



EU-puheenjohtajuus
EU Presidency Project 06
Call for Coherence



Policy Coherence for Development

NGOs' Challenge for the Finnish
Government and the European
Union for the EU Presidency 2006

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I. POLICY COHERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

Decisions in one policy area are not made in a vacuum; they are bound to have an influence on other policy sectors as well. Policy coherence simply means that these impacts are taken into consideration in the different stages of the decision-making.

Policy coherence for development is realised when actions in other policy sectors support, or at least do not contradict the efforts made towards sustainable development and poverty



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eradication. It is not just a question of justice but also of efficiency and common sense. Development aid alone is not enough if, at the same time, contradictory policies weaken the position of developing countries.

The “Call for Coherence” programme of NGOs working in development cooperation aims to raise public debate during the Finnish EU presidency on policy coherence by examining how different policy sectors need to be harmonised with the objectives of development policy, what kind of solutions exist to improve coherence and how they and their implementation can be made more effective in the future. The joint programme is coordinated in Finland by the Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU, KEHYS.

HOW CAN COHERENCE BE ENSURED?

Coherence needs to be promoted between development policy, external relations and other policy areas. Incoherence can also be seen as a wider problem: as a gap between reality and imposed objectives.

First, it is important to identify the mechanisms that connect different policies with poverty in developing countries. We need research to show to what extent decisions in different policy sectors in rich countries affect the position of developing countries in practice. It is important to spread information, point out incoherencies and raise discussion on them. More effective follow-up and evaluation mechanisms should also be created.

This publication concentrates on policy coherence from five different points of view. It clarifies the importance of policy coherence by pointing out different connections between the EU's trade, environment, migration, HIV/AIDS and security policies and development policy. Under each theme, the authors have put together the NGOs' proposals for promoting coherence. The responsibility of decision-makers is to implement more coherent policies

in order to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals.

THE EU HAS COMMITTED TO POLICY COHERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

For the first time, policy coherence for development is mentioned as a principle in the Maastricht Treaty (1992) a.k.a. the Treaty on the European Union. According to the Treaty, all EU policies have to be coherent and conform with the objectives of development policy. The Treaty contains an EU development policy framework that complies with the current legislation.

