**

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## Introduction and Objectives of the Study Visit

Every year, TRIALOG organises study visits to Brussels for a group of NGDO representatives from EU13 platforms and member organisations. In spring 2013 the preferred focus topic for a study visit was Policy Coherence for Development (PCD). The objectives of the Study Visit to Brussels were the following:

- To increase participants' understanding of European development policy, with a specific focus on policy coherence for development.
- To increase participants' understanding of the advocacy role of NGOs in European development policy-making.
- To give participants access to contact points in the European institutions that could support their daily work.

The Study Visit included a preparation phase when participants were provided with reading materials and had preparatory meetings with representatives of their national platforms. During the actual Study Visit the participants received a PCD training, and attended meetings with numerous EU stakeholders engaged in development cooperation policies and PCD. During the Study Visit, preparatory meetings were also held before meeting EU stakeholders. As a follow-up to the Study Visit the participants wrote follow-up plans about how they would like to share the knowledge gained within their organisation and national NGDO platform, as well as how to engage in PCD work in the future.

There were 16 participants from 11 different countries in the Study Visit group: Alisa Cesnuleviciute (The Lithuanian Kolping Society – Lithuania); Andra Damberga (Workshop of Solutions – Latvia); Augustas Čičelis (The Centre for Equality Advancement – Lithuania); Eeva Kirsipuu-Vadi (Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation – Estonia); Elia Petridou (Future Worlds Center – Cyprus); Emilia Ślimko (Polish Green Network – Poland); Eva Bordos (DemNet Hungary); Liga Rudzite, National Youth Council of Latvia – Latvia); Magdalena Trojanek (Grupa Zagranica – Poland); Michaela Peštová (People in Need – Czech Republic); Nikolai Kunitsõn (NGO Mondo – Estonia); Paola Prinzis (National Platform of Maltese NGOs SKOP – Malta); Stanimira Hadjimitova (Gender Project for Bulgaria Foundation – Bulgaria); Tanja Leskovar (Institute of African Studies – Slovenia); Tomáš Bokor (People in Peril – Slovakia); Zuzana Jezerská (Slovak Centre for Communication and Development – Slovakia).

Two organisers from TRIALOG also accompanied the group throughout the Study Visit: Mirjam Sutrop (Liaison Officer at TRIALOG) and Katarina Sramkova (Junior Liaison Officer at TRIALOG).

*The following report is compiled from meetings minutes written by participants of the Study Visit.*

## Monday 27 June

Participants arrived in Brussels and received an introduction to the Study Visit and the TRIALOG project.

### PCD Training by the CONCORD PCD Working Group Members

*Trainers: Cécilia Roselli (GVC Italy), Blandine Bouniol (CONCORD secretariat), Suzan Cornelissen (Evert Vermeer Foundation), Tiago Stichelmans (CONCORD secretariat).*



#### Training Session II

The Introduction to the PCD training included an entry test to test the pre-existing knowledge of the training participants (overall 65% success rate existed among the group). The session also concentrated on different aspects of PCD definitions, legal obligations concerning PCD and institutional tools concerning PCD concerning different EU institutions (e.g. in European Parliament, European Commission etc.).

#### Training Session III

The second session went deeper into concrete PCD topics. Participants created thematic groups, discussed and pointed out the development dimension of each policy area.

#### MIGRATION:

- Government policy at national level, e.g. asylum procedures, human rights approach;
- Costs of refugees in ODA statistics – is it genuine aid?
- Development in country of origin lead to decreasing of migration flows;
- Benefits of migration for host country e.g. migrants as labour force.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Fisheries and EU common policy;
- Environmental impact – population use of environment for livelihood;
- Security impact – financing conflicts caused by lack of access to natural resources;
- Taxation – profits from export from developing countries.

#### FOOD SECURITY:

- Women's rights;

- Child labour;
- Small farming;
- Trade and taxation – international market, regulations, privileges;
- Food security as a base for development;
- CAP: high standards for food production and distribution in Europe;
- Climate change;
- Agriculture research;
- Agro-fuels.

#### FINANCE OF PRIVATE SECTOR:

- Private institutions are other donors, with other strategies.



An overview on key lessons that had been learned by CONCORD members was presented:

- The importance of understanding the policy and political contexts when working with PCD was highlighted.
- Also, it is important to pick a PCD topic where you are likely to find a minimum level of receptiveness. One should pick a topic, where he/she has access to experts.
- It is also crucial to use research, to increase the impact of policy messages and recommendations; also it helps voice the concern of developing countries. The group received an overview how to make use of research and how to conduct our own research.

Next topic was about delivering a message and making sure it's being heard. It is important to advocate PCD and remember who your target groups are. The group also received an overview of "do's" and "don'ts" concerning messaging.

#### **Cabinet of Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs**

*Meeting with Ms. Cathrine Ray whose portfolio responsibilities include PCD, post-MDG framework and aid effectiveness.*

- In her presentation Ms Ray spoke about the the Commissioner Piebalgs making initiatives to modernize the European development policies; of the shuttle diplomacy taking place between DGs in an effort for other DGs to seriously consider PCD in the decisions, actions

and communiqués; extensive reference was also made to the high level panel on the post-MDG process, the EC communication “A decent life for all”.

- The commissioner after taking over the DG paid a lot of attention on consultations with the stakeholders’ community. The new commissioner desired to modernize EU development policies – to make it more focused, concentrating more on impact and focus only on some critical/strategic areas that drive for growth (‘Agenda for Change’ Communication).
- European Transition Compendium – countries which have transition-experiences can share their experiences with countries which are faced with issues concerning transition e.g. in the South, Central Asia etc.



#### Concerning PCD:

- The commissioner has no legislative power on these issues – i.e. no power to force the other commissioners to act with PCD considerations – hence the numerous meetings of the commissioner with other commissioners.
- Shuttle diplomacy has resulted in two communiqués one on trade and development and the other on migration prepared jointly.
- The adoption of the transparency directive is anticipated for this year – led by the commissioner for internal market and services Michel Barnier. The office of commissioner Piebalgs worked quietly and on the sidelines supporting the commissioner with this initiative.
- The Commissioner communicates PCD on the political level: e.g. recently there was a hearing at the European Parliament DEVE Committee to discuss PCD. A. Piebalgs gave a keynote address. PCD will also be on the agenda of the Development Council meeting taking place on 28 May.

