



Confédération européenne des ONG
d'urgence et de développement

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NP France: Coordination SUD
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NP Greece
NW Handicap International
NP Hungary: HAND
NW IPPF European Network
NW Islamic Relief Worldwide
NP Ireland: Dochas
NP Italy: ONG Italiane
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NP "LU" Lithuanian development NGO umbrella
NP Luxembourg: Cercle
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NP Slovenia: SLOGA
NW Solidar
NP Spain: CoNgDe
NP CONCORD Sweden
NW Terres des hommes IF
NP United Kingdom: BOND
NW World Vision International
AS World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

NP National Platform
NW Network
AS Associate member

To the attention of:

Andris Piebalgs
European Commissioner for Development
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Brussels
Belgium

Brussels, 19 July 2013

**Subject: Political letter expressing CSO concerns on current and future
DCI thematic programmes**

Dear Commissioner for Development,

CONCORD - the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development representing over 1.800 NGOs in 27 EU Member States - welcomes the recent **Policy Forum for Development (PFD)** and the opportunity for civil society - in the spirit of the **Structured Dialogue** - to engage in dialogue with the Commission on various issues of common interest, including the future programmes for the period 2014-2020. We would also like to congratulate the Commission on organising a transparent consultation process on the **CSO LA programme**, where civil society has been invited to send in their comments and recommendations within a reasonable timeframe. However, given the acknowledgement of the EU and its Member States of **the importance of translating HRBA commitments into programming in the context of development cooperation**, the Commission needs to ensure transparency, accountability, non-discrimination and effective participation of civil society in all development programming processes. To this end, CONCORD calls on the Commission to remove the criteria in the upcoming DEAR call 2013 that will exclude small and medium size NGOs, to set up a structured dialogue on the financing modalities technical fiches and to organize a genuine CSO consultation on the new Global Public Goods and Challenges programme.

1. CONCORD calls for the removal of criteria in the upcoming DEAR call 2013 excluding small and medium size NGOs

CONCORD fears that the conditions of a Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) call still to be launched this autumn – as part of the current NSA-LA programme – are likely to exclude a large majority of CSOs from applying. This would be due to the requirements with regard to the minimum budget for proposals to be submitted and the minimum number of Member States where project partners must originate from. Both these requirements may be considered to be well beyond the capacity of a large majority of small and medium size development NGOs throughout Europe, not just those in EU13 countries but in all Member States of the Union. Additionally, it must be prevented that this call sets a bad example and forms a dangerous precedent for future calls. Therefore, **CONCORD demands the Commission to lower the minimum budget required to €500.000 per project**

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and the minimum number of Member States where project partners must originate from to 6 for lots 1, 2, 4 and 5. (For more information, see [CONCORD position on DEAR call 2013](#))

2. CONCORD calls for structured dialogue on financing modalities

CONCORD strongly advises the Commission to initiate a frank and inclusive dialogue with Structured Dialogue stakeholders on the 12 financing modalities technical fiches, as per the recommendations in the Structured Dialogue Concluding Paper in order to come to a more flexible, transparent and predictable mix of funding modalities to reach the broadest possible range of civil society actors – thereby respecting their diversity - while hedging against risks and fostering opportunities. These technical fiches have not been debated anymore since the conclusion of the Structured Dialogue, despite the fact that the choice and implementation of such financing modalities, for example of sub-granting, could have a significant impact on the functioning and relations within civil society.

3. CONCORD calls for the CSO consultation on Global Public Goods and Challenges programme 2014-2020

CONCORD is deeply concerned about the lack of transparency and lack of consultation with civil society for the Global Public Goods and Challenges Programme (GPGC) 2014-2020.

While CONCORD welcomes the new programme, we are aware that it will bring about major changes, the consequences of which are – at the moment – hard to capture and anticipate based on the little and rather vague information available in public at the moment. Although we support the Commission's idea of having a more holistic and integrated approach within the GPGC, we are **concerned about the scope and concentration of sectors in the programme, the risk of losing sight of some very important themes and the lack of a clear perspective of the role of CSOs in this programme**. It is important that we maintain the much needed funding for themes that are currently covered by the thematic programmes, which are: Food security and sustainable agriculture; Migration and Asylum; Environment and Climate Change; Sustainable Energy; and the priorities which are included in the current Investing In People Programme: Good Health for All, Education, Gender equality, Children and Youth, Decent Work, Social cohesion and culture. After the recent PFD, there is a growing concern amongst the CSO-community that the Commission will deprioritise and maybe even cut out some of the very important **Human Development themes that are currently included in the IIP programme**.

In order for civil society to be able to share our recommendations, comments and concerns about the GPGC programme in an organised way we ask you to ensure that **open and inclusive consultations on the GPGC programme will take place, including a wide range of CSOs from different geographic regions**. In addition to a consultation on the overall principles and implementation on the programme, we also believe that it is necessary to **organise thematic consultations** to draw on the experience of CSOs with specific expertise in the different areas that the programme will cover. We have already approached the Commission on several occasions asking for consultations on this programme or its sub-components, and we have been told for the last year that consultations will take place. As we are very aware that time is starting to run out, we do not believe we can afford to wait for consultations any longer. For this reason we hope that you will help us in ensuring that consultations will take place promptly and with sufficient level of detail, before the drafting process is over.

We turn to you as we know that you are committed to upholding a good dialogue with civil society, and we would like to remind you of the commitments to CSO participation in EU-programming, which were made in the Commission's own recent Communication "*The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations*". We would be happy to meet with you to discuss the issues raised in more detail.

Yours Sincerely,



Joanna Maycock
President of CONCORD

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