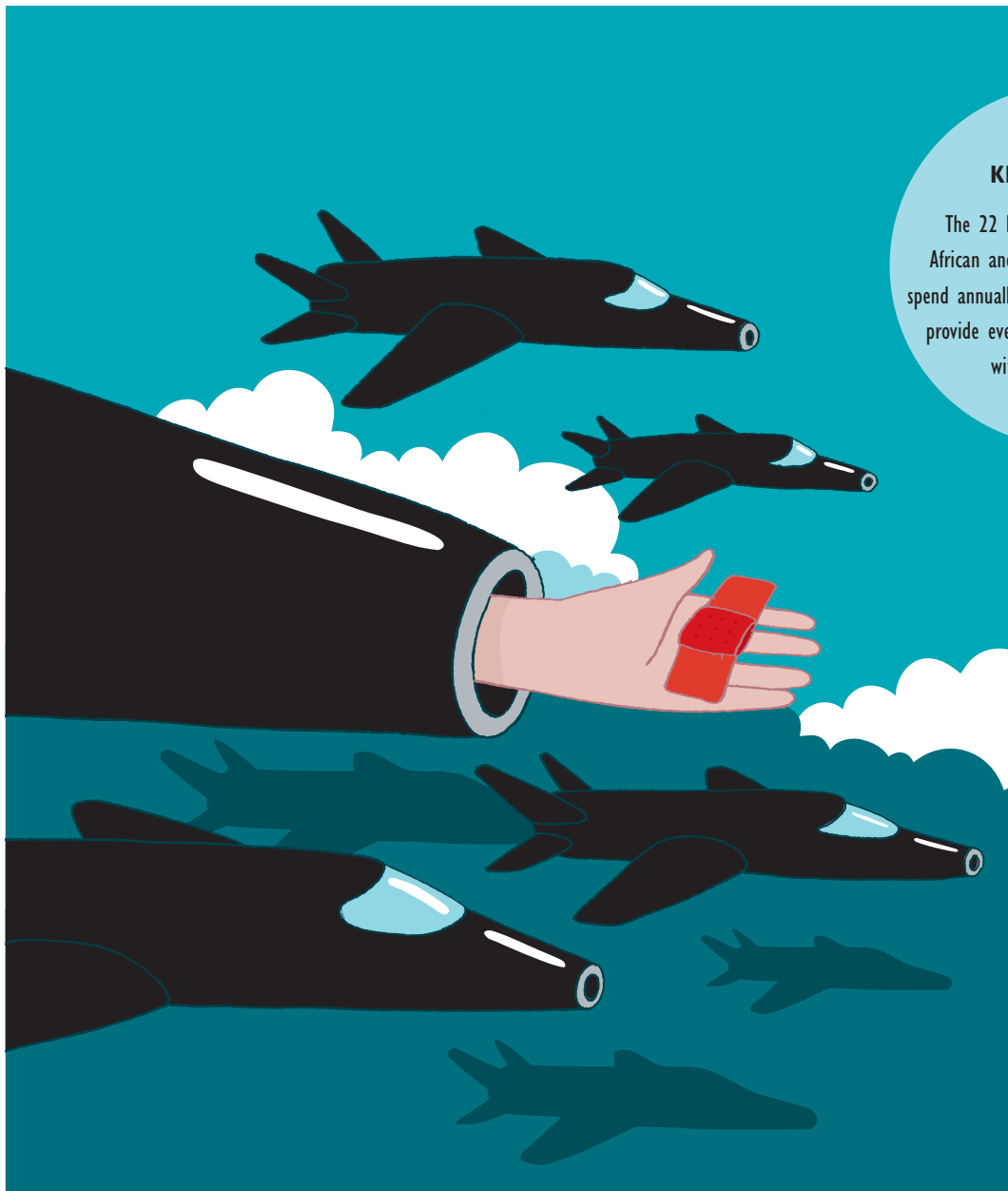
According to the “European Consensus on Development” (2005), the EU has to take into account, if possible, the objectives of development policy in implementing all policies which are likely to affect developing countries. The European Consensus on Development is not a part of the EU legislation but it is a high-level policy line that defines the development policy strategy of the European Union. Above all, it puts the Commission under an obligation to achieve the policy objectives put in place.

In the Council Conclusions adopted in May 2005, the commitment to achieve the objectives presented in the Commission Communication “Policy Coherence for Development” is affirmed. According to the Communication, the EU must monitor and promote policy coherence for development in 12 priority fields including four of the themes of our campaign: trade, environment, security and migration.

The EU's commitment to policy coherence has recently grown stronger but implementation, follow-up and evaluation should be improved. The European Union is the world's largest donor of official development aid. It is a powerful global actor that has the opportunity to act effectively against poverty and inequality. The EU has shown interest in improving policy coherence for development. As a next step, these objectives have to be transformed into reality.

OUR DEMANDS:

- The European Union must reach the collective target of 0.7% of the GNI allocated to Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2015. All the Member States that have not yet succeeded in doing this must set a clear schedule for achieving the long-promised 0.7% target.
- There is a clear need for an independent development cooperation policy geared towards poverty eradication. The values, objectives and political space for development policy must not become subordinate to foreign, security or commercial policy agendas.
- Development policy objectives must be integrated into the internal and external policies of the European Union, so that these policies support and do not undermine sustainable development and poverty eradication. Ex ante mechanisms, programming tools, coordination and other institutional mechanisms to address coherence issues must be improved.
- The role and expertise of European civil society organizations and NGOs in research and monitoring policy coherence and its implementation should be recognised.
- The EU must contribute to the ability of developing countries to implement the international agreements they are committed to, such as the poverty reduction strategy papers.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

The 22 billion dollars that Asian, African and Latin American countries spend annually on military expenses could provide every child of these countries with basic education.

GROWING MILITARY EXPENSES DO NOT SOLVE PROBLEMS

At the moment, some 20 protracted wars or armed conflicts are under way. Most of these wars are civil wars in developing countries. In these countries, organised crime, drug trafficking and arms trade also rule the lives of societies. Studies show that a country with a GDP per capita of US\$ 250 has a 15% probability of becoming a warzone. Whereas in a country with a GDP per capita of US\$ 5000 the probability is less than 1%. The problems evoked by the conflict cycle mainly harm the poor civilians of developing countries, especially women and children.