#### Concerning the Post-MDG Agenda:

- The commissioner is a member of the UN High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. On 31 May the [report of the HLP](#) will be published.
- The lesson from the MDGs is that they were quite fragmented, so for the post-2015 agenda, the effort has been to recommend the international community to try to address all issues together.
- Question: Why no inclusion of the topic of gender inequality? Answer: Gender equality has so far been used as a horizontal issue. Women’s empowerment will be a stand-alone goal this time around and it will not deal with the issue of gender only from the angle of inequalities. Access to justice is one of the themes promoted by the office of the commissioner – also with respect to women and the empowerment of women.

- In September there will be the UN MDG event in New York. With respect to the EU, efforts have been made to provide a direction/ an overarching principle for the post-2015 development framework and not have something very detailed and the partners on UN level feel that the EU is being dogmatic.

#### Questions and Answers

- Q: The issue of accountability of any future framework - it needs a mechanism to be in place. What does the commissioner suggest?  
A: The issue of accountability is one of the novelties of the HLP report. The panel might come with some suggestions on how to address accountability and be able to monitor results. For the time within the EU we have the OECD report on ODA – and this is probably the biggest accountability mechanism. On an international level, it is probably not easy to develop strong/ strict transparency mechanisms. NGOs were seen as having an important role around the issue of accountability. Data and the existence of data is also extensively related to the issue of accountability. If you want to be accountable and monitor we need good data we can trust, it must be comparable. Some UN organizations are trying to find a common measurement and this is a big topic.
- Q: What is your personal opinion on the role of PCD with respect to the global crisis?  
A: You can always see things as half full or half empty – the way I feel, changes on a daily basis. We have more to do with less money – but the opportunities to do things are there. Watching the panel working, I feel, people are more ready to sit and work and they have realized it is a problem for all – poverty – climate change etc.
- Q: How strong and how successful has the commissioner been on promoting the PCD agenda on the European political map? How much interest has been achieved e.g. among the new member states? For example, in Slovakia PCD has probably not been discussed among the government members.  
A: Ms Ray responded she has little experience on the question. Finland and Denmark are definitely the most passionate about PCD.
- Q: From your point of view what do you think of the awareness of the MEPs on PCD?  
A: The latest [event in the EP with national parliamentarians on PCD](#) is quite encouraging.

## **Tuesday 28 June**

### **European Commission – Directorate General for Development Cooperation – EuropeAid**

*Meeting with Zdenka Dobiasova, a member of the Policy Coherence for Development team.*

- In the DG DEVCO there are many experts of different topics. There are three coordinators who work on PCD.
- Understanding of PCD - Art. 208 of the Lisbon treaty.
- The most important PCD documents: 3<sup>rd</sup> biennial report on PCD/ this year; European Consensus on Development; Council Conclusion on PCD; PCD work program 2010-2013.
- Report on PCD: for all EU, contribution from MS, responses from all MS this year, till this year – only leaders in PCD, this year - clear progress in understanding and practice in PCD issues, DG DEVCO coordinates writing of the report.

- Council Conclusion – recommendations what to do regarding PCD.
- PCD work program – before 12 policy areas (almost by ministries) but it was changed into 5 areas (2009) according to challenges from the developing countries point of view (dealing in inter-service way; better ownership of the challenge). Defining the targets for PCD is difficult; schedule published online by EC what initiatives will be taken. The program is often treated as EU program but also for MS.
- Different understanding of PCD definition: for DEVCO – looking development opportunities in other policies; promoting development; not just coherence but coherence for development.

#### Step by step to PCD:

- Coordination mechanism and PCD system for policy making;
- Political commitment (the high levels supporting the initiatives);
- Legal commitment (based on the impact assessments of initiatives);
- prioritization of the action;
- Impact assessment: Measure – how to measure the impact? Adapted methodology and solid evidence base. What modification is needed to make the situation better in dev. countries? Evidence – usually perception – making the links is very difficult; need to work on methodologies and arguments (ex. for changing CAP); there are usually problems with clear recommendations; Impact assessment is compulsory for every initiative. Monitoring (e.g. CAP) is difficult as well.
- Communication and transparency – need to work in the networks, with others policy areas.

#### Main tools for PCD:

- Inter-service consultations;
- Impact assessments (ex-ante) and policy evaluation (ex-post) – work on impact assessments takes almost 2 years, public consultations (12 weeks), 3-4 inter-service consultations; showing the environmental, social and economic impacts; not all requirements are taken into account; the impact asses. board (high officials) have to say it is enough; when impact asses. are adopted they are published on-line;
- Studies and research – mobilization of experts from different areas;
- Statistics and monitoring;
- Consultations and participatory approach, parliament hearings.

#### Role of the civil society in PCD:

- Creating demand for PCD, raising the issue with parliaments, national governments and EU institutions; asking for the documents – now it's good time, because MS prepared the reports to feed into the PCD report. Not all inputs are for public use but CSOs can ask to see the documents from the PCD meeting with national parliaments in the EP DEVE Committee.
- Assisting in the prioritization of issues, responding to consultations, e.g. through the [Your Voice in Europe website](#).
- CSOs highlighting PCD are also important for DEVCO to have a greater impact.
- Reality check, “bottom up studies”, gathering and sharing evidence about external impacts.
- Q: Does the EC have the capacity to undertake deep impact assessments?  
A: Yes, the procedure is structured; different parts of EC are appeal to help; there is a need to know good methodology.
- Diaspora groups' issues are involved in the migration policies and impact assessments.
- Since two years ago big trade agreements have to have impact assessments.

## European Commission – Directorate-General for Home Affairs

*Meeting with Rob Rozenburg, Deputy Head of Unit, International Affairs Unit.*

- Responsibilities: migration; security; mobility - internal movement in EU (not migration).
- DG Home is a relatively PCD conscious DG.
- Development is fully integrated into migration policy.
- Global approach to migration and mobility as a framework document. Its 4 objectives:
  - 1) prevent illegal migration (incl. trafficking in human beings);
  - 2) facilitate legal migration and improve mobility (experts from outside EU, fill the gaps);
  - 3) asylum – international protection: strengthen capacities of neighbours to offer protection to people in need;
  - 4) migration and development – maximize positive impact of migration on development of Europe and global South, also involving diasporas.
- Important issues: remittances; brain drain; social consequences of migration, especially on families.
- A crosscutting issue is human rights: illegal migrants; asylum seekers.
- Dialogue and cooperation on migration with partners in the east and south is an important instrument (East partnership, Budapest process). EEAS as a third party in dialogue.
- High level dialogue on migration in October 2013 in NYC:
  - o try to find global consensus on migration management;
  - o EU drafted common position for the conference.

