

Dear Ms. Pedersen,

18 January 2011

Some weeks ago an invitation was sent to you to attend a briefing session for Parliamentarians and Policy Makers organized by the European Development Cooperation to 2020 ([EDC2020](#)) project. The annual briefing will this time consider the Lisbon Treaty perspectives for better coherence between energy security and development policies of the European Union and will be held in Brussels, Residence Palace on Wednesday 9 February 2011 in the afternoon.

We are pleased to convey the key note speaker will be Commissioner Andris Piebalgs (Development). Since he has been EU's Commissioner with both energy and development portfolios we believe he knows best how two major goals of EU external policy – energy security and development cooperation – overarch and whether their implementation is more of coherence or conflict.

In the years to come, the issue of energy policies will be very high on the public and political agenda on both the national and European level. The role of developing countries in the area of energy scarcity is complex. Resource rich countries might benefit from increasing prices, but 'the curse of the black gold' often results in human rights violations, civil strife, strengthening of authoritarian regimes and the lack of competitiveness for other industrial and agricultural products. In resource poor countries the rising prices can hamper growth figures, frustrate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, put strong pressure on utilization of forest and wood and in some cases lead to starvation. On the other hand, energy scarcity can and should lead to creative – local – alternative and renewable solutions.

Therefore, we are dealing with one of the central challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the topic deserves ample attention. The European Commission shares this opinion and has underscored this in a recent Green Paper, which can be found [here](#).

We sincerely hope to see you in Brussels on February 9, 2011 at this important encounter. For the programme and more information please click [here](#).

The briefing session is part of two consecutive events; on February 10 the [Final EDC2020 event](#) will welcome lead researchers from the EDC 2020 project to present the results of three years of research on three game changers for European Development Cooperation: (i) New Actors, (ii) Energy and (iii) Climate Change. You are most welcome to attend this event as well.

Places are limited. To register we kindly ask you to send an email to [events@edc2020.eu](mailto:events@edc2020.eu) stating your name and position, by 1 February 2011. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Ms. Frida van der Graaf using the above address, or by phone: +31 (0)70 338 3285.

Yours sincerely,

Jos J. van Gennip

President of the European Program of the Society for International Development, former Speaker on Foreign Affairs Netherlands Senate.