Along with the war on terrorism, the world's military expenses have risen almost to the level of the Cold War's top years. In 2004, a record-breaking 1000 billion dollars were spent on military expenses. However, the experiences from past conflicts show that new threats cannot be prevented with arms. In acting against terrorism, development policy and the promotion of human rights and a constitutional state are of primary importance. The European Union has to take into consideration that the additional clauses on actions against terrorism, which have been added in partnership agreements with Third World countries, are always subordinate to the actual development cooperation actions.

THE EU'S EXISTING RULES DO NOT PREVENT THE ARMS TRADE TO CONFLICT AREAS

Small arms kill half a million people every year. Asian, African and Latin American countries spend 22 billion US dollars on

2. SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

PREVENTION OF CONFLICTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN SECURITY

“Security is a prerequisite for development,” as it is stated in the European Security Strategy (2003). Regional conflicts, the proliferation of small arms, organised crime and terrorism all pose a threat to governments’ and in particular individual’s security and sustainable development. At the same time, they are obstacles to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals. In order for the EU to effectively prevent threats, which affect European security as well, it should act towards solving the root causes of these threats, including poverty, bad governance and inequality.

This means promoting human security which can be done with the help of development policy and civilian crisis management as well as by taking into account the development policy perspective in European security and defence policies. Human security means individual’s freedom from basic insecurity and violations of human rights. Short-sighted pursuit of one’s own interests does not promote sustainable security. Human security is a key issue in today’s politics.



military expenses. The EU is the third largest exporter of arms. In the years 1994-2001, the EU exported small arms worth 10 billion dollars to developing countries. So far, the arms trade falls within national competence but the EU has established a common code of conduct for the arms trade. However, these rules are mere recommendations and have not succeeded in preventing the arms trade to conflict areas and to countries violating human rights.

The "Guns or Growth" report (2004) produced by leading human rights and development organisations shows that most governments do not consult the Ministry in charge of development cooperation when permitting arms trade even if, in many cases, the arms are to be exported to the same country that the government allocates development aid to. Small arms trade to regions in developing countries, especially those that are susceptible to conflicts, uses up resources that should be allocated to development, education and health care.

The European Union is politically committed to conflict prevention in its Security Strategy. Restricting the arms trade to conflict areas, developing countries and countries violating human rights and weak states would represent concrete conflict prevention. In this respect, the positive stance which the EU took towards the basic principles of the global Arms Trade Treaty in autumn of 2005 is important.

The European Security Strategy creates an image of a global actor that promotes peace and security and tries to prevent armed conflicts by means of policy. In practice, a part of the EU security and defence policy actions do not promote sustainable development or human security. The EU must put in place comprehensive development programmes that take into account all policy sectors in the prevention of conflicts. In addition, the cooperation between EU institutions should be strengthened so that short-term crisis management, which is implemented under European security and defence policies and falls within the competence of the Member States, can be smoothly followed by a long-term reconstruction for which the Commission is mainly in charge.

OUR DEMANDS:

- The EU must coherently promote the legally binding treaty initiative controlling the arms trade, "Arms Trade Treaty". Compliance with the EU code of conduct for arms exportation has to be strengthened in all Member States and different policy fields must be coordinated more effectively.
- In order for development policy to effectively be taken into account in European security and defence policies, comprehensive actions need to be taken, especially in improving the cooperation between the EU institutions.
- The EU must develop mechanisms, such as an Early Warning System, in order to connect conflict prevention with crisis management more effectively.
- The EU has to increase cooperation with NGOs and exploit their know-how in order to improve its actions in conflict prevention and civilian crisis management.
- The EU must ensure that the coherence of development and security policy is applied in the implementation phase of the strategy against terrorism, which is in preparation. Terrorism can only be prevented by concentrating on its root causes, such as poverty and inequality. The mere increasing of surveillance is not adequate.

SECURITY AND

HIV/AIDS

Conflicts increase the risk of the transmission of the AIDS virus because the post-conflict reconstruction brings soldiers and outside aid organisations to the area. The end of conflicts often leads to increased mobility and birth rates. The EU should integrate HIV/AIDS prevention work in its reconstruction programmes. For example, the post-Tsunami and conflict situation in Aceh, Indonesia, involves most of the risk factors linked to the spreading of HIV.