### Questions and Answers

Question (Q): Impact of DG Home on the calls for proposals?

Answer (A): DG Home is responsible for programming but not direct decision-making. DG Home has the thematic program to finance asylum topic (50 million). Usually calls for big disbursement. There will be additional funding from DG Home for the topic of illegal migration. NGO facility for helping migrant diaspora.

Q: Cooperation with international agencies?

A: UNHCR – cooperation on regional protection program for refugees. Joint programme by DG Home and DG DevCo. Offering protection where the demand is high. Strengthening the capacities of host countries – sign Geneva Convention, processes of asylum granting, resettlement programs; IOM – cooperation on the subject of voluntary return; Cooperation also with ICMPD, ILO.

Q: Do members state report to DG Home on implementation of PCD friendly migration policies?

A: DG Home prepares Annual report on Immigration and Asylum in July, report on state of dialogue on migration. Countries are hesitant on the issue of legal migration. Want to focus on all 4 pillars of migration but legal migration is the weakest. Responsibility for job migration is in the hands of member states since they receive the workers (now discussion going on about Morocco) but the members states are not very eager to open up and make it easier for migrants to receive visas.

Q: Human rights conditions of migrant in member states?

A: It is mostly in the portfolio of DG Just. There are not many tools to discipline the member states.

Q: Pre-integration processes and involvement of DG Home?

A: Integration handbooks issued and DG Home contributes, peer reviews, support programs for migrants (courses). The new concept of temporary/circular migration is preferred these days but there is resistance to too much integration.

Q: Integration of asylum seekers?

A: There are maximum periods for issuing the documents, joint rules about faculties, evidence that can be used for the assessment – there is some common groundwork on this issue. Common approach between member states is in place to prevent asylum shopping.

Q: FRONTEX criticism for insufficient human rights approach on protecting human lives.

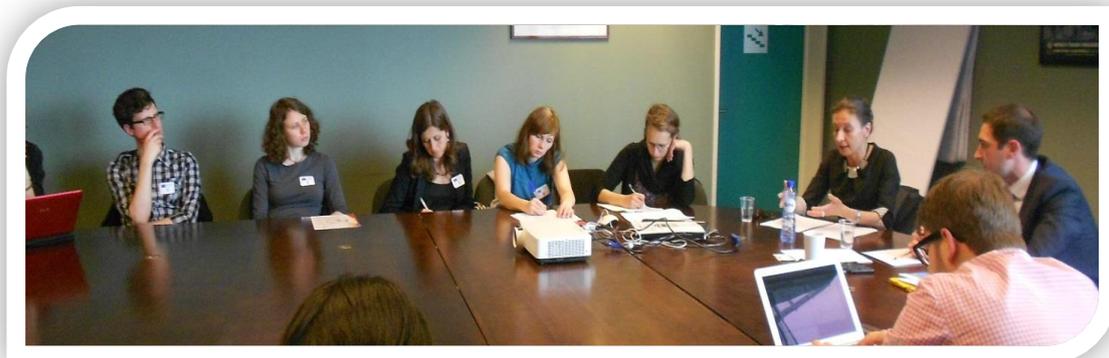
A: FRONTEX is just coordination mechanism so more criticism should be addressed to member states that handle the migrants. FRONTEX has a whole chapter on handling the migrants. However, not all rules are implemented and followed. Criticism goes towards Brussels. E.g. Greece ignores almost all FRONTEX rules.

Q: Challenges in brain drain?

A: Developing countries need to invest in retaining the people. EU has financial instruments that would allow them to do that but the budget support is often used for other things than, for example, the salaries of nurses.

### **European Commission – Directorate-General for Trade**

*Meeting with Patrick Pieroni from the Unit – Trade and Sustainable Development, Generalised System of Preferences and Magdalena Ruda from DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Unit – External Relations, Neighbourhood Policy, Enlargement, IPA.*



- DG Trade is currently involved in the preparation of the contribution for the PCD report following the DEVCO initiative. The main contribution topics involve enhancement of synergies between trade and development policies in two main aspects: job creation and the projection of EU values in the world.
- EC recent Communication “Trade, Growth & Development” (2012)
- Development policy is essential for trade and investment. EU trade policy should support economic growth, social development, and environmental protection.
- Trade policies and agreements can have wide-ranging effects on the economy, employment, labour standards, social cohesion, and the environment, including policy development and regulatory aspects. Thus, the EU wants to ensure that its trade actions are supportive of sustainable development within the EU, in our partner countries, and globally.
- Respect for fundamental workers' rights and for environmental protection requirements should be ensured in a context of trade and economic expansion: the jobs created by open trade shall reflect international core labour standards, and increased trade flows shall help

the rapid spread of green goods, services and technologies around the world and the shift to a low-carbon economy.

- The key messages: 1) Focus on those in need while ensuring coherence of policies; 2) Value-based trade agenda; 3) Better targeted aid for trade.

At multilateral level:

- As a WTO member, the EU is actively involved in the work of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment and actively promotes in the Doha Round of WTO trade talks liberalisation of goods and services which can deliver environmental benefits.
- The EU works closely with the International Labour Organisation to integrate labour considerations into its trade policy and to support the ILO's work;
- Duty-free and quota-free access to goods from least developed countries in the framework of EU initiative "Everything but Arms". The EBA is part of the EU Generalized System of Preferences.
- EU drives the global effort "Aid for Trade". The improvement there is necessary to ensure complementarities of aid and development policies.

At bilateral level, the EU aims for its trade agreements, with both industrialised and developing countries, to include provisions devoted to sustainable development aspects of importance in a trade context:

- All bilateral trade agreements recently concluded by the EU (e.g. South Korea, Central America, Colombia and Peru, Singapore) contain a chapter on Trade and Sustainable Development. These chapters provide for adherence to key international labour and environment standards and agreements, the prudent use of natural resources such as timber and fish, the promotion of practices favouring sustainable development such as Corporate Social Responsibility, and the set-up of mechanisms for wider civil society involvement.
- The EU also carefully examines the potential effects of its trade agreements on the pursuit of economic, social and environmental goals, through Impact Assessments and Sustainability Impact Assessments.

