



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 14 November 2011**

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**DEVGEN 307  
RELEX 1176  
ACP 218  
COHAFA 104  
WTO 402  
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**NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat
Dated:	14 November 2011
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Subject:	Council Conclusions on The Annual Report 2011 on the European Union's Development and External Assistance Policies and their implementation in 2010

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At its meeting on 14 November 2011, the Council adopted the Conclusions set out in the Annex to this note.

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**COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS**

**on**

**The Annual Report 2011 on the European Union's  
Development and External Assistance Policies and their Implementation in 2010**

1. The Council welcomes the Annual Report 2011 on the European Union's Development and External Assistance Policies and their implementation in 2010<sup>1</sup> as well as the Commission's efforts to continuously improve the quality and user-friendliness of the report.
2. The EU has reported annually on its development and external assistance policies and their implementation during the last 10 years. The annual report has become an important tool of the Union's efforts to strengthen accountability, transparency and result-orientation. The Council commends the Commission for its work and stresses the importance of demonstrating increasing efficiency and effectiveness while maintaining the emphasis on policy and implementation trends.
3. The Council recalls its Conclusions on the 2010 Annual Report<sup>2</sup> and notes the efforts made to respond to the recommendations, in particular the increasing focus on results and aid effectiveness as well as the attempts to measure results and evaluate impact. The Council invites the Commission to reinforce these efforts including the ongoing work to increase transparency, improve communication and to make better use of monitoring, evaluation and best practices to strengthen policy formulation and target delivery of assistance.

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. 12600/2011 COM(2011) 414 final/SEC(2011) 880 final.

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 14908/10.

4. The Council particularly welcomes the specific attention given to the EU's increasing support to tackle the most-off track Millennium Development Goals (MDG) as well as the difficult political and economic situations across the world. The negative impact on employment, primarily for young people and the growing inequality within and between countries require specific attention. In this regard, the Council invites the Commission to illustrate how it differentiates its response strategies and aid modalities to implement efficient and effective assistance together with EU Member States and other partners in various partner countries and regions, taking Policy Coherence for Development considerations into account. In particular, the reporting on timely interventions in situations of fragility and post-crisis, including the EU's collaboration with third parties such as emerging powers and multilateral institutions, is welcomed.
  
5. The Council appreciates the efforts made to strengthen reporting on how the EU translates its commitments on aid, aid effectiveness, MDG achievements and policy coherence for development into specific actions aimed at reducing poverty and catalysing inclusive growth. In this context, the Council welcomes further efforts to highlight how aid is used to leverage additional financing for development and how blending of grants and loans is used to catalyse inclusive growth and sustainable development. Similarly, additional attention could be given to how the ongoing simplification of tendering and grant procedures improves the EU's cooperation with civil society, local authorities and the private sector.

6. 2011 is a year of both renewal and consolidation for the EU development policy, the reorganisation of the EU institutions and the wider aid architecture. In this regard, the Council invites the Commission to cover the following in its 2012 report:
- a. The EU's projection of its fundamental values and the promotion of political, economic and social reforms including strengthening of democratic governance, human rights and gender equality.
  - b. The increasing impact of the EU development policy, including progress made on better coordination, and the ongoing efforts of the Commission services to further differentiate its responses in partner countries. This should include contextualization of the EU's aid modalities including budget support and more rigorous political, economic and financial analysis and risk management assessments.
  - c. The results of the EU's efforts to promote green economy through smart, inclusive growth including best practices regarding policy coherence for development with a particular emphasis on environment, biodiversity and climate change.
  - d. Illustrations and examples of how the reorganization of the Commission services and the establishment of the European External Action Service contribute to a more coherent and effective delivery of EU development and external assistance policies.
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