ENVIRONMENT

Landmines, grenades, rockets and cluster bombs kill and disable civilians long after a war has ended. In many developing countries, the exploding remains of the war prevent refugees from returning and cause enormous medical and mine clearance expenses. In addition to landmines, the EU must promote the prohibition of the types of weapons and missiles that contradict humanitarian law, such as depleted uranium and cluster bombs, and ensure a rapid and effective clearance of war scraps.

MIGRATION

There is a clear connection between armed conflicts and refugees. Preventing the flood of refugees calls for the allocation of sufficient resources for conflict prevention and civilian crisis management. The EU has to be responsible for post-conflict reconstruction in ways that promote democracy and a constitutional state so that refugees would have the possibility to return home within a reasonable time.

TRADE

The demolition of the unequal structures of world trade plays an important role in promoting human security. The EU must particularly refrain from arms trade to undemocratic developing countries that spend a significant part of their budget on military expenses. Often, these countries are a breeding ground for terrorism. The European Union policy must give a clear message that short-term politico-commercial interests should not bypass human rights and development policy aspects.

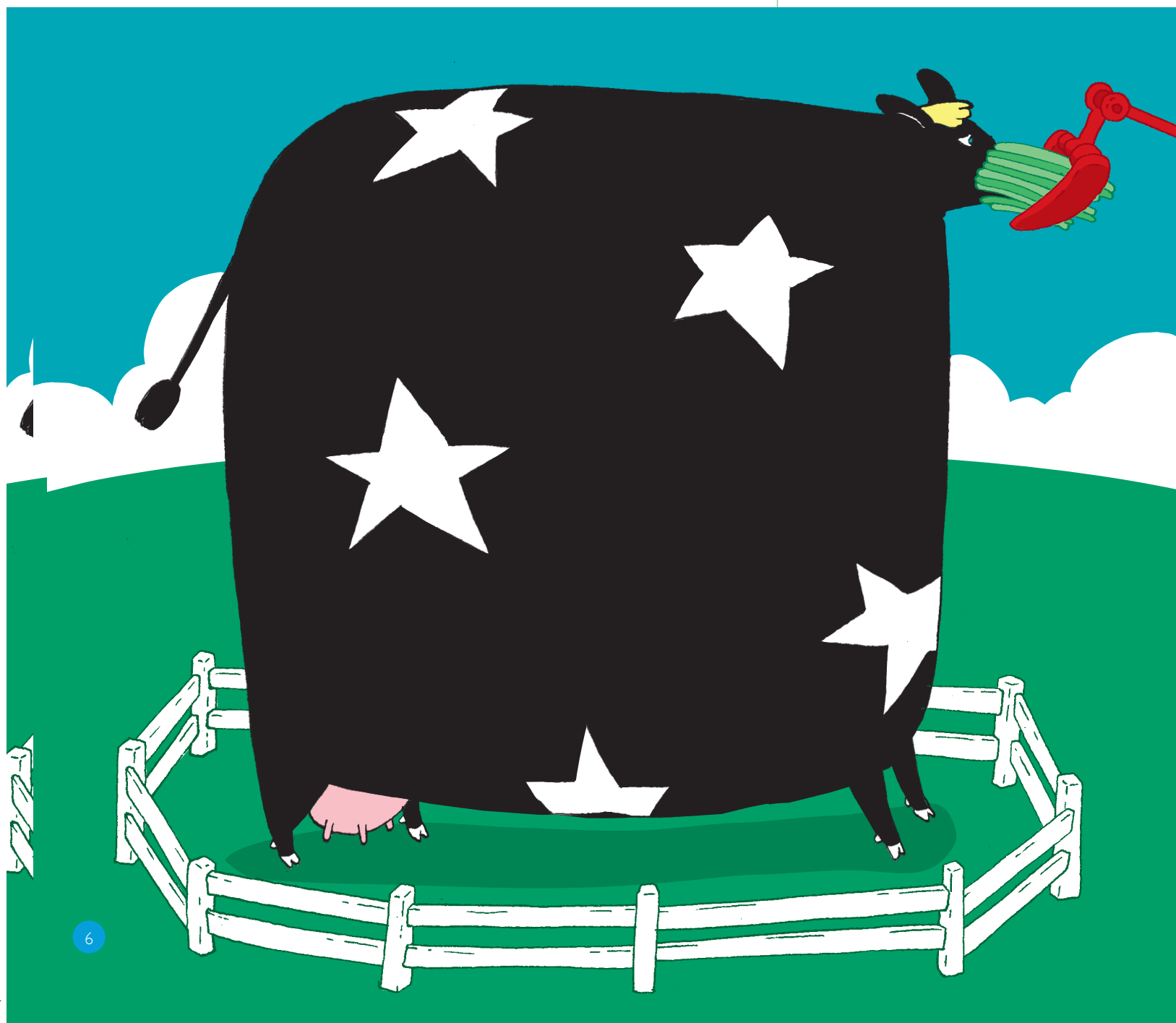
3. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