At unilateral level, the GSP+ scheme is a flagship EU trade policy instrument to support sustainable development and good governance in developing countries, granting special tariff rate cuts to developing countries committed to core international agreements on human and labour rights, the environment, and good governance.

Furthermore, the EU promotes voluntary initiatives led by stakeholders to foster sustainable production and trade practices, such as Corporate Social Responsibility and fair and ethical trade schemes.

Related initiatives, services, activities of DG TRADE:

- Export Helpdesk - one-stop-shop to access the world's largest single market – EU. It informs on the EU tariffs, requirements, preferential arrangements, quotas and statistics affecting business in developing countries.
- Intellectual property rights – DG Trade revises the policy of IPR enforcement in 3<sup>rd</sup> countries.
- Raw materials – in cooperation with other DGs aims to ensure the growth and sustainable development in relation to raw material sources, as well as transparency of raw material supply chain.

- In cooperation with DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion addresses issues related to decent work agenda and corporate social responsibility. To promote these issues does not mean isolated actions of social policy, but coordinated with relevant DGs and human rights.

The decent work agenda, whose standards are set by International Labour Organisation, should facilitate investment, but at the same time develop the relevant skills to improve people's employability. The four pillars of decent work agenda:

- 1) Creating jobs – an economy that generates opportunities for investment, entrepreneurship, skills development, job creation and sustainable livelihoods.
- 2) Guaranteeing rights at work – to obtain recognition and respect for the rights of workers. All workers, and in particular disadvantaged or poor workers, need representation, participation, and laws that work for their interests.
- 3) Extending social protection – to promote both inclusion and productivity by ensuring that women and men enjoy working conditions that are safe, allow adequate free time and rest, take into account family and social values, provide for adequate compensation in case of lost or reduced income and permit access to adequate healthcare.
- 4) Promoting social dialogue – involving strong and independent workers' and employers' organizations is central to increasing productivity, avoiding disputes at work, and building cohesive societies.

#### Questions and answers

Q: What would be a comment on the difficulties in negotiation of EPAs – often Southern countries criticize the unfair conditions of EPAs, claiming that Southern countries do not have the tools to protect their markets from cheap EU products?

A: Negotiation is a two-way process, both parties should protect their interests. The EU does not impose its values, furthermore, there are safeguards in place, i.e., the liberalization takes place over several years, gradually.

Q: Does DG Trade try to lower norm tariff barriers to improve access to market, and improve infrastructure and labour capacity?

A: Tariff reductions are a subject of negotiation. EU envisages technical assistance within European Neighbourhood program. Aid programming exercise takes place within the cycle of 7 years, the aid is defined, as well as the program priorities and the funds are assigned to tackle trade barriers.

Q: Regarding the work related to the chapter of sustainable trade – are there universal standards, and what is the procedure to bring the issues to the table?

A: Every contracting party can be different. During the negotiations of the agreement nothing is fully guaranteed. It is aimed to have a degree of consistency, basic building blocks, but the results vary as a result of negotiations. EU does not look to impose its values but suggests international values in context of trade negotiations. The right of each partner country to regulate itself is also observed. It is down to partner countries to follow standards and commitments that are suggested. There is a room for them to ensure their competitiveness.

Q: How is the impact of DG TRADE assessed?

A: TRADE has to seek mandate from European Council regarding entering into negotiations, the sustainable impact, as well as costs and benefits are assessed, including labour rights, environmental protection, and then the review of impact is done a few years into implementation of the agreement and the changes to agreement may afterwards be introduced. During the assessment the public/NGOs are involved.

Q: Project regarding cotton gathering in Uzbekistan – how successful was that?

A: The project is new, possibly no tangible results yet, further information to be obtained from colleagues at the DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

Q: In the context of trade and security as pre-requisites of development, has there been an initiative of Commission regarding the sources of raw materials and security, increasing transparency of the supply chain (i.e. coltan) to decrease funding of armed groups from raw material profits?

A: It is the focus of G8 this year. There is a focus to bring further transparency of supply chain (DG MARKT), Timber regulation (DG Environment). Countries can sign up to voluntary partnership with EU to ensure that the timber is produced sustainably.

The 3 Ts – tin, tungsten and tantalum specifically in Great Lakes Region, Africa – was addressed by USA, imposing very strong provisions, as a result the companies left to source the materials elsewhere.

## **CONCORD – the European NGO confederation for relief and development**

*Meeting with Sabine Terlecki, Head of Policy of CONCORD*



### On advocacy at the EU level through CONCORD working structures

#### MFF 2014-2020

- new structure of development financing;
- technical group established for Financing for Development and Relief - supposed to work on what are the possibilities for financing, but the group has become very political & there was no clear division of labour;

#### CONCORD MFF Taskforce:

- the MFF taskforce was set up in October 2010 to follow-up the negotiations regarding the European Union Multiannual Financial Framework - MFF 2014-2020;
- the objective of the MFF taskforce has been to develop clear CONCORD positions on the next MFF in order to lobby European Institutions and make sure the CONCORD positions on foreign and development policies and funding are taken into account;
- group has developed capacity training – shared within the group, how to strengthen the capacities among the confederation, focus areas:
  - 1) funding

2) “beyond” CONCORD – climate change finances

3) post 2015 development framework - finances

### Challenges

- CONCORD is not strong at mainstreaming;
- CONCORD needs more strategic thinking/ an advocacy roadmap - e.g. on how to influence European External Action Service and other institutions/stakeholders;
- need for HRBA and gender equality advocacy tools - currently CONCORD is working on them;
- annual priorities planning to see synergies and common interests, last year - 1<sup>st</sup> time annual planning took place; among next year priorities - EP elections & new Commissioners;
- strengthening internal CONCORD’s capacities;
- political narrative launched (<http://extranet.concordeurope.org/>).

### Questions & Answers

Q: What does CONCORD do for gender equality promotion, as it is stated to be one of its priorities.

A: Gender equality is very often understood as women empowerment, need for more awareness-raising. There is different perception of the issue in different CONCORD documents. There is room for improvement.

Q: What are CONCORD’s upcoming advocacy priorities and strategies at the EU level? What kind of advocacy work Members and Members of Members can do at the national level?

A: CONCORD’s Members should target more the EU level, not only because of funding but also in advocacy and policy context. Momentum to engage - EP elections 2014. Plus, there will be new commissioners next year. These will come from EP as well.

