



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

 2007*DE

Europe – a partner for sustainable global development

German Presidency
of the European Union
January – June 2007



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In 2007, Germany has a double opportunity to work for equitable and sustainable global development. Our double presidency of the European Union (EU) and the Group of Eight (G8) means that we can do a great deal to bring about changes for the people in our partner countries.

We want to make good use – in the sphere of development policy – of this unique opportunity. For instance, our neighbouring continent Africa is a key focus of both presidencies.

Africa and Europe are linked by special, historical ties. Both continents are on the way towards a strong partnership. We want to develop this partnership further, working with those players in Africa who are willing to assume ownership of Africa's development. In that connection, we will be supporting participation and involvement by civil society. Africa is the place that will determine whether or not the fight against poverty succeeds and the Millennium Development Goals are achieved.

German Development Minister
Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul

The European Union's task in a globalised world is to contribute its ideals of a sustainable and equitable socio-economic order – as part of its general policy and also as part of its development policy.

The presidency of the EU in the first half of 2007 gives Germany an important role in shaping EU policy. We want to use our EU Presidency to give impetus to the forward-looking contribution that European development cooperation can make to global structural and security policy. We want to take a big step towards moving Europe's development policy forward in the service of both the Community and the people in our partner countries.

We will put all our energies into making our contribution to this task.



Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul

Europe – the most important donor in the world

The European Union is the world's biggest donor in the field of development policy. The EU, together with its Member States, invested some 45 billion euros in development in 2005; that is 52 per cent of all official development assistance.

As the largest single market in the world, the EU is the most important trading partner for many developing countries, with a considerable influence over world trade order. The intensive political cooperation and continuous dialogue between the EU and its partner countries are an essential component of global relations.

The EU, with its political and economic weight, has the responsibility to be a driving force in international development cooperation.

This includes being consistent in implementing international development policy agreements and commitments. Special mention should be made here of the **Millennium Development Goals**, which are to be achieved by 2015. Equally important are the commitments on **financing for development** made at the Monterrey Conference. In particular, the EU has made a commitment to increase the overall share of official development assistance funding within the Union to 0.56 per cent of annual gross national income by 2010 and to 0.7 per cent by 2015. The **Paris agenda** for aid effectiveness is another important international commitment.

During our EU Presidency we want to help honour these commitments.

Europe is acting upon joint guidelines

The EU's 2005 **European Consensus on Development** provides the Community with a framework for action, with shared goals, values and principles. As a result a development policy manifesto is now available for the first time that is binding on both the European Union and its Member States.

For example, the European Development Consensus acknowledges our responsibility for justice in globalisation, globally sustainable development, global poverty reduction, gender equality, environmental protection and peace-building. It emphasises the partnership aspect of cooperation and a focus on human rights. It cites good governance as a decisive factor for development. It also underlines the importance of participation by civil society and non-governmental organisations.

During our EU Presidency we will work to implement the development consensus and to spell it out in more concrete terms.



Europe is strengthening its partnership with Africa

The partnership between the EU and Africa is to be strengthened. The partner countries will be supported in their efforts to assume ownership for tackling particularly urgent development problems and challenges in the future.

Africa is not a continent of disasters, crises and wars. Africa is demonstrating **reform momentum** and stable growth and is using its own ideas and potential to take its development into its own hands. The fate of Africa and of the African people has a direct bearing on Europe; that is why Europe needs a strong Africa.

We will continue to put Africa at the centre during our EU Presidency. We will be urging for the implementation of the EU Africa Strategy and will support the preparation of a joint Africa strategy by the EU and the African Union. We will be lobbying for sustainable investment based on the principle of decent work and employment.



Europe is going for development and trade

Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) are to be concluded between the EU and the ACP (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) countries by the end of 2007, in order to boost the integration of these partner countries into the world economy and foster the development of African countries.

These agreements, as combined trade and development instruments, are meant to improve market access for the ACP countries and facilitate trade. This in turn will strengthen the position of these countries in international and regional trade. Thus opportunities will be opened up for them to participate in global trade on an equal footing and engage in sustainable economic activities.

During our EU Presidency we will make the EPAs one of our focal topics. We want to pave the way for the timely conclusion of the agreements and ensure that they are conducive to development.



Europe is going for development through secure energy

A secure, environmentally sound and sustainable energy supply is crucial for economic and social development.

However, high oil prices are threatening development efforts and the realisation of the Millennium Goals, particularly in poor countries. Dependence on oil can be reduced by promoting energy efficiency and the use of domestic **renewable energies**. Responsible use of energy resources is crucial for the future. The use of revenues from oil exports must be transparent and conducive to development.

During our EU Presidency we will make the sustainable development of energy resources in Africa a key topic. We will lobby for a fair partnership with our neighbouring continent in this field.



Europe is reforming its development cooperation

The EU has launched **reform projects** to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its development cooperation. The aim is more and better aid.

Improving the **division of labour** within the Community will increase the effectiveness and visibility of European aid and very much simplify cooperation arrangements for our partners. Division of labour is an essential aspect of the **Paris agenda** for increased aid effectiveness.

Improved **policy coherence** is meant to ensure that the EU's external actions take account of development goals and do not jeopardise them.

During our EU Presidency, the reform of the division of labour will be an important goal. Our aim here is to agree upon shared principles for improving the division of labour.

In trade policy, we are working towards greater coherence through the Economic Partnership Agreements. In the sphere of energy policy, too, we will be endeavouring to pay greater attention to coherence aspects.



Europe is an advocate for gender equality

Gender equality is a cross-cutting policy task and also a key Millennium Development Goal. Despite all the progress that has been made, when it comes to promoting gender equality and empowering women, the achievements of development policy to date are far from satisfactory.

During our EU Presidency we will be making every effort to further the sustained implementation of gender equality in European development cooperation. We want to strengthen women's economic independence and their role in development policy.



Europe is fighting AIDS

HIV/AIDS continues to be a global threat for humanity, which is also jeopardising development. Increasingly it is women who are suffering and dying from AIDS. The “feminisation” of this disease is in full swing.

Africa is particularly hard hit by this scourge – with dramatic economic and social consequences. Prevention and control through functioning health systems and affordable medicines are key elements of European assistance.

During our EU Presidency we will resolutely support the fight against HIV/AIDS.



Europe is working in trio

For the first time a so-called **team presidency** lasting 18 months (January 2007 to June 2008) will be formed with Portugal and Slovenia, the next two countries to hold the EU Presidency. The elaboration of a joint working programme will serve to increase the continuity of European policy and help Europe grow closer together.

The team presidency covers a period that is of strategic importance for shaping the future development cooperation of the EU.

Together with our team partners we have produced a development policy programme paper. It contains a number of essential and more long-term topics and issues that we plan to move ahead with in close cooperation.



Development policy – key dates in 2007

12-13 March: Bonn, Petersberg

Informal Meeting of Ministers for Development Cooperation and informal ACP-EU dialogue on Economic Partnership Agreements

14-15 May: Brussels

General Affairs and External Relations Council, with a focus on development policy

May: Brussels

ACP-EU Council of Ministers

23-28 June: Wiesbaden

ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

Links for further information

www.eu2007.de

(German EU presidency website)

www.bmz.de/eu2007

(EU presidency web pages of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)

www.bmz.de/g8-2007

(G8 presidency web pages of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)

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