While the significance of trade policies gain importance in the regulation of the global economy, their impacts on impoverishment increase. Let us think about import duties, domestic farming subsidies, mobility of labour, basic services or the cutting down rainforests – all issues related to commercial exchange are linked with development policies. As a matter of fact, development issues crosscut subjects of negotiation so extensively that all trade policies, except bilateral agreements of industrial countries, are development policies – bad or good ones. In trade policies, it is essential to be able to see the whole picture from the point of view of poor countries because a decision in one negotiation field often affects other economic sectors too. Unlike other politics related to the external relations of the EU Member States, trade policies are implemented centrally through the European Commission. Transparency of trade policies has been exceptionally unsatisfactory because the Commission has tried to exclude the Member States from the core aspects. The Member States should have a greater role in

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) has increased the power of global hypermarket chains and they increasingly define the operational environment of the local producers in developing countries. In Kenya, the proportion of small farmers in garden products decreased from 70 % to 18 % at the end of the 90s. The proportion of large farmers and export companies involved in the total production is now over 80 %.

overseeing the implementation of trade policies within the EU. However, Member States' own officials have protective attitudes towards their own sphere of responsibility. They do not see its significance from the point of view of eradicating impoverishment or that it should become open for direct civil discussion.



MARKET STRUCTURES ARE POSING PROBLEMS FOR POOR COUNTRIES' ECONOMIES AND POOR PEASANTS

Trade liberalisation has, at its best, only a marginal effect on the lack of capital from which the poorest countries suffer. A focus on increasing trade too early on is not effective in these countries. The chronic shortage of resources in these countries needs to be addressed through internal economic growth or foreign financing before they can benefit from trade. In addition, the effects of market structures on income distribution should be taken into consideration: If the local elite use their financial income on purchasing foreign luxury products, only a fraction of the production value benefits the local market. The outcome would be different if these incomes were invested in local products.

International economy and trade policies affect rural poverty through limiting the countries' possibility to plan and realise their own agricultural policy and, in general, control their rural development according to their own needs. Both the credit granting criteria of financial institutions and development and trade agreements reduce the opportunities for governments to function in sectors that are relevant to agriculture. Protecting the domestic market from imports and providing farmers with farming subsidies, funding and other services become difficult. This kind of reduction of political freedom of action also diminishes the possibilities of democratic processes that enable different groups of people to express their opinions and influence policy lines and contents.

The poor rural population also suffers directly from trade structures that cause the prices of products to be unreasonably low and to vary unexpectedly. The low prices of agricultural products and basic commodities result partially from an oversupply and partially from the concentration of the world market's products into the hands of few enterprises. The dissolution of international agreements controlling the market of basic commodities further accelerated

the decrease of prices at the end of the 1980s.

The causes of oversupply originate from both the colonial legacy and the current models of international economies. As a result, developing countries have concentrated on industries that they hoped would enable them to make fast profits and to pay their foreign debts. Industrial countries' protective duties and subsidies for their own agriculture and industries have prevented developing countries from diversifying their production and increasing the degree of processing of their products.

The structure of the world market for agricultural products could be characterised as oligopolistic: a few large enterprises dominate most of the product markets. In addition, the same enterprises usually rule the whole chain from the trade of seeds and fertilizers to the processing of products and even to the retail sale. These enterprises can influence the prices of products so that they benefit the most. In a developing country's own market, especially, dumping or imports supported by industrial countries (and by other developing countries) also lowers the prices. The problem is that due to the World Trade Organization's (WTO) agreements, countries cannot sufficiently protect their own market from imports even if it harms their own poor producers.

