



# HOW TO ENGAGE IN THE EU PRESIDENCY

Lessons Learnt from the Czech Republic and Recommendations for Hungarian and Polish Development and Environmental CSOs

August 2010



This is an official report from the pre-Presidency workshop / study visit to the Czech Republic on 15-17 June 2010

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# ABBREVIATIONS

CODEV	Working Party on Development Cooperation (under the Council, formerly Council of the EU)
CONCORD	the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development
CRBM	Italian campaign “campagna per la riforma della banca mondiale”
CSO	civil society organization
DG	Directorate General
EC	European Commission
EEAS	European External Action Service
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
EP	European Parliament
EU	European Union
EU-12	Member States, which joined EU after 2004, also called New Member States
FAC	Foreign Affairs Council
FoRS	Czech Forum for Development Co-operation
GAC	General Affairs Council
GAERC	General Affairs and External Relations Council
HAND	Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid
MEPs	Members of European Parliament
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MS	Member State
NGO	non-governmental organization
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PCD	Policy Coherence for Development
UNFCCC	the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

# 1. INTRODUCTION

EU-12 development CSOs are at the beginning of active involvement in European policy debates. Presidencies in the formerly Council of the EU provide an opportunity for Presidency countries to gain an improved European perspective and at the same time to contribute to the EU discussion with their national expertise. It is also an excellent opportunity to strengthen their national platforms and build new EU-wide alliances.

Therefore, it is crucial to exchange the experiences between "old" (EU-15) and "new" (EU-12) national and international platforms in development with the aim to learn about recent development on the EU level and to understand how to use the Presidency to strengthen advocacy work.

Bearing in mind such a goal, a pre-Presidency workshop and study visit to Prague took place on 15-17 June where nearly 20 Polish and Hungarian CSOs representatives were invited. In particular, the objectives were to share experiences with the Czech Presidency both on the advocacy and project level. Moreover, the main EU developments were explained, such as the development effectiveness agenda and climate change negotiations. Such a programme enabled a reflection on national platforms' priorities and plans for the Presidency in the light of the Czech experience and initiated discussion of a potential cooperation with respect to Hungarian and Polish Presidency priorities.

The event was organised by FoRS – Czech Forum for Development Co-operation and GLOPOLIS in partnership with Zagranica Group, HAND, CAN Europe, ActionAid, Heinrich Boll Stiftung and CONCORD. Financial assistance was provided by the European Union, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the Czech – Polish Forum.

At the beginning of the workshop, the role of the Presidency for development cooperation CSOs was explained to participants by Meagen Baldwin from CONCORD Europe, taking into account the new institutional structure as per the Lisbon Treaty. Further, Anne-Catherine Claude from Action Aid, Sebastien Blavier from CAN – Europe, Elena Gerebizza from CRBM and Kristina Prunerová from People In Need elaborated on the current situation and key topics for 2011 in the areas of development, human rights and climate change. Zuzana Sládková from FoRS, Ondřej Kopečný from Glopolis, Jiří Jeřábek from CDE and Michal Thim from AMO summarized the Presidency experience from the perspective of the national platform and CSOs, respectively, and advised how to develop and manage successful advocacy strategy for the Presidency based on their experience. Marie Zázvorková from FoRS provided consultancy to national platforms how to manage their Presidency project. The role of the European Commission Representation in the Presidency countries and the potential cooperation with CSOs was discussed with Brigitte Luggin, the Communication Officer of the EC Representation in the Czech Republic. Finally, participants learnt about hands-on experiences of the Czech Presidency from government representatives, namely Hana Ševčíková, the former Director of the Development Cooperation & Humanitarian Aid Department, Isabelle Wahedová, the former national delegate at Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU, Andrea Chalupová, who is responsible for bilateral aid and statistics, Jan Tomášek, Martin Svárovský and Daniel Putík from the Strategy, Analysis & Project Management Office and last but not least, Helena Štohanzlová and Jan Látal from the Department for Human Rights and Transition Policy. Separate meetings were held with Antonín Berdych, the Director of the Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister and František Zouhar from the Czech Development Agency. This report summarizes the main recommendations and findings from all the meetings and discussions.

## 2. ROLE OF PRESIDENCY IN THE COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT NGOS

The Presidency in the formerly Council of the EU is a six-month period of time when a European Union Member State leads the agenda of European affairs. The country manages the daily EU policy debates, and to a certain extent has the possibility to shape EU agenda priorities. However, the Presidency program is elaborated and designed in the framework of the Trio Presidency, which means that it is decided by three countries who will hold the Presidency over a period of eighteen months. Therefore, it depends on the Member State as to what extent it wants to highlight development cooperation in its so called own priorities (e.g. Spain and the United Kingdom were examples of countries which put a strong emphasis on development aid). Moreover, a predictable agenda in development cooperation is followed each year by the EU; therefore, the Member State holding the Presidency should acknowledge all current processes in the field.

The Presidency is not only a demanding task for a new Member State administration, which is not experienced in holding global debates on development cooperation, but it also is a challenge for national development platform and NGOs to become active actors in shaping the Presidency program well in advance and to shift from a national policy and more towards a European policy perspective.

The **role of national development platform and NGOs** is to **advocate in close cooperation with international platforms for a few chosen priorities on EU and national level**. It is an opportunity to strengthen the platform and the individual NGOs, foster relationships with decision makers, partners and other actors, highlight own work and combine forces to achieve mutual goals. Such efforts can be undermined by numerous factors. First of all, the EU decision making process notably depends on the will of Member States and EU institutions. Besides that, there are other objective factors, e.g. the economic crisis, which the EU was bound to react to. For instance, the Swedish Presidency, despite proposing an ambitious development cooperation agenda, withdrew from it in the end due to other priorities.

# 3. THE IMPACT OF THE LISBON TREATY ON THE PRESIDENCY AND DEVELOPMENT

After the Lisbon Treaty came into force, development agenda faces notably two dilemmas, which makes development actors uncertain about the future “development institutional set-up”.

First, it is unclear **to what extent development issues will be overtaken by newly established European External Action Service (EEAS)** headed by Catherine Ashton and articulated in its EU foreign affairs dossier. If they are to fall under the new EEAS, there is a fear that it will politicize development cooperation. Moreover, her cabinet seems to be less accessible for NGOs in comparison to the established contacts within the European Commissions’ Directorate General. **At the moment it seems that the power between European Commission and High Representative will be balanced in development cooperation.** According to the agreement on EEAS<sup>1</sup> from 21 June 2010 and the decision of the Council on 23 July 2010 (2010/427/EU) the management of the EU external cooperation programs – i.e. development and European Neighbourhood Policy – will stay in the hands of the Commission. However, it is still not certain to what extent the High Representative will be engaged in programming. For example, issues related to the European Development Fund, Development Co-operation Instrument and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights must be agreed on jointly by the High Representative and the Development Commissioner, which demands strong input at both levels.<sup>2</sup>

It is certain that Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and Andris Piebalgs, the European Commissioner for Development, must work as a team. According to this political deal, High Representative deputies will include not only the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the country holding the Presidency, but also the Development and the Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Commissionaires. On the other hand Catherine Ashton is leading the College of Commissionaires, which means that Andris Piebalgs is only one of twenty seven officials to contact her. The future will show if a consensus will be reached by the High Representative and the European Commission on development. For instance, the question is, if Heads of the EU’s delegations abroad, who report both to the EEAS management and the Commission, could encounter “conflicts of priorities”.

