



*SID European programme
Invites you to
A Briefing Session
“Will Europe make a difference? Future of the European Development Policy”
(to be preceded by “Meet the Press Luncheon”)*

Date & Venue: September 1st 2005, 13.30 – 16.00 International Press Centre, Brussels
12.00 – 13.30 “Meet the Press Luncheon” – will be organised by Inter-Press Service Europe (IPS EUROPE)

Purpose: To provide high quality information and a platform for informed debate on the new EU Development Policy Statement (DPS), proposal of which is due to be released by the Commission on 12th July, and on the future of European development cooperation and policy in the context of international efforts for eradication of poverty.

Target group: Parliamentarians from both the 25 EU Member States and the European Parliament, representatives of development administration, policy makers and researchers.

Background: Following the conclusions of SID/ EDC2010 International Conference “Europe and the South: A New Era. European Development Cooperation: towards policy renewal and a new commitment”, SID continues trying to ensure true policy renewal and new commitment of Europe (both as a Union and as individual Member States) to the South, which puts Europe at the forefront of the international development cooperation. In this context we are organising the briefing session for parliamentarians on the new Development Policy Statement (DPS). Our goal is to ensure that parliamentarians high quality information based on research and are included in the debate on the EU development policy, especially the EC proposal of the new DPS, which should become a guiding document for formulation of a truly European policy and cooperation in the years to come on both multilateral and bilateral level.

Raison d'être behind choosing the 1st September for this Briefing session is that is right before the New York Summit, hence it will also provide the last opportunity for the parliamentarians, policy makers and representatives of Development administration to discuss the future of European policy and to send a strong message to New York that Europe is ready to lead the way in striving to achieve the MDGs as a part of overarching goal of poverty eradication. This should also be clearly reflected in the new DPS and fully endorsed by the individual member states as a guiding document for formulation of a truly European policy and cooperation on both multilateral and bilateral level.

We would like to ensure that the two major criticism of the old DPS from November 2000, namely no reference to MDGs and not a stronger consultation process with the EU parliamentarians and policy makers in Member States are corrected and reflected in the new DPS.



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Structure of the session

The briefing session will be split in two parts each lead by a panel of prominent speakers and chaired by Jos van Gennip, President of SID NL and European Programme.

Panel I – will seek to provide participants with analysis of the new DPS and the high quality information, panel is to be followed by Q&A. It will consist of 3 speakers:

- James Mackie, Head of European programme at ECDPM, Maastricht, will provide a short background of the old DPS (he lead a team of researches in Assessment of the old EC Development Policy), a critical analysis of the new DPS
- An MEP from the EP Development Committee giving the assessment from the EP view, and
- A representative of the European Commission Directorate General for Development, which is a driving force behind the new DPS.

Panel II – is to concentrate on political implication and implementation of the new DPS. The short speeches will be followed by a discussion

- Commissioner Michel (TBC)
- Secretary or Under-secretary of State for Int. Development from UK, which is holding the EU Presidency (TBC).
- Simon Maxwell, Director of Overseas Development Institute, London – will lead the discussion on the political implication and implementation of the new DPS, (TBC)

Both panels are expected to deal extensively with the mandate and the commitment of the EU (as a whole, the Commission and the Member States) towards the UN Summit, taking place only two weeks after the briefing session, and the consequences for the coherent European external policies.

Logistics:

The Session is organised by Society for International Development – SID European Programme (www.euforic.org/sid-europe) in partnership with European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes –EADI as part of the Europe-wide EDC 2010 programme (www.edc2010.net)

Costs of travel up to a maximum of 300 can be reimburse by SID EP to those participants who have difficulty funding the trip from their budget.

Since the Briefing session is taking place right at the beginning of the new Parliamentary session we would

appreciate if you can send us a reply prior to the recess of your own Parliament

stating whether you intend to participate in the Briefing Session.

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