OUR DEMANDS:

- Developing countries have to be guaranteed adequate political freedom of action in trade questions and especially in agricultural policy.
- Both the WTO and the EU have to advocate more transparent and democratic decision-making.
- Trade has to become a means for poverty eradication instead of the aim itself for developing countries.

TRADE AND

MIGRATION

Trade agreements influence the movement of people in two ways. Deficient and locally impoverishing market structures lead to illegal and legal immigration. On the other hand, the service trade sector defines which professions can move with enterprises. For now, this is easier for the management of large companies and male-dominated fields. If the professions dominated by women, such as teachers and nurses, were more mobile, more salary remittances would be sent to developing countries, which is an important source of income, but then again brain drain to industrial countries would increase.

SECURITY

Impoverishing market structures prepare the ground for security risks, such as extreme ideological movements and global epidemics. If rich governments pursue egoistic policies that restrict the freedom of action of the WTO's member states, poor countries and the most excluded part of the population become alienated.

ENVIRONMENT

Trade agreements regulate fishing rights, the cutting down of forests, the transport industry and the quarrying of minerals. There are not many commercial activities affecting environment that are not related to trade negotiations. Nevertheless, the WTO agreements are in no way connected with existing multilateral and bilateral environmental agreements.

HIV/AIDS

The WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights protects the patents of multinational drug companies and restricts developing countries' opportunities to acquire second-generation AIDS drugs as effectively and inexpensively as possible. These countries have to resort to a slow and complicated process to acquire these drugs instead of being able to buy them directly from a suitable developing country producing them.



4. ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE – A THREAT TO POVERTY ERADICATION

If emissions are not substantially reduced in a hundred years time, millions of people will be endangered by floods, tens of millions by famine, hundreds of millions by malaria and almost three billion by water shortages, all caused by climate change. Climate change threatens to undo the work done for humane development and render people more unequal.

We need an effective climate policy in order to attain the goals of global justice. Climate change causes the most suffering for the world's poor who are innocent of this problem which is mainly inflicted by industrial countries. There is a risk that climate change will become an obstacle to the efforts to fight poverty. Climate change and the relevant political processes are all connected with the UN Millennium Development Goals.

The European Union has essentially advanced international climate policy from the beginning. The goal-oriented negotiations of the EU have, among others, enabled developing countries to participate in the Kyoto Protocol. In March 2005, the European Council confirmed that the primary aim of the EU's climate and energy

policy is to restrict global warming to less than two degrees Celsius compared with the pre-industrial period. This goal can only be achieved if the EU and other industrialised countries reduce their emissions by at least 30 % by 2020 and 80 % by 2050.

REDUCTION OF VULNERABILITY AS A DIRECTION FOR DEVELOPMENT

The acute question is which kind of development are we aiming for. How to promote development without promoting climate change? If we aspire to economic growth, as it is defined today, in the name of development, is it even possible to prevent climate change?

Simultaneously solving the problems related to climate change and poverty at global level can lead to an increase in well-being and improvements in the condition of the environment. What is essential in adapting to climate change is the practice at local level, which would increase people's opportunities, especially women's, to take part in collective decision-making. Improving access to food and water, the fair partition of land ownership and other resources and the rationalisation of water consumption help to secure the basic needs. In addition, the diversification of livelihood structures whereby the livelihood of the whole population does not depend on one single source of income reduces the vulnerability of communities.

SOUTH AFRICA AND MOZAMBIQUE ARE LEARNING TO LIVE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

The observation data of the African climate from the past 30-40 years shows that climate change has already started in Africa. If this development continues unchanged, it is predicted that Sub-Saharan Africa will be 0.5-2 degrees Celsius warmer and drier than today. It will rain 10 percent less than nowadays inland and greater evaporation will



DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

According to the World Health Organization WHO, 150,000 people already die annually because of climate change. A Finn produces more emissions into the atmosphere each year than 140 Tanzanians put together.

worsen the water shortage. Extreme weather, such as droughts and floods, will become more common and seasonal variation will change.