The question of power division in the near future can be judged on the number of staff assigned to Mrs. Ashton and Mr. Piebalgs. Before the end of 2010, almost half of the three hundred members of staff of the DG Development will move to European External Action Service in EU Delegations.<sup>3</sup> This will definitely weaken the European Commission DG Development. Therefore, the question arises to what extent will Catherine Ashton’s Cabinet enlarge its “development staff” (i.e. if she decides to create the position of Director General responsible for development issues).

Second, taking into account the diminishing role of the Presidency, it is not clear **to what extent can the country holding the Presidency influence the EU development cooperation agenda.** At the moment, there is a possibility for the High Representative to reject some of the Presidency priorities because the Presidency Trio Programme<sup>4</sup> must be approved by Catherine Ashton. For instance, uncertainty occurred if the financial transaction tax discussed during the Belgian Presidency would be approved by Mrs. Ashton. Nevertheless, the Presidency Trio Program is broad and general, and therefore **a detailed half-year Presidency agenda prepared by each Presidency State is still of utmost importance.** On the one hand, the development cooperation is currently discussed in the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) headed by Catherine Ashton<sup>5</sup>, which seemingly weakens the position of the country holding the Presidency as it is Mrs. Ashton who sets the agenda. On the other hand, the country holding the Presidency organizes informal meetings of Ministers and it leads the Council’s working groups, such as the Working Party on Development Cooperation CODEV<sup>6</sup>, which drafts Council conclusions. To sum up, the role of the country holding the Presidency remains relatively high in the sphere of development.

Last but not least, it is important to bear in mind that **the EU institutional reform will be fully implemented during the term of Hungarian Presidency** in the first half of 2011 and the consequences can be learnt only thereafter. Consequently, it will be a challenge for the Hungarians and especially the Poles to act in the new realities of EU decision making process.

<sup>1</sup> A political agreement on the establishment of the EEAS was reached on Monday 21 June 2010 between the three rapporteurs of the EP (Elmar Brok, Guy Verhofstadt and Roberto Gualtieri), High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič, as well as Miguel Angel Moratinos (Spanish EU Presidency).

<sup>2</sup> See Elmar Brok Report “Report on the proposal for a Council decision establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service, adopted by the European Parliament on 6 July 2010, available at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/reports.do?language=EN>. The Council approved its creation on Monday 23 July 2010.

<sup>3</sup> R. Marr, What now for development policy under new arrangement?, 18 July 2010, available at <http://www.neurope.eu/articles/What-Now-for-Development-Policy-Under-New-Arrangement/101980.php>

<sup>4</sup> Presidency Trio is a joint Presidency by pre-established groups of three Member States (Trio) which holds the Presidency of the EU Council for a period of 18 months, and each member of the group in turn chairs for a six-month period all configurations of the Council. Polish partners in the Presidency Trio are currently Denmark and Cyprus, Hungarian partners are Spain and Belgium.

<sup>5</sup> It is a consequence of the division of GAERC into two separate Councils – the General Affairs Council (GAC), guided by the Presidency, and the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC)

<sup>6</sup> The working party, consisting of MS experts and officials, is responsible for policy issues in the area of development. The group usually meets once a week but at times it can meet more often, particularly ahead of the meetings of the Council of Ministers. Decisions on matters prepared in CODEV are adopted by development Ministers within the framework of the Foreign Affairs Council.

# 4. ADVOCACY STRATEGY FOR THE EU PRESIDENCY

Main activities of the national platform and NGOs during the term of their country's Presidency should be notably advocacy on the EU level. On the other hand, the Presidency is a moment that allows the national platform to promote the development cooperation among its civil society, which is especially crucial for the EU-12. Therefore, some **development cooperation and awareness raising events should be organized on the national level together with the EU advocacy activities.**

The advocacy strategy should follow the following flowchart, whereby each step is elaborated further below.

## Advocacy Strategy for the EU Presidency

### Setting-up cooperation with international platform/s

- Engage in CONCORD working groups and the Policy Forum Steering Group.
- Contribute to CONCORD working groups by presenting the national or the EU-12 position.
- Share the intelligence with international platform/s before and during the Presidency.



### Mapping the current debates in development agenda

- Examine the key issues in development cooperation on EU level.
- Include some of the key themes for 2011, i.e. Structured Dialogue, Policy Coherence for Development, Millennium Development Goals, revision of European Consensus on Development, Afghanistan and Horn of Africa.
- Take into account the priorities of the preceding Presidency.



### Mapping of current institutional set-up for development issues

- European Commission (EC): in particular DG Development.
- European Parliament (EP): in particular the Development Aid, Trade, Agriculture and Budget Committees.
- Council: the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) and CODEV (Working Party on Development Cooperation) meetings.
- Organize a study visit to Belgium / Presidency country.



### Consultations of national platform and national administration on the priorities of the Presidency

- Establish a network of contacts with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Representation in the EU, and other Ministries indirectly involved in development issues, such as the Ministry of Finances, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Environment.
- Begin consultation on the national priorities of the Presidency at the latest one year before the Presidency.





# 4. ADVOCACY STRATEGY FOR THE EU PRESIDENCY

## **Consultations of NGOs on their Presidency priorities**

- Create Presidency policy group within the national platform, which will be responsible for consultations with national development NGOs.
- Submit Presidency project to EuropeAid.



## **Preparation of the Presidency agenda / priorities**

- Since the Presidency lasts only six months, choose a small number of priorities, ideally one or two.
- Link the priorities to the upcoming EU agenda and fit it well into the context of the priorities of the countries in the Presidency Trio.
- Ensure that the priorities reflect the added value of the national platform.
- Create a rather low-profile agenda and focus on its effective implementation



## **Planning of the Presidency activities**

- Presidency is about advocacy, not about a big number of workshops or conferences. Therefore keep at least 30% of the time free.
- Build a strong coalition of NGOs well ahead of the Presidency and mutually agree on the division of work in advance.