EP elections 2014 - 1<sup>st</sup> time parties running elections with some “public faces” to make it more attractive. Idea is to have charismatic persons representing the European parties. CONCORD and its Members should act with one voice. Work needed to be done at both, the EU and the national levels.

The problem with MEPs is that they don’t have to be re-elected again. The commitments of elected MEPs are lost, after their mandates end.

Both sides are being influenced – EP and Barroso’s office/ EC. CONCORD’s role is to bring issues to the plenary discussion.

Among the challenges CONCORD has to address are:

- more effective work at national levels - CONCORD is not that strong because of the lack of communication support;
- capacity building around EP elections needed, at both levels - EU and national;
- changing CONCORD’s rather conservative approach: meeting with stakeholders CONCORD wants to influence; stimulation actions & mass actions have a power; different level of capacities – advocacy toolkits – one of 20 priorities – different methodologies according to the advocacy level, such as guidelines, letters, roundtables; Among other innovative measures: strategically targeted different political parties, lobby through existing institutional channels/mechanisms - e.g. if chair of DEVE approaches Ashton, she needs to send somebody instead of her to attend public hearing and that somebody needs to respond us.

**Wednesday 29 May**

## **European Parliament Development Committee Secretariat**

*Meeting with Saskia Bruynooghe and Emma Achilli.*



All Study Visit participants received an information materials' set about DEVE, its structure, background information, fields of activities etc.

Brief introduction to the EP Committee:

- fairly small committee: 30 members, 29 substitutes (MEPs), members drawn from various political groups. Appointment of committee members is mostly a political decision.
- chair Eva Joly, 4 vice-chairs, duties include planning of the agendas of DEVE meetings, work-plan etc., represent DEVE outside, including informal meetings with Foreign Affairs Committee;
- group of coordinators – every political faction appoints one coordinator; 5-6 coordinators meet 1-2 times per month in order to discuss the meeting agenda and political issues before these will be raised in the DEVE meetings.
- Activities include:
  - o handling communication and proposals from the EC
  - o Own initiative reports
  - o Supervising EC Aid budget and the Cotonou Partnership Agreement
  - o MEPs may participate in missions in third countries
  - o Active in MFF (multiannual financial framework) negotiations
- DEVE's everyday work is supported by the Secretariat, which is neutral, independent. Duties of the Secretariat include:
  - o compiling first drafts of the reports, which will be elaborated according to political views;
  - o support for adopting reports ; when a report is transmitted to plenary and adopted, then it ends up being adopted by the entire parliament;
  - o search for background information needed by DEVE members

- support to legislative work: Financial instruments – DCI, EU Volunteers Initiative (the EC makes a proposal which has to be agreed by the European Parliament and the Council).
- Budgetary powers: all MEPs have the power to amend/propose changes the draft budget, but the Budgets Committee has the final decision. 1-2 page opinion documents are drafted to the Budgets Committee, incl. figures. Once the budget is adopted, the DEVE Secretariat supports DEVE committee with the evaluation of its implementation - an assessment is done how the money was spent.
- Daily work of DEVE Committee: it meets 1.5 days per month; public hearings are organized – e.g. on development education; environmental pollution – half a day events with experts from university, NGOs. Topics are decided by the group of the coordinators; Committee sends delegations abroad in order to improve dialogue and collect information on the grassroots level.
- Work with CSOs
  - Committee meetings are always public, so NGOs are very often participating
  - Dialogue with CONCORD, meetings twice a year. Any topic of interest can be added.
  - Invite NGOs to participate in public hearings ( as presenters)
  - Interact with the MEPs – directly email suggestions, organise meetings
- Saskia Bruynooghe, Emma Achilli suggested for SCOs to be much more active, including art meetings in Brussels with the MEPs; as well to have more informal contacts in the EU structures.
- DEVE is interested in different topics covered by other committees, foremost International Trade Committee, e.g. tax havens in EU have a huge impact on the dev. countries. DEVE makes a legislative proposals/ opinion – justified, evidence-based descriptions. Discussions with many other interest groups also take place to explain the interest of DEVE and to understand the problems faced. Critical is to listen to different arguments in order to find the right balance.
- Financial instruments to carry out aid to 3<sup>rd</sup> countries (in total there's 55 financial instruments):
  - ENPI – European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument
  - EDF – European Development Fund (African, Caribbean, Pacific countries): share of inputs to EDF from member states is different than inputs to the EU budget because of historical reasons; EDF is outside the EU budget at the moment, the target is to integrate it in the budget in 2020.
  - DCI – Development Cooperation Instrument (Latin America, Central Asia, South Africa). Bilateral country specific programmes & thematic programmes/actions – covering all continents. Thematic programmes: 5-6 years (previous 2007-2013; investing in people, environment; non-state actors and local authorities – funding networks of NGOs between old-new member states, programmes to carry out activities abroad – ca. 70 billion; new period at the same level probably; migration/asylum).
- Next multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2014-2020 is made up of different chapters, chapter 4. “Global Europe” is the most important for development cooperation.
- EC is trying to simplify programmes from practical and legal point of view; after technical level discussions, the discussion continues on political level.

- Important documents: European Consensus on Development (2005) - [http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/european\\_consensus\\_2005\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/european_consensus_2005_en.pdf) – priorities of the EU development cooperation; list of the countries, main sectors; discussions about which thematic programmes to have, geography etc.

**Charles Goerens (ALDE), member of the European Parliament**

*Member of the Development Committee, PCD standing rapporteur*



- Introduction to each Study Visit participant
- Mr. Goerens is in his 4<sup>th</sup> term in the EP and he is the development cooperation coordinator of his political group ALDE
- Mr. Goerens was appointed the rapporteur for the European Year for Development Cooperation 2015 and the rapporteur on PCD for this year.

12 points about the PCD rapporteur’s mandate:

- analyze the work of other EP committees and make recommendations;
- make proposals to development committee coordinators for cross committee meetings;
- establish and maintain links outside the European Parliament and respond effectively;
- dialogue with OECD & explore the possibility of common evaluation methods;
- make proposals to other EP committees, invite experts to attend hearings;
- make sure PCD is integrated to EP reports;
- organize periodic exchanges of views with other committees with possible linkages to PCD;
- draft a bi annual initiative report on PCD in response to the commission PCD report;
- exchange of views in the DEVE committee;
- make parliamentary questions, own-initiative report connected to PCD;
- fact-finding missions to international organisations;
- enable communication between national and EU parliament

Mr. Goerens’ idea for a slogan for the European Year 2015 for Development Cooperation: “Solidarity is indivisible”.

