



March2014

NW	ActionAid International
NW	ADRA
AS	ALDA
NW	APRODEV
NP	Austria: Globale Verantwortung
NP	CONCORD Belgium
NP	Bulgaria: BPID
NW	CARE International
NW	Caritas Europa
NW	CBM International
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NP	Cyprus: CYINDEP
NP	Czech Republic: FoRS
NP	CONCORD Denmark
NP	Estonia: AKU
NW	EU-CORD
NW	Eurostep
NP	Finland: Kehys
NP	France: Coordination SUD
NP	Germany: VENRO
NP	Greece
NW	Handicap International
NP	Hungary: HAND
NW	IPPF European Network
NW	Islamic Relief Worldwide
NP	Ireland: Dochas
NP	Italy: CONCORD Italia
NP	Latvia: Lapas
NP	"LU" Lithuanian development NGO umbrella
NP	Luxembourg: Cercle
NP	Malta: SKOP
NP	Netherlands: Partos
NW	Oxfam International
NW	Plan International
NP	Poland: Grupa Zagranica
NP	Portugal: Plataforma ONGD
NP	Romania: FOND
NW	Save the Children
NP	Slovakia: MVRO
NP	Slovenia: SLOGA
NW	Solidar
NP	Spain: Coordinadora ONGD
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

#TheEuropeWeWant

OUR CALLS TO EUROPEAN POLITICAL GROUPS AND PARTIES AHEAD OF THE 2014 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

Ahead of the European Parliament elections 2014, CONCORD, the European confederation of 1900 development and relief NGOs, calls on the candidates for the new European Parliament to commit to **three key calls: a fairer Europe for a fairer world, inequality hurts us all and a new social contract with European citizens.** CONCORD represents a Europe-wide constituency that supports global justice as essential to avoid generating more inequality and poverty, that believes in investing in a fairer Europe and that pushes for active citizenship.

1) A FAIRER EUROPE FOR A FAIRER WORLD

In crisis, there is an opportunity to reinvent the European social model and put Europe on a stronger and fairer footing in the world. This means thinking about justice, human rights, poverty and inequality both inside and outside the EU.

CONCORD calls on the candidates for the new European Parliament to seriously commit to policy coherence for development in the next European Parliament.

This means making Policy Coherence for Development a reality. In other words, at the political level the Commission President, High Representative and Development Commissioner must demonstrate political will to implement this, dedicating budget, time and staff to it. At the technical level, the European Parliament needs to push for prevention and cure systems i.e. to strengthen impact assessments and monitoring of the impacts of EU policies on the ground plus concrete mechanisms to allow the EU's policies to be adapted when they are shown to be damaging the rights and welfare of people elsewhere.

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2) INEQUALITY HURTS US ALL

Poverty is not just about incomes, GDP and economic development. It is also about inequalities within societies. In countries there are massive gaps between the rich and the poor so that you can live in a middle income country or a high income country which still has high level of poverty. The #EuropeWeWant needs to tackle inequality at its root, both in Europe and beyond, and in accordance with the core values and principles of the EU. This can be achieved through key measures such as tax justice, fair and sustainable use of natural resources and a fairer system of food production.

CONCORD calls on new European Parliament to put an end to tax dodging and to ensure the strengthening of shorter term and innovative sources of financing such as the Financial Transaction Tax (FTT), to make the FTT global and to ensure that the resources are generated.

- a) **Tax Justice:** Aid is important to finance development in the short term. However, in the long term, domestic resources and particularly taxes are the best and most sustainable way to pay for the development of countries and citizens. The EU has made a lot of progress over the years in tackling inequalities and building social welfare systems which have been financed primarily by tax systems. However recent tax scandals such as the Starbucks case have highlighted that we don't have a situation of tax justice, neither in Europe nor globally. Tax evasion and avoidance by multinational companies and rich people are global problems that requires global solutions, many of which needs to be taken at the EU level. Only if the measures towards tax justice are reached at a global level, societies can build their own welfare systems and tackle inequality and poverty.

Concretely, CONCORD recommends that the EU should:

-support a global regime of multilateral automatic information exchange. The European Union and its Member States have already showed willingness to play a leading role on this matter. However, developing world should not be forgotten in their initiatives. This is why the EU should support a multilateral regime for the automatic exchanges of tax information which would include developing countries and allow them to get access to those information. Fiscal administration from developing countries should be assisted to enable them to implement this system. However, full immediate reciprocation should not be required, as it would be a mean to exclude developing countries from this system.