## **Use diverse communication tools during the Presidency:**

- writing a manifesto - a document summarising briefly the national platform of the Presidency priorities;
- sending official ("lobby") letters to the national administration;
- preparation of position papers and case studies, which should be the main source of information for a wide range of stakeholders;
- participation of the national platform in ministerial and working groups: CODEV meetings and high-level meetings with the Presidency (for instance, with the Foreign Affairs/ Development Minister, Secretary of State, etc.);
- organisation of roundtables and conferences in order to bring together multiple stakeholders to discuss a certain issue.

# 4. ADVOCACY STRATEGY FOR THE EU PRESIDENCY

## 4.1 Setting-up Cooperation with International Platform/s

In order to advocate on the EU level, specific expertise on current processes in the area of development needs to be obtained. Therefore, it is worthwhile to initiate or intensify collaboration with international platform such as CONCORD, international organisations or networks such as Action Aid.

As an international platform linking EU national platforms, CONCORD<sup>7</sup> has numerous working groups specializing on different aspects of development cooperation, such as Policy Coherence Development, CSO effectiveness, food security, climate issues, etc.<sup>8</sup> It is highly recommended for each national platform to engage in working groups of their interest to obtain relevant expertise. Furthermore, the national platform can contribute to working groups by presenting the national or the EU-12 position, for instance in food security (as in 2011, when the review of Common Agriculture Policy will be held). There is a lack of knowledge of the EU-12 positions in development cooperation not only among decision makers, but also among international platforms. CONCORD can help strengthen the position by combining efforts of experts from the whole of Europe and deliver it to the decision makers.

More importantly, the national platform should engage in CONCORD Policy Forum Steering Group, formed by representatives of national platforms coming from the Presidency Trio and other experts. The Group is the highest level body of CONCORD responsible for policy formulation. It is highly advisable to appoint a Policy Officer to be engaged in the Policy Forum at least one year ahead of the Presidency and to include him/her in the Steering Group six months before the Presidency.

The collaboration between CONCORD and the national platform should be based on sharing of information before and during the Presidency. This includes the information on national Presidency priorities, national platform priorities, drafts of Council Conclusions, state of play of the debates within the Council on a particular topic and general timetable of the Presidency - the information on planned Presidency events and meetings (i.e. CODEV meeting, agenda and timetable of the Foreign Affairs Council, informal meetings of development ministers).

In case both sides decide to cooperate, a memorandum of understanding between the platform and CONCORD, which clarifies the roles, allocation of tasks and the expected outcomes, should be drafted.

If a national platform would like to focus on specific themes during Presidency, it can also cooperate with other international platforms or NGOs. For example, Action Aid (NGOs) can help in the areas of Official Development Assistance (ODA), aid effectiveness, hunger, climate, trade and gender.<sup>9</sup> Action Aid has immense advocacy experience in these areas on the EU level and it has already worked with several national platforms during Presidency (i.e. joint programs with Glopolis in the Czech Republic, Swedish Action Aid and Spanish NGO). Action Aid will also try to work on a joint programme with Hungarian and Polish NGOs and advocate for it jointly in Brussels. Moreover, it offers study visits for national platforms' NGOs (partners of the GREAT Project) to its headquarters in Brussels as an induction in their Presidency.

According to the Czech experience, the cooperation with international platforms was extremely beneficial as it enabled the Czech platform and NGOs to advocate on the EU level. At the same time, entering into such a partnership also included the responsibility to keep all platforms informed on key developments in the national and EU policy the Czech platform and NGOs were involved in. The added value of such a cooperation is that FoRS and other NGOs involved in EU policy making during the Presidency got the intelligence on European policy work structure and processes, which enabled FoRS to be engaged on EU level after Presidency to pursue mutual, long-term goals.

Further, according to the Czech experience, development of relationships with local allies helps in pursuing mutual goals. For example, FoRS, the development NGO platform, joined forces with human rights platform DEMAS to address democracy governance and the environmental NGOs associated within the Green circle to form joint position on climate change.

<sup>7</sup> See [www.concordeurope.org](http://www.concordeurope.org)

<sup>8</sup> See <http://www.concordeurope.org/Public/Page.php?ID=30> for details on CONCORD working groups. Contact your national platform director to obtain more information how to engage with the working group of your preference.

<sup>9</sup> See <http://www.actionaid.org/>

# 4. ADVOCACY STRATEGY FOR THE EU PRESIDENCY

## 4.2 Mapping the Current Debates in Development Agenda

Before drafting the Presidency program, the key issues in development cooperation on the EU level should be carefully analysed during a larger temporal framework. For instance, the main processes<sup>10</sup> **on the EU level in 2011** will include: **Structured Dialogue, Policy Coherence for Development, Millennium Development Goals, Revision of European Consensus on Development, Afghanistan and Horn of Africa**. The beginning of negotiations on **new financial perspective** and a **review of Common Agriculture Policy** will also play a crucial role for EU development cooperation.

Further, **the priorities of the preceding Presidency** should be taken into account. For Hungarian NGOs, priorities of the preceding Belgian and Spanish Presidency are of key interest. In the common document<sup>11</sup> the national platforms from Spain, Belgium and Hungary highlighted the role of financing, quantity and quality of EU Aid and its effectiveness in fighting poverty, Policy Coherence for Development. Each national platform focused special attention on certain policy sectors (climate change, food security, trade, and satisfactory labour and gender policies). The Hungarian platform will devote attention notably to the region of Eastern Partnership countries.

Hungary starts its Presidency in January 2011 and as of June 2010 numerous priorities are enlisted, such as boosting EU's competitiveness, EU level harmonisation of strategies to overcome the economic crisis, addressing problems associated with climate change as well as solving issues connected with energy supply and the Danube Strategy.<sup>12</sup> However, no official statement on the priorities has been made by the Hungarian government. The main priority of the Hungarian national platform, HAND, is likely to be the Policy Coherence for Development. However, there are several other important issues to highlight during the Presidency, such as reflexion on transition experience, development and civil society organisations effectiveness, Horn of Africa and Millennium Development Goals.

Polish government has already accepted preliminary priorities for its Presidency in the EU.<sup>13</sup> The agenda will be focused on a multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020, relations with the Eastern Europe, internal market, strengthening of EU's external energy policy, EU Common Security and Defence Policy and the use of intellectual capital of Europe. The government statement underlines the importance of the European Year of Volunteering, European Congress of Culture, European Day of Disabled People Conference and the Forum on the Internal Market.

Development cooperation is not specifically mentioned, which confirms that in this area Poland will focus on daily EU agenda and that development will have a low profile. As for the moment, there are no concrete proposals on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with respect to development agenda. However, one can assume that some "typically Polish" topics will be subscribed to the development agenda, such as democracy promotion, democratic governance and the rebuilding of the post conflict areas.<sup>14</sup> Zagrana Group, the Polish national platform, will certainly focus on Policy Coherence Development, however, discussion on the concrete program and priorities will take place in the second half of 2010.