Questions & Answers

Q: Do you see a niche of collaboration between organizations and MEPs who are more active on pushing for PCD?

A: There is extensive collaboration between the PCD rapporteur and CONCORD, for example. Truly, not many MEPs are involved. We need to see as the development committee how we want to

proceed on this issue. It is difficult to have exchanges between rapporteurs from other committees. What can we do is to have a more objective debate. Some colleagues feel attacked by the development committee. There is the expectation from the national parliaments to be more actively and regularly involved in the process. Ideally there would be two meetings a year with members of national parliaments. We have to agree on commonly accepted criteria in order to be able to have the same analysis the same facts and the same possibilities for a coherent approach.

Q: Could you explain a bit more about the complaint mechanisms? And what is your opinion about possible solutions with respect to addressing accountability around these policies?

A: We must agree on a common political culture in which PCD is accepted by all institutional stakeholders. As far as incoherencies are concerned, there could be compromises possible, e.g. yes to biofuels but no to biofuels that infringe the eating & consumption of populations. We need to demand change to all European legislations and directives that allow the import of materials that infringe the rights of people on food security from third countries. The DEVE committee is in charge of giving an opinion on these issues. The common EU agricultural policies should not be decided on the expense of food security of the people from third countries. Last week there was a debate in the parliament about Bangladesh. If you see how the trade rules are functioning today: “the cheap is the better”. But we are responsible for what is happening in the garment industry in countries like Bangladesh now.

Q: Regarding accountability. How are the countries that we are concerned with, included in this discussion? Does the parliament have a mechanism where representatives of the global South can go to discuss? Communicate a complaint or any other issue?

A: In my view this is a must. In my view development is not that we develop people of the south. They are to develop themselves. And we help when we are asked to do so. It is also up to the partners in the South to come up with working methods and criteria to make the assessment themselves. It is not an exclusive privilege of big NGOs or companies (e.g. KPMG).

Q: Do you work with inter-parliamentary groups? Do you invite parliamentarians from the South?

A: There is possibility to address this to joint parliamentary meetings, e.g. through the ACP parliamentary assembly. We have meetings currently with the African Union.

Q: Impact assessments for new EU policy initiatives are being done. Do you think they are done in a satisfactory way? It seems they only very rarely take PCD and impact on third countries into consideration.

A: Impact assessment methods should always be improved. It is difficult to see the impact assessment of the budget contribution of the EU, for example.

Q: Concerning Bangladesh, in your opinion, should the EU adopt some legislative measures for corporate justice and framework on corporate accountability? Do you think we should move away from voluntary measures of CSR towards legislative measures?

A: We need a mixture of all these measures you mentioned. We have principles and doctrines to be respected – e.g. with WTO principles. The problem is that WTO has only rules concerning trade. On the other hand you have the ILO which has not the same kind of rules, they have conventions which do not carry the same legal implications. And that is the problem. We have asymmetric developments of international organizations, i.e. WTO vs. ILO. We can ask our companies to agree on voluntary measures, on the other hand the EU as a very important actor can not escape its responsibility by trying again and again to introduce general rules and standards through the WTO.

Q: As a rapporteur, what would be your main recommendation for year 2015?

A: What is at stake: Continuing development cooperation between the 27 countries. Suggested a slogan: “dignity for all” based on which you can suggest a number of political messages.

Q: What is the feasibility of implementing development cooperation and PCD during the global crisis?

A: The difficulties we are facing today are in a way the consequence of the globalization. We have more inequalities within the countries than ever before. We have the same challenges to overcome in the South as in the North.

Q: What is your stance on regular and irregular migration and how do you engage the diaspora in the process?

A: I’m not in favour of zero migration. 90% of the migration moves are intra region and only 10% leave the region. The profile of the ones leaving the region is often that they are students leaving school with no perspective – this is challenging for development cooperation and we should be giving them opportunities in their countries. We should be preventing the brain drain of these countries. We should encourage studies undertaken abroad on the condition of returning to their countries and make citizens of their country benefit from their experiences and new knowledge. Considering that Europe has an aging population, we are becoming all the more dependent on immigration.

Q: What is your view concerning where PCD should stand in the post-2015 development framework? Are you positive that PCD will be included?

A: I am hopeful and I can respond in the following months. We need to engage in dialogue with member states aiming to reach common criteria. We have to convince the stakeholders of other policies that are linked to development cooperation.

## **Individual MEP Meetings**

### **Meeting with Ms. Roberta Metsola (EPP) and Paola Prinzi (SKOP)**

Main topics of the conversation:

- Introduction of SKOP’s main aims and objectives;
- The problem of lack of capacities within SKOP in terms of finances and human resources;
- Transparency: lack of transparency from the National Government in making various documents public, especially those related to ODA funds allocation.
- PCD in Malta, moving into the long-term towards PCD, starting by inter-ministerial collaboration with the main Ministries related to development issues;
- Migration: to set up a stronger cooperation between the Government and other stakeholders like national NGOs who can share expertise and capacities. The problem of detention of asylum seekers and refugees and the problem of funds spent with refugees and being allocated as ODA.

Agreements for follow-up/ future collaboration:

- Ms. Metsola asked for a follow-up meeting in Malta in order to go into a more detailed discussion regarding the above mentioned topics and other relevant issues/problems related to SKOP and other local NGOs.

- Ms. Metsola asked also for another meeting including also the representatives from other local NGOs in order to have a complete view of the work national NGOs are doing and the problems they are facing.
- Ms. Metsola offered to support and represent our voices and requests with the national Government.

**Meeting with Jan Zahradil, the First Vice-Chairman of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group and Michaela Peštová (People in Need – Czech Republic)**

The main topic(s) of the conversation concerned the question what could be the main argument for getting support for the development cooperation from the MEP's party colleagues. There was not any future cooperation agreed but the information got from the meeting could be used by the Czech Platform for Development Cooperation FoRS which is planning to advocate and lobby more on parties' level. It can be also useful for FoRS' plans to incorporate development issues into parties' political programmes in the future elections.

