

Medlemmerne af Folketingets Europaudvalg
og deres stedfortrædere

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Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges Finansministeriets redegørelse for det uformelle EU finans- og økonomiministermøde (ECO-FIN) den 9.-10. september 2005.

Notat

16. september

Referat fra uformelt EU finans- og økonomiministtermøde (ECOFIN) den 9.-10. september 2005

Dagsordenspunkt: Globaliseringens udfordringer

Ministrene drøftede udfordringerne ved globalisering med udgangspunkt i indlæg fra tre virksomhedsledere og en forsker.

Der var bred enighed om, at investeringer i uddannelse, forskning og innovation, fleksible arbejdsmarkeder, bedre regulering og fri handel er centrale indsatsområder for at opnå klare fordele af globaliseringen.

ECOFIN ventes at drøfte emnet igen senere på året.

Dagsordenspunkt: Finansiering af ulandsbistand

Ministrene opnåede politisk enighed om en fælles EU-position for finansiering af ulandsbistand til brug for FN-topmødet den 14. september 2005, *jf. vedlagte bilag*, hvor stats- og regeringschefer skal gøre status over opfyldelsen af 2015-målene.

Ministrene drøftede derudover følgende elementer:

- Den internationale finansieringsfacilitet (IFF)/pilotprojektet IFFIm
- Afgift på flybilletter
- Gældslettelse (G8-forslaget)

Nogle lande vil bidrage til IFF-pilotprojektet for vaccine (IFFIm). Enkelte lande vil introducere en afgift på flybilletter til en øremærket finansiering af projekter i udviklingslande, primært på sundhedsområdet. Andre lande overvejer om og i givet fald i hvilket omfang, de ønsker at deltage.

Der var blandt ministrene generelt opbakning til G8-landenes forslag vedrørende multilateral gældslettelse.

I tilknytning hertil blev der på ministermødet opnået politisk enighed om at basere arbejdet vedrørende gældslettelse på en fælles tilgang til principperne om 1) Addicionalitet 2) Konditionalitet 3) Ligebehandling og 4) Forhindre ubæredygtig gæld, *jf. vedlagte bilag*.

EIB og Kommissionen blev opfordret til at fortsætte det tekniske arbejde med en europæisk "støttepakke" med henblik på afrapportering til Rådet i oktober 2005.

Bilag

Fælles udtalelse om finansiering af ulandsbistand

"On aid volume, we recall the commitment to the 16-17 June European Council to reach a collective ODA/GNI target of 0.7% by 2015, and an collective intermediate target of 0.56% by 2010. We also reaffirm the need to improve the quality and effectiveness of aid.

We welcome and support the G8 proposal to cancel 100% of outstanding debt of eligible Heavily Indebted Poor Countries to the IMF, IDA, and African Development Fund and, on a fair burden-sharing basis, to provide additional resources to ensure that the initiative is fully financed without reducing the IFIs' financing capacity. We must ensure that the problem of unsustainable debt will not re-occur. We look forward to the implementation of the G8 proposal subject to the resolution of important issues at the IFIs' Boards.

EU Member States are united in their commitments to increasing aid and follow several routes to that aim. Some Member States firmly believe that innovative financing mechanisms can help deliver and bring forward the financing necessary to achieve the MDGs and may contribute to the achievement of the new ODA/GNI target. A group of Member States will implement the International Finance Facility (IFF) as a mechanism to frontload resources for development. A group of countries have launched the IFF for immunisation and made firm financial commitments. A group of EU Member States will implement a contribution on airline tickets to enable financing development projects, in particular in the health sector, directly or through financing the IFF. Some other EU Member States are considering whether and to what extent they will participate in these initiatives or otherwise continue to enhance traditional ODA. On trade, we underline the importance of a successful conclusion of the WTO Doha development agenda (DDA) and increased support to developing countries to build their capacity to trade."

Fælles udtalelse om G8-forslaget vedr. gældslettelse

"From today's and earlier discussions it is clear that we are agreed on the importance of further debt relief both in the IMF and the World Bank. There is also broad support for the proposal that has been put forward by the G8 although a need for further discussion on a number of implementation issues so that we reach agreement at this month's meetings of the IMF and the World Bank.

We have agreed to work on the basis of the following common approach on the key issues of:

- Additionality
- Conditionality
- Uniformity of treatment
- Preventing unsustainable debts

(i) Additionality

The key element of the proposal is that debt relief needs to be fully financed ensuring that the financing capacity of the IFIs is not reduced.

