

Report from the Secretariat of the Intergroup

**Subgroup “Cooperation and Development”
Meeting between Mr Goerens and stakeholders**

Monday, 30th November - 1.00-2.00pm

The meeting with Mr Goerens, Chair of the subgroup “Cooperation and Development”, enabled stakeholders to present the issues they would like to see addressed under this subgroup in 2010 and during the legislature.

A list of issues based on this preliminary discussion will be shared and discussed with Members of the European Parliament who expressed their interest for the subgroup ‘Cooperation and Development’. Then stakeholders will be consulted again. The Bureau of the Intergroup, bringing together the Chair and Vice-Chairs, will decide on the agenda for 2010 in January.

1. State of play of the Intergroup – EBCD

The Intergroup “Sustainable Development” was established in 1994. It was renamed in February 2009 as the Intergroup on “Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development” to focus on these two critical issues. It aims to provide information, bring knowledge in the European Parliament and build consensus. It ensures that all voices are heard. The Intergroup is composed of 8 subgroups, each one dealing with one issue. However, as there are many synergies between the various subgroups, joint meetings will be organised on issues of common interest.

As required by the EP rules, the Intergroup needs to have the support of at least 3 political groups to be officially renewed. It has been supported so far by ALDE and ECR. We will know in December whether it is supported by the EPP and S&D. The Conference of Presidents will endorse the decision of political groups on the 10th of December.

2. Presentation by each stakeholder of issues of interest for 2010 and the new legislature

Mr Goerens introduced himself. It is his third term in the European Parliament – First term: 1982-1984/ Second term: 1994-1999). He was President of the ALDE Group. Moreover, he was Minister of Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Defence and Minister of Environment in Luxembourg. He is currently Vice-Chairman of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Member of the Committee on Development and the Subcommittee on Human Rights. He stressed that the beginning of the legislature is the most important period. Consequently, the Intergroup has to be proactive in 2010.

Ms Jara (Ecosocial Forum) identified 5 issues of interest:

- **Right to food/Food safety.** In this regard, sustainable food production and sustainable food supply are key matters;
- **Taxation and fiscal aspects;**
- **Access to sustainable energy sources,** considered as a prerequisite for the social economic development and climate change adaption and mitigation;
- **Climate change, development and climate justice;**
- **Global governance** covering the reform of the International organisations and beyond, the process involving all actors: stakeholders, NGOs, citizens etc.

Two critical issues have been raised by Mr Jacques (IUCN):

- **The mid-term review of the cooperation funds** and in particular the ACP Mid Term review;
- **Integrating environment and climate change in development cooperation.** A Staff Working Paper on Environmental Integration in Development Cooperation was issued by the European Commission in 2009. He underlined how critical the EP involvement in this process in order to influence the European Commission. Furthermore, Mr Jacques insisted on the necessity to reflect on how to help ACP countries in better managing their national parks. Access and benefit sharing of genetic resources is a key question.

Ms Nicholson (WWF) stressed the importance of putting the **biodiversity and ecosystem services** issue higher on the EU and International agenda. In addition, the Intergroup could play a key role in pushing for and influencing a joint EU position on

the **Review of the Millennium Development Goals**. 2010 will also be an important year for the **follow up to the COP 15 – Climate Change Summit** - regarding funding and governance for Developing countries. Another topic proposed by Ms Nicholson is the **revision of the Cotonou Agreement**.

Ms Symons (EBCD) mentioned that the subgroup should discuss the **impact of CITES on Developing countries**.

Ms La Peccerella (ACP-EU Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation – CTA) explained that CTA's activities consist mainly of providing information to Member States on different issues such as agriculture and rural development and disseminating experience and best practices.

Mr Goerens pointed out that **taxation and fiscal aspects** – mechanisms etc - is a key issue which should be addressed by the subgroup before May 2010 in order to influence the EP work on this topic. He mentioned a new proposal made by Mr Strauss Kahn: creating an insurance fund into which banks around the world may be forced to pay to help mitigate the risks they are creating and use the money to fund Developing countries.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES IDENTIFIED

- Right to food/Food safety
- Access to sustainable energy sources
- Climate change, development and climate justice
- Global governance
- The mid-term review of the cooperation funds
- Integrating environment and climate change in development cooperation
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Review of the Millennium Development Goals
- Follow up to the COP15 Summit
- Revision of the Cotonou Agreement
- Impact of CITES on Developing countries
- Taxation and fiscal aspects

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Taina Jara, EcoSocial Forum
Sally Nicholson, WWF
Camilla La Peccerella, CTA

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Secretariat of the Intergroup

Jean-Claude Jacques, International Union for Conservation of Nature
Anouska Plasmeijer, International Union for Conservation of Nature
Despina Symons, European Bureau for Conservation of Nature
Mélanie Lamaison, European Bureau for Conservation of Nature