**Meeting with Bruno Selun, the assistant of MEP Michael Cashman, member of the Secretariat of the EP Intergroup on LGBT Rights and Augustas Čičelis (The Centre for Equality Advancement – Lithuania)**

Main topics of the conversation were:

- Situation of LGBT people in the EU with a particular focus on Central and Eastern Europe;
- Legislative propositions and changes in France and UK and how it affects LGBT rights situation elsewhere;
- Participation of the EP Intergroup on LGBT Rights in the Baltic Pride 2013

**Meeting with Sylwia Tyra, the assistant of the Polish MEP Filip Kaczmarek (EPP) and Magdalena Trojanek (Grupa Zagranica – Poland) and Emilia Ślimko (Polish Green Network – Poland)**

Main topic(s) of the conversation was the current focus points and issues of Filip Kaczmarek's office – the report on the impact of biofuels production on third countries (connected with mid-term review of RED), post 2015 Agenda. Issues concerning future collaboration that were discussed: regular contacts concerning the support for CSOs' campaigns, recommendations, openness to suggestions from the civil society, readiness to raise questions to the Commission related to CSOs' concerns (like the DEAR call of proposal).

**European External Action Service**

*Meeting with Ola Sohlström from the Development Cooperation Coordination Division*

- After a short presentation of the goal of the Study Visit by Ms Mirjam Sutrop, TRIALOG Liaison Officer, Mr Ola Sohlstrom, gave an introduction to his personal background and set up of the Development Cooperation team within the EEAS. Mr Sohlstrom is a Swedish official and a national expert sent to work at the EEAS for a certain period.

- Mr Sohlstrom presented the institutional landscape and the legal background of the external and development policies of the EU. He detailed the strengths and advantages of the EU being the world largest donor and having numerous EU delegations worldwide.
- He briefly outlined some dilemmas with regard to the policy-politics context and the institutional overlaps of the EU's development cooperation and external actions. Nevertheless, he emphasized the smooth and fruitful cooperation between the different EU bodies, and highlighted the additional values of different perspectives coming from different bodies and organizations.
- The priorities and the ways and means of cooperation between the EU and the member states were also discussed. Mr Sohlstrom touched upon the current programming period and gave the group an insight on how the priorities of the upcoming (2014-2020) years are being formed, what the main issues are and what makes a topic or area relevant.
- PCD as an issue was widely discussed, too. Mr Sohlstrom introduced the EEAS viewpoint and mandate on PCD, on the issue of coherence and also highlighted the areas that the organization focuses the most.
- In light of the approaching Lithuanian and Latvian presidencies, participants talked about the opportunities that might come along with the six-month-long responsibility. In this context, Mr Sohlstrom spoke about the Swedish approach and advised how CSOs can put issues on the agenda and influence decision makers.
- Last, but not least, he mentioned his expectations for the post 2015 period and topics of the upcoming G8 and G20 summits. He promised to send some documents and working papers as well and expressed openness for future cooperation with the participants and their organizations.

## Thursday 30 May

### **Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the European Union**

*Meeting with Ms Edita Razmenaite (Delegate to the ACP Working Group) and Aiste Bertulyte-Zikeviciene (delegate to CODEV)*

- The Lithuanian presidency is taking place during a challenging time – economic recovery, end of the legislative process (next year EP elections), new budgeting (2014 – 2020).
- Priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency: credible (economy), open (openness + security) growing (employment) economies.
- Priority for development cooperation is increasing the impact.
- Ongoing DCI and EDF negotiations.

Other issues concerning development cooperation

- Preparations of MDGs review and post- 2015 discussions in New York in September. The Council Conclusions on post-2015 were approved just now and will be adopted in June after the Environment Council has approved them as well.
- Upcoming EC communication on Future Financing for Development and later the Lithuanian Presidency will prepare Council Conclusions on the issue.

Other more minor issues

- Gender action plan and report
- Global partnership for development
- Biennial report on PCD
- EC Communication on Local Authorities
- EC Communication on Migration and Development



#### Lithuanian national priority issue

- Better usage of the transitional experience of NMS in development cooperation. Preparing a high-level panel on the issue during the European Development Days. Promote the usage of the “European Compendium” on Transition experience.
- In October 2013 there will be a report on the transition experience.

#### ACP countries

- In the end of June the international agreement should be signed concerning European Development Fund (EDF). Council Conclusions about the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF will have to be adopted.

#### Questions and Answers

- The importance of NGO participation in Lithuania for support of the presidency and for mobilization of societies.
- APC – discussions around how cooperation between EU and ACP countries should be like after 2020 (discussion already started in academic circles), preparation of public hearings + important voice of NGOs.
- Request for NGOs to use more the Brussels based national representatives and to share concerns and issues concerning EC programming plans.

#### Discussion about EC Development Education and Awareness Raising future project plans

- We are not receiving 20 percent of the EC projects for NMS, feedback for EC is missing (project on capacity building in Lithuania are needed on how to get finances from the Instruments).
- It is import to analyze statistics and find out why and in which stage projects were approved or disapproved. TRIALOG will send the letter with CONCORD and TRIALOG concerns about the EC future plans to the Lithuanian permanent representatives and will try to find out more recent statistics about project application success rates form the EC.

## Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union

*Meeting with Ciara O'Brien, Chair of the Working Party on Development Co-operation*



Food and nutrition security:

- for Ireland, having experienced great famine, food security and nutrition are very sensible topics;
- relevant discussion around the climate change impacts on the food security;
- On 28 May the Council adopted conclusions on [Food and Nutrition security](#).

Resilience and European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps (EVHAC):

- resilience to the food crisis within the EU and beyond;
- high professionalism demanded from the EU Aid Volunteers (under ECHO)

Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 negotiations:

- tough negotiations on the DCI and other instruments, Ireland in the facilitating role

Post-2015 development framework discussions

- The Foreign Council already adopted Council Conclusions on the issue but the environment ministers still need to endorse it as well.

Irish Presidency Facilitation:

- Development cooperation issues are usually agreed upon on the working group level and they do not go to COREPER.

## **Ska Keller (Greens), member of the European Parliament**

*Member of the Trade Committee*

- Ska Keller (SK) has been working on PCD since 2009.
- Policy incoherencies for development exist in many fields or pretty much everywhere, also in the trade. E.g. chicken trade, fishery agreements (fish manufacturing factories in West Africa) and patent laws.
- The EU policies and regulations also influence the access of poor people to medicine in developing countries. There is a possibility to increase the accessibility by changing the ways how medications are purchased and taxed by the EU countries.
- The use of bio-fuel, or rather agro-fuel, in the EU has a negative influence on the situation in the developing countries.