It is highly unlikely, that any national platform or NGO would be able to fulfil its priorities during a six-month period of its national Presidency. To combine the efforts and to ensure follow-up, it is highly advisable to **coordinate the priorities among the Presidency Trio**. As derived from the joint workshop in Prague on 15-17 June 2010, the **common standpoint of Polish and Hungarian national platforms can be built around the contribution of Eastern Partnership to development and the Policy Coherence Development**.

<sup>10</sup> Detailed description of the mentioned issues is included in Annex 1 and 2

<sup>11</sup> *Overview of the priorities of the National Platforms of CONCORD of Spain, Belgium and Hungary towards the Spanish-Belgian-Hungarian Trio-Presidency of the European Union (1 January 2010 - 30 June 2011)*, available at [www.urgeotraeuropa.org/mm/file/Prioridades%20trio%20presidencias.pdf](http://www.urgeotraeuropa.org/mm/file/Prioridades%20trio%20presidencias.pdf), 16 August 2010

<sup>12</sup> See the future Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies

to: *Coreper/Council* available at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st16/st16771.en09.pdf>, 16 August 2010

<sup>13</sup> <http://prezydencjaue.gov.pl/czym-jest-prezydencja/352-wstpn-priorytety-polskiej-prezydencji-zaakceptowane>

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.globaldevelopment.org.pl/attachments/124\\_POLICY\\_PAPERS\\_Nr\\_2\\_2009%281%29.pdf](http://www.globaldevelopment.org.pl/attachments/124_POLICY_PAPERS_Nr_2_2009%281%29.pdf)

# 4. ADVOCACY STRATEGY FOR THE EU PRESIDENCY

## 4.3 Mapping of Current Institutional Set-up for Development Issues

In order to plan advocacy activities diverse interventions on the EU and national level should be identified. Different EU institutions often do not agree on certain proposals, therefore such gaps should be explored and adequate interventions should be developed. At the moment, the most relevant EU institutions<sup>15</sup> in development are:

■ **European Commission (EC)** - in particular DG Development headed by Commissionaire Andris Piebalgs. The EC is responsible for background work, making proposals and channelling the discussion. For instance, it launches the Spring Package every year, which is the EC annual communication package assessing European governments' progress in implementing their financing for development pledges. This year's package is an Action Plan in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which offers a scope for discussion of issues like trade and migration, the EU's Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) agenda. CONCORD, as the European platform, has the legitimacy to maintain dialogue with the EC on behalf of the national development cooperation platforms. However, Presidency platforms are included in the consultations as agreed. Generally, the positions of the EC often differ from those of NGOs. Therefore it is imperative to continue a dialogue and seek mutual agreement. Food safety is a good example where NGOs and EC have agreed upon.

■ **European Parliament (EP)** –together with the Council, it has legislative power, however, without legislative initiative. Its power increased after the introduction of the Treaty of Lisbon as it has received the right of co-decision (the EP has equal right to vote on proposals as the Council) in approximately forty new areas in co-decision procedure. Generally, Members of European Parliament (MEPs) listen to civil society the most as they form their electorate. Above all, the Development Aid Committee should be contacted by national development platforms and NGOs, however the MEPs working in this committee already have a similar perspective on development aid to NGOs. Trade, Agriculture and Budget Committees have significant power, since they indirectly influence development cooperation and usually are very resistant to apply NGOs postulates in development cooperation. Therefore, the national platforms and NGOs should search for contacts of their own national MEPs in all of the above mentioned Committees, establish a long-term cooperation and supply them with relevant field expertise. Once again, it is recommended to coordinate such activities with CONCORD, building on its experience and utilizing its expertise in diverse areas, such as Policy Coherence for Development or EU Budget.

■ **Council** (formerly Council of the EU) – is the other legislative body beside the EP representing the governments of EU Member States. The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), where Foreign Ministers of EU Member States meet on a monthly basis, is very relevant for development cooperation. Based on the results of the Council, working groups or parties, such as CODEV (Working Party on Development Cooperation), it launches the Council Conclusions. This is an indicative document for further EU policy developments. Because the work of the Council is driven by national interests, it is important to get relevant information on the level of national administration holding the Presidency. Platforms should strive to influence the national representatives both on the national level, i.e. relevant representatives of the Ministries, and the officials at the Permanent Representation of the country holding the Presidency in Brussels.

■ To illustrate the dynamics among EU institutions, the **Spring Package on development cooperation** can be mentioned. It is prepared every year in April by the European Commission and the content is prepared one year in advance. Against the backdrop of this document, the FAC prepares the Council Conclusions twice a year in May and November. However, the Spring Package also bases its content on the work of CODEV (which usually drafts Council Conclusions) and informal meetings of development Ministers. On the level of working groups (e.g. CODEV), Presidency country representative chairs the meetings and plays an important role, thus creating an opportunity for advocacy. The representatives of other governments, participating in such meetings, are also important for advocacy actions.

A good practice in acquiring the knowledge about EU decision making process in development cooperation is a **study visit to Belgium / Presidency country**. Such study visit during Irish presidency has helped the Czech national platform, FoRS, to acquire better understanding of EU Policy challenges seven month before the Czech Presidency.

<sup>15</sup> More information on EU institutions is available at: [http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/index_en.htm)

# 4. ADVOCACY STRATEGY FOR THE EU PRESIDENCY

## 4.4 Consultations of National Platform and National Administration on the Presidency Priorities

Such consultations should focus on exchanging points of views on Presidency priorities, establishing the network between the administration and NGOs as well as building mutual trust. Presidency platform has to take into account that the priorities of the Presidency Trio are prepared well in advance and it is worthwhile to consult or, as the case may be, influence the **Presidency Trio Program**. This is still effective for the Polish national platform until at least the end of 2010<sup>16</sup>.

It should be underscored that there should be a **ceasefire between NGOs and the government**, notwithstanding their differences, during the Presidency **because they work together towards a good reputation of their country and have mutual goals**.

The institutions directly responsible for development aid, such as **the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representation in the EU**, are the key contacts for the national platform and NGOs involved in the EU advocacy. However, **other Ministries**, whose dossiers indirectly concern development aid, are also of crucial importance; the Ministry of Finances, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment should also be considered for advocacy actions since they are often quite sceptical about linking their work to development cooperation. Generally, it is important to remember, that **national platforms should stay in touch not only with the convinced officials but also with the opponents**. Further, it is advised to **be less political and more technical** with such actors, since they value expertise. Moreover, working with desk officers and staff on the ground level can often bring concrete changes in the drafted policy. Mutual trust, once established, can lead to long-term, beneficial cooperation. Therefore it is also advisable to start building such relationships well in advance.

The **consultation on the national Presidency priorities should commence** at a very early stage, **at latest one year before the Presidency**. The timing is very important, as the agenda will be closed six months before the Presidency. For instance, the Czech presidency programme was presented in informal GAERC (General Affairs and External Relations Council, prior to FAC) three months before its beginning. During the Presidency, national administration is occupied with the implementation of the agenda, so there is no possibility for any further discussion on the Presidency priorities or non-priority issues.

