



**COUNCIL OF
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INFORMATION NOTE

from : Council Secretariat
dated : 18 March 2002

to: delegations

Subject : Statements concerning the Council conclusions on the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development

Delegations will find attached statements by the Netherlands, Sweden and Belgium concerning the conclusions on the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development discussed at the General Affairs Council meeting on 11 March 2002 and approved by the tacit procedure on the basis of 7176/02 + COR 1.

Statement by the Netherlands and Sweden

During the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000 all heads of state and government committed themselves to the Millennium Development Goals. In a globalising world, the need to put these proposals into practice with all the resources available is growing increasingly urgent. This requires a substantial increase in the ODA budget. The Financing for Development Conference to be held in Monterrey (Mexico) from 18 to 22 March 2002 must therefore be conducive to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

In this respect we welcome the Council conclusions on the preparation of the International Conference on Financing for Development, which contribute to taking the full development agenda and its financing a step further.

We emphatically underline the urgency of taking further steps in Monterrey. This should include agreeing upon a final date, preferably 2010 but in any case well in advance of 2015, by which the 0,7% target should have been achieved. This should also include a uniform interim date on which countries will have halved the gap between their current ODA expenditures and the 0,7% target.

Moreover, in order to assess the progress made, as well as to continuously highlight the EU's commitment to the 0.7% goal, we strongly welcome a follow up. Starting at the WSSD conference in Johannesburg, each Member State's respective efforts and results in increasing ODA should be monitored and evaluated on a yearly basis.

Statement by Belgium

The Belgian Government approves the conclusions of the General Affairs Council concerning the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey. However, in its view, all Member States should achieve the 0,7% goal by 2010 at the latest, and the intermediate goal of 0,39% in 2006.

Belgium will in any event adhere to this timetable.