- Intellectual Property Rights is another big problem.
- EU's banking regulation is harming possibilities for developing countries to develop their own banking. Similar negative influence is caused by liberalisation of services and tariff regulation such as export restrictions.
- Politicians and civil servants working on the EU level often do not see the impact of different policies on the developing countries. Often the concept of coherence is misunderstood. Although PCD is important to stress, it can be difficult to understand. Often it can be mistakenly understood (purposely or not) that development policies should be coherent for trade instead of trade policies being coherent for development.



- MEPs are often inconsistent in their voting and at the same time the EP can approve very different initiatives possibly having a very different impact on developing countries. Often the committees do not coordinate their actions and many developments are not shared with others until the very last stage.
- The Sustainable Development Chapter in EU trade agreements is important. However, there should also be some control mechanisms introduced since currently there are no sanctions if the provisions in the chapter are not complied with.
- The same rules that the EU companies follow when working in the EU should be applied for their work in the developing countries.
- The PCD complaint mechanism are not properly defined and implemented at the moment. There were initiatives to introduce complaint mechanisms so that organisations from the Global South could complain to the European Ombudsman about the EU's policy inconsistencies regarding development objectives. However, there was a lack of support for these initiatives from the European Parliament. Complaint mechanisms should be introduced in the future, since now the possibility to file a complaint from the developing countries mainly depends on the personal stands of the Ombudsman.
- The EU's aid for trade could mean something else but at the moment it actually means private companies building big roads towards the harbour in the developing countries, meaning that aid for trade is currently used mainly for the profit of the developed countries. Private companies have their own interest (i.e. they are basically interested in their profit) so they can't be expected to do good for the sake of it. SK is very cautious about involving private companies in development projects. Poverty eradication initiatives from partner countries should be prioritised. Civil society and public sector should be the ones developing strategies, since private sector has totally different interests.

## Agenda of the Study Visit

Monday 27.05.	Tuesday 28.05.	Wednesday 29.05.	Thursday 30.05.
<p>10.00 <u>Welcome coffee &amp; Opening</u> Mirjam Sutrop, Katarina Sramkova</p> <p>10.45 – 11.30 <u>PCD training session I - Introduction</u></p> <p>11.30 – 11.45 <u>Coffee break</u></p> <p>11.45 – 13.00 <u>PCD training session II</u></p>	<p>9.00 – 10.00 <u>Preparation Meeting</u></p> <p>10.45 – 11.45 <u>DG DevCo</u> Zdenka Dobiasova, PCD team</p> <p>12.00 – 13.00 <u>DG Home</u> Rob Rozenburg, ex-PCD focal point</p>	<p>8.45 – 10.15 <u>Preparation Meeting</u></p> <p>11.00 – 12.00 <u>EP Development Committee Secretariat</u> Saskia Bruynooghe Emma Achilli</p> <p><u>Space for individual MEP meetings</u></p>	<p>9.00 – 10.00 <u>Permanent Representation of Lithuania</u> Aistė Bertulytė-žikevičienė Edita Razmenaite</p> <p>10.30 – 11.30 <u>Permanent Representation of Ireland</u> Ciara O’Brien</p>
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
<p>14.00 – 15.45 <u>PCD training session III</u></p> <p>Leave CONCORD at 16.00</p> <p>16.30 – 17.15 <u>Cabinet of Commissioner Piebalgs</u> Catherine Ray</p>	<p>15.00 – 16.00 <u>DG Trade</u> Patrick Pieroni, PCD focal point</p> <p>16.30-17.30 <u>CONCORD Policy team</u> Sabine Terlecki</p> <p>19.00 Joint Dinner (Kokob)</p>	<p>14.30 – 15.30 <u>MEP Charles Goerens</u> PCD rapporteur</p> <p>16.30 – 17.30 <u>EEAS</u> Ola Sohlström Development Cooperation Coordination Division</p>	<p>13.30 – 14.00 <u>MEP Franziska Keller</u></p> <p>14.30 – 17.00 Evaluation and Future Plans</p> <p>17.00 Participants leave Brussels</p>

<b>Person for the Meeting</b>	<b>Focus Topic of the Meeting</b>
<b>TRIALOG SV team:</b> Mirjam Sutrop, Liaison Officer; Katarina Sramkova, Junior Liaison Officer	Introduction to TRIALOG and SV; Preparation meetings; Evaluation Meeting
<b>CONCORD PCD Training:</b> Blandine Bouniol (CONCORD), Zuzan Cornelissen (Evert Vermeer Foundation), Cécilia Roselli (GVC Italy)	PCD Training sessions
<b>Cabinet of Commissioner A. Piebalgs</b> Catherine Ray	PCD, post-2015, development and migration, how different stakeholders in Brussels work together on these issues.
<b>EC – DG DevCo</b> Zdenka Dobiasova, PCD team	General PCD issues and coordination
<b>EC – DG Home</b> Rob Rozenburg, Deputy Head of Unit HOME/02 - International Affairs, ex-PCD Focal Point	Migration & development, PCD processes
<b>EC – DG Trade</b> Patrick Pieroni, Unit D1. Trade and Sustainable Development, Generalised System of Preferences and Magdalena Ruda, DG EMPL	How DG Trade ensures PCD in its policy making; EU’s work in ensuring good tax governance&finance; Trade negotiations and food security; Decent work agenda & CSR.
<b>CONCORD Policy</b> Sabine Terleki	CONCORD’s role in policy and advocacy in the EU, structure and functioning of the working groups.
<b>Secretariat of the EP DEVE Committee</b> Saskia Bruynooghe and Emma Achilli	General functioning of the committee, Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) negotiations.
<b>PCD Rapporteur, DEVE Committee</b> MEP Charles Goerens (ALDE)	PCD & upcoming EP PCD report
<b>European External Action Service</b> Ola Sohlström, Development Cooperation Coordination Division	PCD in EEAS & EU delegations, EEAS coordination with EC and other stakeholders regarding PCD, on-going EEAS review.
<b>Irish Permanent Representation</b> Ciara O’Brien (Chair of the Working Party on Development Co-operation)	Post-2015 and MDG review process, food & nutrition security, resilience.
<b>Lithuanian Permanent Representation</b> Aistė Bertulytė-žikevičienė and Edita Razmenaite	Upcoming Lithuanian priorities in development cooperation during the Lithuanian Presidency.
<b>MEP Franziska Keller</b> (GREENS), member of the Trade Committee	PCD & trade, the MEPs work on the issues