

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT
THE CHAIR

Formand for Folketinget
Hr Christian MEJDAHL
Christiansborg
DK - 1240 Copenhagen

Dear Mr Mejdahl,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to a Public hearing of the European Parliament Committee on Development on the subject of the New EU Donors and European Development Cooperation Policy which will take place on 30 January 2007.

The Public hearing represents a specific follow-up to the Joint Committee Meeting organised by the Committee on Development of the European Parliament in collaboration with the Parliament of Finland held in October 2006.

The debate of the Public hearing will focus on the "New EU Donors" ("ten plus two" new EU Member States) as the emerging EU development aid donors.

Since the European Union has become more committed to coordinating, harmonising and shaping a coherent and effective development policy, we believe it is crucial to proceed to an evaluation of the progress made so far in the New EU Member States, in terms of institutional capacities, national strategies and policy coordination.

The Hearing will be organised around two panels, with the participation of distinguished national and EU experts in this field, and followed by a debate with the participation of delegations from all Member States' National Parliaments.

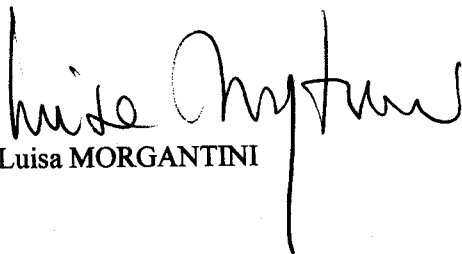
Mrs Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, President-in-office of the Council of the EU and German Federal Minister for Economic and Development Cooperation, has also been invited.

The participation of representatives of Foreign Affairs Committees (Development and Cooperation) of Member States' National Parliaments and the opportunity to exchange views and opinions on how the National Parliaments approach their role in the area of development would be greatly appreciated.

For any additional information you may require please contact the Secretariat of the Committee on Development of the European Parliament by telephone +00322 28 32438, fax +00322 28 49067 or e-mail at eva.atanassova@europarl.europa.eu

We look forward to seeing you in Brussels in January 2007.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luisa Morgantini', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

Luisa MORGANTINI