Climate change already affects people's everyday lives. For example, in Sahel, in the Horn of Africa and in Southern Africa, people are forced to live with the consequences of climate change. Access to food in these regions can be very difficult and humanitarian crises might degenerate.

The Project "Adaptive" by the University of Sheffield aims to explain how people cope with changes in their environment. Researchers have studied people's lives in South Africa and its neighbouring country Mozambique. In Lehurutshe, South Africa, people have noticed that cyclic drought periods have become more common. Similarly, in South-African Dzanani, farmers suffer more from general dry weather and more pervasive droughts. In the district of Uthukela, South Africa, the peasants have experienced increasing intensity and variability in rainfall and seasonality; and in Manjacaze, Mozambique, extreme weather patterns with floods and droughts have a severe impact on people's lives.

Source: Simms, Andrew; Reid, Hannah & Magrath, John (edit.) 2004. "Up in Smoke?" London: New Economics Foundation, nef.

OUR DEMANDS:

- Development projects should prepare for present and future environmental risks. Preparation for climate change is more cost-effective than repairing the damage. A climate change aspect has to be integrated into the planning of land use, preparedness for catastrophes, infrastructure plans and environmental impact assessment.
- Climate projects should set similar criteria as those for development aid. For example, the reduction of emission projects, subordinate to the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol, should truly support sustainable development. Industrial countries can acquire emission rights through these projects. However, the common problem of the mechanism is the fact that industrial countries' interest to gain inexpensive emission rights is emphasized in the projects, not in the promotion of poverty reduction and sustainable development and the prevention of climate change.
- Development cooperation funding from different institutions, such as the European Investment Bank, should be directed to supporting renewable energy sources and energy saving instead of fossil fuel projects.
- A new innovation system, based on cooperation and distribution, should be developed between developing and industrialised countries that are interested in climate protection in order to elaborate and diffuse climate friendly technology.
- The EU must assist developing countries in joining the climate agreement by, for example, funding actions for the reduction of emissions.

ENVIRONMENT AND

SECURITY

Climate change forces us to adopt a new security perspective. Instead of the protection against violence, the essential issues are access to food and water, preservation of the environment, preparing for catastrophes and recovering from environmental catastrophes. For example, the Himalayan glaciers are suspected to melt to one fifth by 2035. This would have a disastrous effect on access to water for over a billion people.

TRADE

Free development is a prerequisite for coherence. Supporting local economy improves communities' possibilities of survival. The WTO rules have to be changed to advance the prevention of climate change so that the legislation set to promote renewable energy sources is not interpreted as a barrier to trade in GATS and NAMA negotiations. WTO agreements should be subordinate to environment and human rights agreements. Environmental issues have to be integrated in trade and competition policies.

IMMIGRATION

In the middle of the 1990s, there were some 25 million environmental refugees, whereas the number of "traditional" refugees was 22 million. It is estimated that by 2050, the number of environmental refugees will grow to more than 150 million. The largest streams of refugees are directed towards poor developing countries, which are the least responsible regarding climate change. According to estimations, in Bangladesh, which is one of the poorest countries in the world, there will be some 20 million environmental refugees who will be forced to leave their homes because of climate change.

HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS uses up resources and necessities for the development of communities. When resources are spent on surviving everyday life and acute problems, local communities do not have the strength to come up with ideas to prevent climate change and prepare for it.

5. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

MIGRATION AS A PART OF DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Migration policy issues have to be examined as a part of development policy. The importance of the link between migration and development policy is also emphasized in several political comments of the European Union (Hague Programme, Strategy for Africa).

Effective development policies and development cooperation have a strong impact on problems causing migration. They reduce poverty, improve people's living conditions and the environment, as well as advancing health, equality, work and education possibilities. They also help prevent migration-related phenomena, such as human trafficking and human smuggling.

However, migration-related problems have been emphasized in European discussions on migration policy. The EU should renounce the approach that concentrates on the threats and offer people legal migration channels. At the same time, it should ensure that the people who need protection are treated in a way stated in the international law.

Currently, the most visible migration-related topic concerns African migrants and their smuggling and treatment. The debate reveals how the reconciliation of development and migration policy fails, for example, in the Mediterranean where human smuggling is a growing problem.