For this reason the proposal commits donors to compensate IDA and the African Development Bank dollar for dollar for the forgone principal and service charge payments to cover the full costs for the full duration of the cancelled loans. It is, of course, essential that these costs, which fall due over 40 years, are covered. A number of countries have called for the overall commitment to additionality to be strengthened with firm written

commitments by the relevant authorities. We should support this — subject to donors' individual budgetary and Parliamentary procedures — as part of the European position.

On the IMF side the costs should be met by the use of existing IMF resources and the G8 commitments to provide up to \$350-500 million for the interim PRGF, extra resources necessary for the three protracted arrears cases, and their fair share of the costs for countries that may enter the HIPC process based on end-2004 debt burdens. Taken together these should ensure that the financing capacity of the Fund is not reduced and that due regard is given to maintaining the strength of its balance sheet. We should resolve this issue in advance of the Annual Meetings on the basis of Fund analysis.

(ii) Conditionality

We are all agreed that the countries which benefit from debt relief should direct those resources towards the achievement of the MDGs. We also believe that the benefits of debt relief are greater when the resources are delivered upfront and provide a predictable stream of funds.

For this reason in order to qualify for debt relief countries must reach completion point under the HIPC initiative. And for those countries that have already reached completion point we should require that they must be current with their repayment obligations to the IFIs; they must not have experienced serious lapses, including in governance, such that their IMF programmes would be at risk; and they must have satisfactory governance and public expenditure systems. We should resolve how this will be implemented on the basis of further Fund and Bank advice.

(iii) Uniformity of Treatment

On the World Bank side the additional resources will be distributed through the performance based allocation mechanism to ensure that all IIDA-only countries benefit, On the IMF side we understand the importance of the principle of Uniformity of Treatment, which we support. We should resolve this on the basis of ensuring Fund resources are used in accordance with this principle. The IMFC should monitor the implementation of this principle. Donors will need to consider the use of PRGF subsidy account resources for HIPC countries.

(iv) Preventing unsustainable debts

The IDA 14 resolution should remain intact — with the Mid Term Review as the opportunity for further considerations, including with regard to the provisions of the Debt Sustainability Framework. This Framework should be the basis for preventing unsustainable debts."

Fælles udtalelse vedrørende oliepriserne

"While recognising that the higher level of oil prices presents risks to growth, Ministers are determined that, in today's global economy, and with appropriate policy response the economic consequences of higher oil prices are likely to be limited, particularly when compared with other periods. In this context, they welcome the absence of underlying inflationary pressures and stress the need to avoid second round effects.

Ministers emphasise their continuous effective coordination in reaction to rising oil prices and agree that distortionary fiscal and other policy interventions that prevent the necessary adjustments should be avoided. In particular, Ministers confirm that where short-term targeted measures are taken to alleviate the impact of higher oil prices on the poorer sections of the population, they should avoid distortionary effects. Beyond any short term measures, Ministers highlight the importance of structural reforms to make the EU economy more resilient to shocks.

Ministers support the 2 September 2005 announcement by the International Energy Agency to make available to the market from existing emergency stocks 2 million barrels per day of oil and oil products so as to compensate for the temporary loss of production

and refining capacity caused by hurricane Katrina. This announcement helped alleviate market tensions. In addition to these temporary measures on oil stocks, Ministers agreed on the following:

- Ministers consider that continuing and strengthening the dialogue with major oil producing regions should help improve the framework conditions for investment in oil exploration and supply capacities. The EU is currently engaged in dialogues with Russia, Norway and OPEC. Ministers noted the message by OPEC that they stand ready to supply additional oil when necessary. Ministers urge oil producing countries and companies and consumers to recognise their common interest in ensuring sufficient supplies of oil. They call on oil companies to increase investment in oil exploration, production, refining capacity and alternative energy sources; they also call on countries and international institutions to work to remove barriers and create a climate conducive to investment throughout the supply chain.
- Ministers stress the importance of energy efficiency and energy savings, the importance of innovative technologies and the use of new sources of energy in ensuring energy security. Within Member States, targets to encourage the use of renewable energy have been set. Ministers stand ready to consider further action. They are committed to develop more effective international cooperation on energy efficiency and development of clean technologies, especially with those countries that have relatively low energy efficiency.
- Ministers consider that further efforts to improve the transparency of oil markets are warranted. The European Commission is currently working on the improvement of data, notably for stocks, for Europe. Ministers call on relevant international institutions to develop a global framework for reporting of oil reserves, which is essential for better informed market decisions, and to undertake further analysis of the workings of the oil market."