To illustrate the consultation process, Czech NGOs working in the field of democracy promotion established very good relations with the Human Rights and Transition Policy Department, which lead to a common agenda with the aim to promote the EU Consensus on Democracy. European Partnership for Democracy, a Brussels-based NGO working closely with the Czech national platform, became a supporting team to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and helped to reach the consensus among the different actors. Notably, all documents were commented on by the representatives of civil society, thus enabling NGOs to make a real impact on EU policy.

<sup>16</sup> 16 Up to 16 August 2010, the Poland-Denmark-Cyprus Presidency Trio Meetings were held twice. At the moment, no definite date of the launch of the Presidency Trio Programme launch is set. Available at <http://www.msz.gov.pl/index.php?document=36517>, 16 August 2010.

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## 4.5 Consultations of NGOs on their Presidency Priorities

Because it is usually a lengthy process to reach the consensus on the common Presidency priorities between differently profiled NGOs, such **consultations should start at latest one year before the Presidency**. The national platform should be a leader and create a working group in order to lead preparations of the Presidency programme for NGOs and other non-state actors (civil society organizations – CSOs). Moreover, the national platform responsible for implementing the Presidency project grant<sup>17</sup> should explain at a very early stage to all its members the role and the opportunities of the Presidency and the rules of the Presidency project and involve them in its preparation to secure their ownership.

In case of the Czech platform, Presidency policy group was formed by three people who were responsible for drafting the Presidency project. The group was created seven months before the Presidency, however, the national platform started discussions on Presidency priorities already one and a half year ahead of the Presidency. This group engaged policy officers from different NGOs to gather broad field expertise (e.g. on climate change). In the end, it can be said that no consensus can be reached among all parties. In the Czech case, Glopolis, a Czech think-tank, and FoRS, the national platform, focused on different aspects of development cooperation, although they coordinated such efforts in joint actions and positions. Therefore different priorities can be the focus and **separate programs can be launched; however, commonalities and synergies should be sought** at the same time. Moreover, the parties should be aware that **too many priorities may diminish the impact on the policy makers and the media**.

## 4.6 Preparation of the Presidency Agenda

The national platform should bear in mind that development cooperation is covered by diverse EU policies, and with respect to the fact that Presidency only lasts six months, the platform cannot engage in all debates. Therefore, a small number of priorities should be chosen, ideally one or two. For instance, the main priority of the French Presidency was financial transaction tax, for the Irish Presidency it was human security, and for the Swedish Presidency it was Policy Coherence in Development. The priorities should not be very ambitious, instead it is advisable to have a low-profile agenda and focus on its effective implementation. Taking into account that both Presidencies in 2011 will be held by EU-12, it will be of additional benefit to reflect their perspectives in forming and pursuing the Presidential priorities. In order to select the right priorities, the following aspects should be taken into account. First, chosen priorities should be relevant for the state actors – they should be directly related to the upcoming EU agenda and fit well into the context of the priorities of the countries in the Presidency Trio (see Annex 1 and 2 concerning the 2011 developments), while using the technical terminology of the state actors.

Second, the priorities should reflect the added value of the national platform. For instance, the Slovenian national platform focused on development education, which was still perceived as an overlapping area in the country. In the end, the Presidency project lead to the formulation of a national strategy in this area, and thus strengthened the cooperation with the administration.

Third, the national platform should not be afraid to raise new topics in the EU debate. First of all, the analysis should be made to ascertain whether it is manageable to initiate new issues, whether a consensus can be reached among Member States and what is the attitude of the national administration towards the issue. The French platform is a good example because it pushed through the financial transaction tax, which was not on the agenda. Generally, the humanitarian issues are easier to penetrate for small countries than development cooperation in CODEV, which is dominated by big donors.

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<sup>17</sup> During each Presidency, the national development platforms have an opportunity to apply to EuropeAid for a direct grant, covering its Presidency priorities, explained in subchapter 4.8 of this report

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It may be the case that national and international platforms have different priorities and do not agree on certain areas. Therefore, decisions should be adopted to discern the areas, in which the national platform should pursue its goals anyway, and areas that will require joint focus of the national platform and state institutions. The solution can be the choosing of two priorities: one concerning the international level of development aid, and the second priority focusing on national problems. The Czech platforms focused on the CSO development effectiveness, which was the priority selected by its members; however, it has reflected this broad area from the perspective of the governmental priorities, i.e. democratic governance or sustainable energy resources.

### 4.7 Planning of the Presidency Activities

Several aspects have to be taken into account by the national platform while planning the Presidency activities. First of all, **Presidency is about advocacy, not a large number of workshops or conferences**. Therefore, at least **30% of the time should be kept free**. Planning a full program does not allow the platform to react to unexpected issues which usually happen during the Presidency.

A **strong coalition of NGOs** has to be built well ahead of the Presidency and the **division of work should be mutually agreed on in advance**. This can be achieved through an inclusive consultation process lead by the national platform in advance (see point 5). It is crucial that every party is **aware of the specifics of the Presidency and is engaged** in the process.

Useful communication tools, which can be built into the Presidency activity plan, include the following:

- Writing a **manifesto**<sup>18</sup>, i.e. a document briefly summarising the Presidency priorities of the national platform. The manifesto is used notably to raise awareness and for promotion purposes; at the same time it also helps the platform to remain focused. It is presented at the beginning of the Presidency to all actors on the national and EU level. While preparing the manifesto, the national platform can rely on the CONCORD expertise. Close cooperation with the European platform will also ensure that there is coherence between the manifesto and other work of the NGOs on the EU level.

- If there is a need to react to the policy proposals during the Presidency, it is recommended to send **official (“lobby”) letters** to the national administration. For instance, the Czech national platform has issued nine joint letters to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of the Environment on topics, such as the impact of financial crisis on development countries or international commitments regarding the quantity of aid. Such letters were usually drafted in cooperation with CONCORD.

- **Preparation of the position papers and case studies**, which should be the main source of information for a wide range of stakeholders. It is recommended to launch such policy papers in cooperation with CONCORD, CAN or others Brussels-based NGOs, to enhance advocacy activities.