-make a country-by-country reporting mandatory for transnational companies in all sectors. During the last years, the European Union has make significant efforts towards the transparency of transnational companies activities through reporting requirements included in the Accounting Directive (for forestry and extractive sectors) and the Capital Requirements Directive (for the banking sector). However, the EU

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should extend the system with a country-by-country reporting mandatory for large companies operating within the EU in all sectors. Importantly, all future country-by-country reporting should be based on the model already adopted for the EU banking industry and not the model adopted for the extractive industries. Only by doing so, will the EU ensure the needed transparency in transnational companies' accounts to prevent tax evasion and avoidance.

-ensure greater transparency of "beneficial owners" through centralized public registries. The current EU Directive on Anti-Money Laundering contains loopholes that allow criminals to hide behind anonymously owned corporate structures. Companies, trusts and foundations can hide the beneficial owner behind a bank account and in that way facilitate the laundering of the proceeds of crimes such as tax evasion, corruption, drugs, and human trafficking. For carrying out due diligence on each company, therefore, creating a centralized, publicly accessible registries is an efficient solution that will prevent excuse that the beneficial owner cannot be found.

b) Fair and sustainable use of natural resources: Natural resources constitute a crucial component to achieve human and social development, provided that they are used in a sustainable manner. In developing countries, many citizens do not benefit from the natural wealth which is enshrined in the land they inhabit and see their. The EU is one of the actors pursuing aggressive strategies to access resources from developing countries. The EU's production and consumption model also severely impacts on the availability of these natural resources through consequences like climate change. The new European Parliament should ensure that EU's footprint on developing countries of its economic development model and specifically the EU policies in pursuit of imports from developing countries do not undermine development objectives or lead, directly or indirectly, to additional poverty, human rights violations and conflicts.

Concretely, CONCORD recommends that the EU should:

-impose specific, stringent reporting requirements for the extractive industries sector within the Non-Financial Reporting Directive. Taken into account the specific risks that extractive industries cause to ecosystems, livelihoods and social relations of local communities, under EU legislation the reporting requirements for this sector should also be specific. Reports should include detailed information on environmental and human rights matters, risk management, policies implemented and results obtained.

-make the five steps of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risks Areas mandatory for companies. The EU should consider the impact of its consumption of minerals on security issues in developing countries. The expected legislative proposal on "conflict minerals" should focus on the responsible sourcing of minerals originating in conflict-affected and high-risks areas. The mandatory nature of this legislation will be crucial to implement PCD and the companies' duty to respect human rights.

c) A fairer system of food production: Today, 870 million people throughout the globe suffer from hunger. Securing access to safe food is a universal Human Right which all States are mutually obliged to respect, protect and fulfill. The EU has a special responsibility in this, being the world's largest actor in agricultural trade. Realizing the Right to Food requires changes in both models of production as well as improved access to affordable and nutritious food. The EU needs to change several of its current policies

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affecting food security in developing countries ranging from trade, agriculture, financial regulation, climate, research, energy and investment in foreign land.

Concretely, CONCORD recommends that the EU should:

-introduce a complete phase-out of policies supporting land-based biofuel production or consumption.

The Renewable Energy Directive, by setting a 10% target for renewable energy use in transport by 2020, accompanied by financial subsidies to support biofuel consumption, has been a serious driver of land grabs and food-price volatility, leading to further food insecurity in developing countries. The EU should therefore stop to encourage the production and consumption of land-based biofuels.

-insert public interest clauses in EU investment deals. The EU depends on cheap, stable imports of primary agricultural commodities for its high value-added processing industry. Through free trade agreements, the EU aims to secure agricultural market access, and to affirm the roles of the EU as a standard setter and developing countries as standard takers. It is achieved through reduced technical barriers to trade and reduced export restrictions while investment chapters are included in these agreements to protect investors' rights. On the other hand, no interest clause is included in these agreements. This leaves gross imbalances and flaws in the global agricultural trade regime at the expense of developing countries.

3) A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT WITH EUROPEAN CITIZENS

As the only directly and democratically elected institution within the EU, MEPs have both the role and the opportunity to step up the engagement of EU citizens, by giving them reasons to be proud of the EU and by involving organized European civil society more in decision making. In particular to make sure that relevant and representative civil society organisations are involved in the expert and advisory groups or committees that are put in place to support and advise the European Commission and the EEAS in their political and executive tasks.

CONCORD calls on newly elected members of the European Parliament to strengthen participatory democracy and promote active citizenship through consultation and dialogue processes and the inclusion of mandatory provisions for the participation and consultation of civil society actors in all EU legislative text impacting on citizens' rights and livelihoods inside and outside Europe.

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