

EUROPAUDVALGET

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State Secretary, Ambassador
Carsten Staur
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Asiatisk Plads 2
1448 København K

23rd February 2004

Dear Carsten Staur,

Reform of Commission external services: the final phase

In the light of internal discussions within the European Commission on its future organisational structure, we would like to draw to your attention a number of observations before the meeting of the College that will conclude the talks early March.

More than two thirds of Europe's citizens believe that the EU contributes to the eradication of global poverty and want Europe to be a responsible and constructive leading proponent for development in the world. In its co-operation with developing countries the Union has committed itself to pursue development policies and strategies based on the fight against poverty, that promote the observance of Human Rights and which seek the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The reform of the Commission's external services, which has been pursued by the current Commission and for which the final decisions are in the process of being taken, must ensure that the result is consistent with the provisions of the Draft Constitutional Treaty proposed by the democratic Convention on the Future of Europe. In consequence the existence of a clearly defined, adequately resourced, and sufficiently autonomous institutional capacity for managing the EU's activities derived from the Constitutional Treaty's articles on development co-operation and humanitarian assistance must be one of the principal outcomes of the reform.

Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke has welcomed the European Commission's commitment to improve the effectiveness of EU aid, as a crucial contribution to achieving the EU's development objectives. We recognise that the consequent reforms in the management of the European Union's external assistance have contributed greatly to realising the Commission's objectives. However, the final assessment on the impact of these reforms will only be made when they are complete. Their credibility will substantially depend on whether the place and the space for development policy and its implementation are adequately reflected in the final outcome.

Europe's positive image in the world has been built on the success of the policies and practices managed by the European Commission in Development Co-operation, as well for Humanitarian Aid, Trade and Enlargement. This has been achieved most successfully when these policy areas have been pursued on the basis of their own policy objectives. It is important that this remains the practice in the future organisation of external departments

within the Commission, without confusion between policy areas managed on a community base and those managed on an intergovernmental base. Any weakening of a community policy, in the new Commission structure, would undermine the clarity in the functioning of external policies Commission departments.

The different components of Europe's external policies within the Commission should all be pursued in their own objectives. Development Co-operation must be centred on the final outcomes of the Commission reform process needs to reflect citizens call for a Europe that has a stabilising role world-wide. This is why we urge you to press the European Commission to ensure that its future structure includes:

- **A Commissioner for "Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Aid"**

As major EU external policies clearly identified in the Draft Constitutional Treaty, Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Aid must be represented by a Commissioner. The title given to this Commissioner has to reflect citizens' expectations and the provisions of the Constitutional Treaty that both identify Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Aid as two crucial, separately defined policies.

- **A mandate and portfolio for the Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Aid Commissioner matching a strong development dimension**

Responsibilities of the Development Commissioner must allow her/him to represent development and humanitarian interests in front of the Council, the Parliament as well as multilateral institutions. It should also allow her/him to co-operate with EU delegations on development aspects and to promote the coherence of EU policies with development objectives when they are likely to impact on developing countries.

- **Reunification of the project Cycle under the Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Assistance**

There is a need for an administrative structure allowing the Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Assistance to oversee the entire project cycle including: i) development policy; ii) programming (CSPs and NIPs) to developing countries and iii) implementation.

We would be happy to discuss further the details of this letter as well as general points on the organisation of external policies departments within the Commission.

Yours sincerely,



Lars Udsholt
Secretary General

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Udenrigsudvalget, Folketinget, Christiansborg, København K
Commissioner for Foreign Relations, Christopher Patten
Commissioner for Development & Humanitarian Aid, Poul Nielson
Commissioner for Trade, Pascal Lamy
Commissioner for Enlargement, Günter Verheugen