- In any case, **the participation of the national platform in ministerial and working groups** is of utmost importance. During the Presidency, the national platform is entitled to participate in such meetings, however, such participation needs to be communicated and coordinated well in advance with national administration. In case the national platform fails to do so, there is a risk that the national Ministry may reject such a request. Notwithstanding, the influence of CONCORD can help in such a case. There are several possibilities to organise such meetings:

<sup>18</sup> See an example of Glopolis and Action Aid manifesto: “The world in crisis: securing economies and resources for the poor countries. Manifesto for the Czech Presidency in the EU, January 2009”, available at [http://www.greatproject.eu/public/pages/upload/theworldincrisis\\_en.pdf](http://www.greatproject.eu/public/pages/upload/theworldincrisis_en.pdf)

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a) **CODEV meetings** - according to a “tradition” initiated during the Austrian Presidency, CONCORD is invited by the Presidency together with the national platform to a meeting with the Council development working party (CODEV). The meeting offers an opportunity to exchange points of view on Council Conclusions. The CONCORD secretariat can help the national platform find the key experts from CONCORD who will participate in the meeting and report afterwards. CODEV meeting consists of formal and informal (lunch) part, which is even more crucial as it enables direct contacts with the officials. For example, the Czech Presidency had two CODEV meetings concerning tax havens and financial issues.

b) **High-level meetings with the Presidency** (for instance, with the Foreign Affairs/ Development Minister, Secretary of State, etc.). National platforms are encouraged to attempt to arrange these meetings, for instance in advance to the Informal Development Council meeting (if planned) or the Foreign Affairs Council meeting.

■ **Organisation of roundtables and conferences** with the objective to bring together multiple stakeholders to discuss a certain issue. The conferences should ideally be held under the patronage of the Minister of Foreign Affairs or other high-level officials, with international speakers and participants. Cooperation with the Representation of the European Commission can be settled to facilitate the EC officials’ participation. Such events help promote the platform activities across the world and are a good occasion for networking.

■ **Organisation of press conferences and press releases**, which helps to keep media and the general public informed. However, it is recommended to choose the important dates, such as the summits of the United Nations, World Human Rights Day, etc. to attract journalists who write about development cooperation.

## 4.8 Managing the Presidency Project

During each Presidency of the EU, national platforms in development cooperation have an opportunity to apply for the project “Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development”<sup>19</sup> within the EuropeAid budget line. Such Presidency projects should aim at both raising the public awareness of development issues in their respective Member States and strengthening the cooperation among national development NGOs and between the government and its national NGOs, as well as between the European Union and European NGOs in general<sup>20</sup>. There is a certain flexibility in selecting the project theme by national platforms because it depends notably on current EU policy developments.

The EuropeAid grant scheme promotes big projects undertaken in partnerships. For instance, the Czech presidency project was submitted in partnership with six other Czech organizations<sup>21</sup> and the total budget was approximately 267.000 EUR. The Belgian and Hungarian national platforms received about 250.000 EUR each in 2010. The EC financing is usually at the level of 75-90% of total project costs, which means that additional resources need to be found. FoRS obtained the additional funding from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the framework of trilateral cooperation.<sup>22</sup>

The Presidency project of FoRS focused on Civil Society Organisations’ Development Effectiveness. Czech CSOs thus contributed to the global process of “Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness”<sup>23</sup> by reflecting together with their partners, their activities and factors of impact on the life of poor people in developing countries. CSO Development Effectiveness was also a cross-cutting issue in other priority areas of FoRS during the Czech Presidency, which were aligned to the priorities of the Czech government:

<sup>19</sup> Available at [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci/non\\_state\\_actors\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci/non_state_actors_en.htm), 16 August 2010.

<sup>20</sup> Action Fiche 1, available at [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/documents/aap/2010/af\\_aap\\_2010\\_dci-nsa.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/documents/aap/2010/af_aap_2010_dci-nsa.pdf), p.34-36, 16 August 2010.

<sup>21</sup> Among the other partners were: ADRA, DWW, EDUCON, GLOPOLIS, Multicultural Centre Prague, People in Need

<sup>22</sup> See [http://www.mzv.cz/preview/774-1-MZV/cz/zahranicni\\_vztahy/rozvojova\\_spoluprace/dvoustranna\\_zrs\\_cr/trojstranna\\_spoluprace/index.html](http://www.mzv.cz/preview/774-1-MZV/cz/zahranicni_vztahy/rozvojova_spoluprace/dvoustranna_zrs_cr/trojstranna_spoluprace/index.html), 16 August 2010. Moreover it should be remembered that the negotiation process on the Presidency project proposal and budget lasts long and the agreement is signed later. Therefore, sufficient level of prefinancing has to be ensured by the applicants.

<sup>23</sup> See [www.cso-effectiveness.org](http://www.cso-effectiveness.org), 16 August 2010



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democratic governance, development education and awareness raising, agriculture and food security, sustainable technologies, migration/remittances and inclusive development. Gender also had a special place considering its close connection with development effectiveness. In total, three seminars and three conferences were held, fifteen case studies and policy papers were launched and advocacy actions were undertaken. The conference CSO Development held on June 23 – 24, 2009 was the closing event of the presidency project. Over 170 representatives of CSOs, donors and governments from nearly 50 countries took part in multi-stakeholder debates and concluded with a conference proclamation. They also received the publication “CSO Development Effectiveness - Searching New Ways” that includes all case studies, agreed development effectiveness principles and description of the role of CSOs.

Based on the experience of FoRS,<sup>24</sup> several recommendations can be formulated for other national platforms preparing for their Presidency.

First, **the consultation process should start** among CSOs and other stakeholders at the latest one year before the Presidency. A working group responsible for the Presidency project should be created and this team should establish good communication channels with local stakeholders and the EuropeAid team to obtain relevant information about the application process. The European Commission officials also play a crucial role in explaining conditions of the grant, in negotiating the project content and budget as well as in accepting the project amelioration.<sup>25</sup> It is worthwhile to have all uncertainties clarified regularly by EuropeAid team, notably if it comes to modification of the budget, procurement rules, non-eligible costs, supporting documents and visibility requirements. A good practice is to archive all electronic and other communication with EuropeAid as contact persons may change during the implementation. Further, it is recommended to invite EuropeAid representatives to main project events and inform them on the project progress.

Second, **the Presidency project, its objectives, activities and budget should be designed as realistic as possible.** Notably, the advocacy impact of planned activities should not be exaggerated. Further, the project needs to be fully integrated in the activities of the platform and the implementing partners, especially close cooperation with the platform’s Policy Officer needs to be ensured. With respect to the budget, it is recommended to allocate enough funds for high-quality translations, external evaluation and reasonable contingency reserve.

Third, if the national platform does not already have enough human resources and experience in the implementation of large-scale international projects, it is worthwhile to recruit and induct an appropriate number of staff well in advance. Ideally, the project coordinator should participate in the submission of the Presidency project. Further key roles include an experienced finance manager, a media/information officer and a policy/advocacy officer.<sup>26</sup>

Fourth, since the Presidency project is usually implemented by the consortium, clear partnership rules have to be implemented. It is advisable to sign an appropriate partnership agreement before the beginning of the project; each implementing partner should include annexes, such as the project proposal, overall budget, general conditions, procurement rules, reporting templates, and division of tasks and responsibilities of all the main actors. It is recommended that the agreement also reflect on a mechanism to be used in case of unexpected events. At the beginning, an informative meeting for the partners clarifying EC financial and contractual requirements should be organised. Moreover, in order to avoid any delays, the partners should show certain flexibility in their activities to not make the Project Board responsible for every decision. During the implementation, all the partners should be equally informed about all developments.

