



EUROPEAN UNION

~FACTSHEET~

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The EU is prepared to take its responsibility at the 2005 Millennium Development Goals (MDG) High Level Event (HLE) in New York in September 2005 and stands ready to lead the fight against poverty in the same way as in Monterrey and Johannesburg in 2002. In early April the Commission will present EU Member States a package of proposals on subjects such as:

- (1) Finance,
- (2) Policy coherence, and
- (3) Africa.

By the end of the same month the EU is expected to make some firm and ambitious commitments, as its contribution to the MDG HLE of September.

Under **finance**, the EU is enhancing its efforts and making progress towards the 8 Barcelona Commitments. Regarding the main commitment (achieving the UN goal of 0.7% Official Development Aid per Gross National Income - ODA/ GNI by 2015), the EU will consider in April new interim targets for 2009-2010. Regarding other important commitments related to aid effectiveness (i.a. making aid more predictable and stable), the EU continues to support the work on Global Public Goods and is taking significant steps on coordination of policies and harmonisation of procedures, as well as on untying of aid. The EU is prepared to consider new forms of taxation and financing (including the International Financing Facility) and to look at new options to address the debt crisis, both within and beyond the Highly In-depth Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. The EU will also this year renew its financial commitment towards the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries within the framework of the Cotonou Agreement.

In the context of **policy coherence**, the EU wants, inter alia, to work towards a development friendly and sustainable outcome of trade negotiations (both bilateral – Economic Partnership Agreements with ACP countries and regions- and multilateral – WTO Doha Round). Synergies must be exploited between migration and development (remittances, brain gain, and temporary labour migration) in order to make both policies mutually reinforcing. The EU also considers it essential to enhance coherence between development and security policies.

The Commission will propose ideas to strengthen the **focus on Africa**, both in political, trade and development terms. The intention is not to present another grand plan by the donor community, but to link up to existing and feasible processes, notably the African Union-New Partnership for Development (AU-NEPAD) agenda.

The September 2005 UN MDG HLE – or MDG Summit - provides a unique opportunity to define concrete actions to implement the EU's international commitments for development. The EU can and must breathe life into fading expectations with a quantum leap in scale and ambition, both in terms of resources and policies. If this is to become a reality, 2005 is the critical year, and

the UN stocktaking event the critical opportunity, to get back on track and to start making tangible progress towards reaching the objectives.

The EU is not interested in a beauty contest between donors but willing and in the position to set an example as well as acting as a catalyst for improved and more effective donor action.

For more information go to:

The EU Development policy website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/index_en.htm

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