Last but not least, appropriate monitoring mechanisms need to be considered already at the inception stage and should be used during the project. Further, during the implementation, the platform’s website focusing on the Presidency should provide all necessary information and it should be regularly updated.

<sup>24</sup> See the report of activities (<http://www.fors.cz>) and the external evaluation (<http://www.fors.cz/assets/files/CSOEff/PPEvalRep.pdf>)

<sup>25</sup> FoRS had to prepare 6 drafts before the final one was approved by EuropeAid. Therefore it is advisable to start the negotiation process early enough to avoid any delays. FoRS also had some difficulties in interpreting parts of the standard contract and clarifications from EuropeAid were sometimes ambiguous. The CONCORD reader ([www.concordeurope.org](http://www.concordeurope.org)), the punto.sud EuropeAid Helpdesk (<http://www.puntosud.org/helpdesk-europeaid/doku.php>) and also the new Civil Society Helpdesk of EuropeAid ([https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfs/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Main\\_Page](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfs/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Main_Page)) are a good source of further information and advice.

<sup>26</sup> See organisational problems encountered by FoRS during the implementation of the Presidency project in: *External evaluation of FoRS Presidency project*, available at <http://www.fors.cz/assets/files/CSOEff/PPEvalRep.pdf>, p.16

# 5. ADVOCATING FOR FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Counteracting the climate change is a high priority of the EU agenda, even though the political developments are very slow in this area. The issue is closely related to development cooperation since the negative effects of climate change are mostly impacting the developing countries.

With respect to the ways in which the national platform and CSOs should engage in these debates, it is recommended **to follow the EU agenda and keep a low profile** because numerous initiatives are already in place. Currently the issues at stake are the implementation of EU fast start funding to combat the negative effects of the climate in developing countries (see Annex 3). In addition, the 30% reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions after 2020 is being discussed in the EU as well as the possibility of reaching a legally-binding agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) <sup>27</sup>. At the end of 2011, the work on adoption of a legally binding agreement in South Africa will be continued in addition to other agreements.

In the case of Czech Presidency, the climate change priorities have been already worked out by the Presidency Trio and led by Sweden. The Czech environmental NGOs contributed with their analysis to the Czech Presidency. In particular, the coalition of NGOs interested in climate change issues was established; it led to several common activities, such as sending lobby letters.

Taking into account the fact that both the Polish and the Hungarian government are quite resistant to climate change agenda, it is difficult for national platforms to push for any developments in this area. However, an important task would be to strengthen links between national and international environment NGOs and to cooperate with Brussels-based NGOs specialising in climate change<sup>28</sup> through the exchange of information on political developments on both EU and national level during Presidency.

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<sup>27</sup> EC Communication: *International climate policy post-Copenhagen: Acting now to reinvigorate global action on climate change* {SEC(2010) 261}, 9 March 2010

<sup>28</sup> For instance, CAN Europe, <http://www.climnet.org/>.

# 6. ANNEX 1 - DEVELOPMENT TOPICS AND PROCESSES IN 2011

## 1) Aid/Development Effectiveness

- DAC/OECD statistics released in April/ Aid figures for 2010.
- High Level Forum on aid effectiveness in Seoul in November/December. Development Ministers will come up with the EU position in October.

## 2) Review of the EU Consensus in Development from 2005

- Started during the Belgium Presidency and finished during the Hungarian and the Polish Presidency. There is a risk
- that the progressive language used in EU Consensus on Development will disappear due to economic crisis and the lack of will of the Member States to commit to development goals.
  - Post Millennium Development Goal summit and new development paradigm.
  - Implementation of the European External Action Service

## 3) Reform of the Common Agriculture Policy

- There is a direct link between EU agriculture reform and development; therefore, the reform should be carefully followed. Moreover it will have significant impact on the EU budget. The European Commission communication is expected at the end of 2010.

## 4) Financial instruments and EU budget (new financial perspective)

- In the second half of 2011, negotiations on the budget and structure of new EU financial perspective will become a big priority. It is a crucial moment for highlighting the importance of financial instruments for development and maintaining the EU expenditure on development.

## 5) Financial Transaction Tax

- Clearly, it will be high on the agenda of the G8 summit to be held in France in 2011.

## 6) Review of the consensus on humanitarian aid

## 7) Several European Commission Communications are expected in 2010/2011 on:

- Horn of Africa
- Afghanistan
- Budget support (under the Belgian Presidency)

## 8) Financial and economic crises

- European Council Summits.

## 9) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change summits:

- The sixteenth Conference of the Parties (COP) and the sixth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) will be held in Cancún, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010.
- The 2011 COP 17 is to be hosted by South Africa from 28 November to 9 December 2011.

# 7. ANNEX 2 - TIMEFRAME FOR CRUCIAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS IN 2011

## **February**

World Social Forum in Senegal

## **March/April**

ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Hungary

## **April**

EC Spring Package (Aid Effectiveness and setting up for the joint position, post-2015 agenda), Release of the DAC/OECD figures 2010, End of the Quadriologue process

## **Spring**

Eastern Partnership Conference

## **May**

Development Foreign Affairs Council - launch of the Concord report

## **June**

G8 summit in France (focus on innovative way of development financing)

## **July**

European Commission proposal for new Common Agriculture Policy

## **July**

European Development Days in Poland

## **Autumn**

Eastern Partnership Summit

## **November**

EC report on PCD (decided during Foreign Affairs Council)

## **December**

High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Seoul<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> See detailed agenda leading to the Forum available on <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/2/3/44592876.pdf>

## 8. ANNEX 3 – BASIC INFORMATION ON THE KEY DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

**The Millennium Development Goals**<sup>30</sup> - the development commitments of the EU and its Member States defined in the EU Consensus on Development. In 2010 the United Nations will hold a summit on the MDGs to assess and secure their advancement. While important progress has been made, the achievement of MDGs is lacking behind and has even reversed in large parts of the world.

The Millennium Development Goals are highlighted in the NGOs Presidency programme of the platform trio (Spain, Belgium, Hungary).<sup>31</sup> This program focuses on the financing, quantity and quality of EU Aid and its effectiveness in fighting poverty as well as Policy Coherence for Development. In the implementation of this programme each national platform devotes special attention to certain policy sectors (climate change, food security, trade, satisfactory work and gender policies) and a specific geographical area: the Spanish platform focuses on Latin America; the Belgian platform on Africa and the Hungarian platform on the Eastern Partnership countries.

**Policy Coherence for Development** - the commitment established in the European Consensus on Development to encourage coherence in policies (the creation of suitable institutional structures that have the mandate and capacity to incite policy coherence for development). The EU has made certain progress, such as preparing and publishing the report on coherence or approval of the target of the related aid for PMA (Pays moins avance) and Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC).

The three platforms – Belgian, Hungarian and Spanish have emphasised the call for policy coherence for development in their Trio Programme by focussing on the following issues: climate change, trade, food security.

**Structured dialogue** – it is an initiative of the European Commission (officially launched on 23 March) to discuss the involvement of civil society organisations (CSOs) & Local Authorities (LAs) in EC development cooperation, to make all stakeholders more effective. According to CONCORD Structured Dialogue Principles Paper<sup>32</sup> the postulates are as follows – increased field expertise in beneficiary countries based on local analysis and improved consultation between EU, other donors and recipients, regular structured and institutionalised dialogue between EC and CSOs; work on EU strategy to involve CSOs in the sphere of development; access of CSOs to EU development aid. The overwhelming goal of the Structured Dialogue is to have flexible and tailor-made funding mechanisms.

This process is led by the so-called “Quadrilogue” process involving EC, EP, MS and 10 platforms; in the frame of the Accra Agenda of Action.<sup>3</sup>

**The EU fast-start finance:**<sup>34</sup> during the European Council meeting on 10-11 December 2009, Member States committed to fast-start finance from the EU and its 27 Member States for developing countries of 2,4 billion EUR annually for the year 2010. This represents approximately one-third of the collective fast-start finance commitment subsequently made by the developed countries under the Copenhagen Accord. In March 2010, the European Council reiterated that the EU and its Member States will implement their commitment (confirmed by Ministers of Finance in May). The Commission and 25 Member States have integrated their individual pledges into their internal budgetary procedures. Bilateral and multilateral financing channels have been chosen both on the EU and Member States level. In any case, fast-start finance is a process of ‘learning by doing’. The EU and its Member States will continue in dialogues with the developing countries to get to know their needs and expectations better. Lessons learnt will be very valuable in helping to decide where to direct funding not yet allocated, thus increasing its effectiveness and improving targeting of the most immediate needs of developing countries. Experience with fast-start finance will be key in shaping the post-2012 climate finance architecture.

<sup>30</sup> Based on CONCORD documents: [www.urgeotraeuropa.org/mm/file/Prioridades%20trio%20presidencias.pdf](http://www.urgeotraeuropa.org/mm/file/Prioridades%20trio%20presidencias.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> [www.concordeurope.org/...CONCORDS.../CONCORD---Structured-Dialogue-Principles-Paper---June-2010.pdf](http://www.concordeurope.org/...CONCORDS.../CONCORD---Structured-Dialogue-Principles-Paper---June-2010.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> The AAA was prepared through a broad-based process of dialogue on both national and international levels: through the work of WP-EFF and its joint ventures, regional preparatory consultations, the partner country contact group, the Consensus Group, the Advisory Group on Civil Society, and the non-DAC donor group. The views of more than 80 partner countries, approximately 60 CSOs, all DAC donors, and many nontraditional providers of development assistance informed the AAA. The investment of time, energy, and financial resources by all participants in this process resulted in an action-oriented agenda that can support accelerated progress in aid effectiveness.

<sup>34</sup> EU Fast-start finance - interim report June 2010, [http://www.climnet.org/component/docman/cat\\_view/321-external-documents.html](http://www.climnet.org/component/docman/cat_view/321-external-documents.html).

# 9. ANNEX 4 - KEY LINKS AND CONTACTS

## 1) Documents on the EU Development Policy after the Lisbon Treaty:

- The EC: Your Guide to the Lisbon Treaty, <http://ec.europa.eu/publications/booklets/others/84/en.pdf>
- Elmar Brok Report "Report on the proposal for a Council decision establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service, adopted by the European Parliament on 6 July, available at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/reports.do?language=EN>
- CONCORD, Development policy and the future EU institutional framework - March 2010, [http://www.concordeurope.org/Files/media/0\\_internetdocumentsENG/4\\_Publications/3\\_CONCORDs\\_positions\\_and\\_studies/Positions2010/Concord-EEAS-institutional-reforms-note-12March10-FINAL.pdf](http://www.concordeurope.org/Files/media/0_internetdocumentsENG/4_Publications/3_CONCORDs_positions_and_studies/Positions2010/Concord-EEAS-institutional-reforms-note-12March10-FINAL.pdf)
- M. Gavas, s. Maxwell, Options for architectural reform in EU development aid, ODI, [www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/3610.pdf](http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/3610.pdf)
- Development-proofing the European External Action Service, Eurostep, <http://www.eurostep.org/wcm/archive-eurostep-weekly/1061-development-proofing-the-european-external-action-service.html>

## 2) Contacts to platforms:

- **CONCORD Secretariat**  
10 Sq. Ambiorix  
1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 743 87 60; +32 2 743 87 60  
Fax: +32 2 732 19 34  
[secretariat@concordeurope.org](mailto:secretariat@concordeurope.org)
- **FoRS**  
FoRS office: Bělehradská 92, 120 00 Praha 2, Czech Republic  
Tel/Fax: +420 222 522 480 Mobile: +420 777 756 700  
+420 777 756 700  
Email: [inka.pibilova@fors.cz](mailto:inka.pibilova@fors.cz) (FoRS Director)  
Email: [zuzana.sladkova@fors.cz](mailto:zuzana.sladkova@fors.cz) (FoRS Policy Officer)
- **Grupa Zagranica**  
ul. Nowy Świat 23/25 m.29A  
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tel.: +48 22 299 01 05  
+48 22 299 01 05  
faks: +48 22 207 25 60  
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1117 Budapest Mészöly u. 4 III./3.  
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+36-1-209-9240  
fax/tel: +36-1-209-9241  
e-mail: [office@hand.org.hu](mailto:office@hand.org.hu)

### 3) Useful resources for submission of Presidency projects:

- Punt.sud. EuropAid Helpdesk (website, on-line support, hands-on support, toolkits) - <http://www.puntosud.org/helpdesk-europeaid/doku.php>
- CONCORD Reader – check with Concord when the new version corresponding to the EuropeAid Standard contract 2008 and the “financial reader” are published.
- Civil Society Helpdesk of EuropeAid (since April 2010) - [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfs/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Main\\_Page](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfs/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Main_Page)
- Presentations and documents from a seminar on financial and contractual management of EC/EuropeAid funded projects organised by CONCORD FDR and EuropeAid in May 2009 (in 2010 another seminar was organised) <http://www.fors.cz/cz/novinky/novinky/seminar-fors-financni-a-kontraktacni-management-projektu-financovanch-z-europeaid>
- External evaluation of FoRS Presidency project - <http://www.fors.cz/assets/files/CSOEff/PPEvalRep.pdf>