THE CLASH OF AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN MIGRATION POLICIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

War, poverty and disease are the main reasons for African migration. In many African countries, the income differences increase, the life expectancy falls and people become excluded. There are almost four million refugees in Africa and many more have been forced to move because of the conditions, including natural disasters. Merely in Sudan, violence has driven six million people away from their homes. However, it is almost impossible for the people escaping from misery and violence to get into Europe. African and European migration policies contradict each other in the Mediterranean where hundreds of victims of smuggling and human trade are drowned every month.

In Melilla, Spain, walls are built in order to prevent human smuggling. At the turn of the year, a third high barbed wire fence was built beside the two old ones. In the news, we can see pictures of the property, bags and shreds of clothing tangled in the fences of people who were caught. The Moroccan police intensified frontier supervision upon the request of European countries and shot at Africans trying to cross the fence, returning some of them to their home countries and ditching others in the Sahara desert. Migration caused by poverty cannot be restrained by reinforcing the frontier supervision or other controls. One must focus on the root causes of migration in the country of origin.

The illegal immigrants who reach Europe often face a cruel reality. They soon discover that they do not have a bright future ahead of them but a life as an illegal immigrant, which usually ends with repatriation.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

In 2005, the number of applications for asylum dropped 16 percent from the previous year in the European Union (UNCHR). The claims about the asylum problem in industrialised countries do not mirror the real situation because most of the world's refugees are still in developing countries.

OUR DEMANDS:

- Development provides the possibility of staying in the home country and decreasing the illegal migration and crime related to it. The European Union must contribute to the economic and social development of the countries of origin.
- The EU must implement coherent and comprehensive development and immigration policies by sharing the responsibility of solving problems related to forced migration, including refugeeism, as well as human trafficking and smuggling. At the same time, the EU must offer legal means for migration into the European Union.
- The EU immigration policy must respect international human rights norms and ensure appropriate treatment of people who need protection. The EU should find a balance between border control and the fact that nobody should be returned to an area where he or she can become a victim of human rights violations.
- The EU must intensify their work in informing people about legal migration channels in the area of the European Union and the risks related to clandestine migration in the countries of origin. Those who put themselves into the hands of smugglers will not know what will happen during the journey, what the possibilities of getting to Europe will be or what life will really be like in the new country.

MIGRATION AND

ENVIRONMENT

As for environmental catastrophes, the connection between migration and environment is clear. However, less attention has been paid to migration caused by climate change. While environmental factors cause migration, large streams of refugees have an impact on the environment. Growing numbers of refugees from one developing country to another present problems related to, among others, infrastructure, energy consumption and water supply.

TRADE

In 2004, migrants sent over 130 billion euros to their countries of origin in Africa. This sum is over three times larger than the official development aid directed to Africa. These remittances to countries of origin have a positive effect on the macro-economy by increasing the purchasing power of households. That is why money transfers made by private individuals should be facilitated.

HIV/AIDS

Many refugees and illegal immigrants do not have the access to health care and social services. Diseases, including HIV/AIDS, are more common among them than among the original population and getting information, contraception and medical treatment is difficult or even impossible. Furthermore, girls and women often become victims of a rape during conflicts leading to unwanted pregnancies and diseases.

SECURITY

Actions against terrorism have influenced the ongoing debate on migration and immigration. In addition to terrorism, illegal immigration is considered to be a threat to security. The challenge is to increase security without endangering the rights of refugees and asylum seekers and the freedom of migrants, and without hindering work-related immigration. Therefore, it is necessary to reconcile security and immigration policies and human rights.

6. HIV/AIDS AND DEVELOPMENT

HIV/AIDS THREATENS WHOLE SOCIETIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

HIV/AIDS is one of the most serious threats to development. There are around 40 million HIV positive people in the world and the pandemic is not slowing down. Nearly 25 million people have already died of AIDS. Every day, almost 1800 children under the age of 15 catch HIV. It is estimated that the number of children who become orphans because of AIDS will rise to 25 million in the coming years. HIV is spreading in developing countries where poverty, sexual inequality and lack of education, information and contraceptives augment the probability of catching HIV. Young married women are especially at risk of becoming HIV positive. HIV/AIDS not only threatens whole societies in developing countries but also the EU and its neighbouring areas.

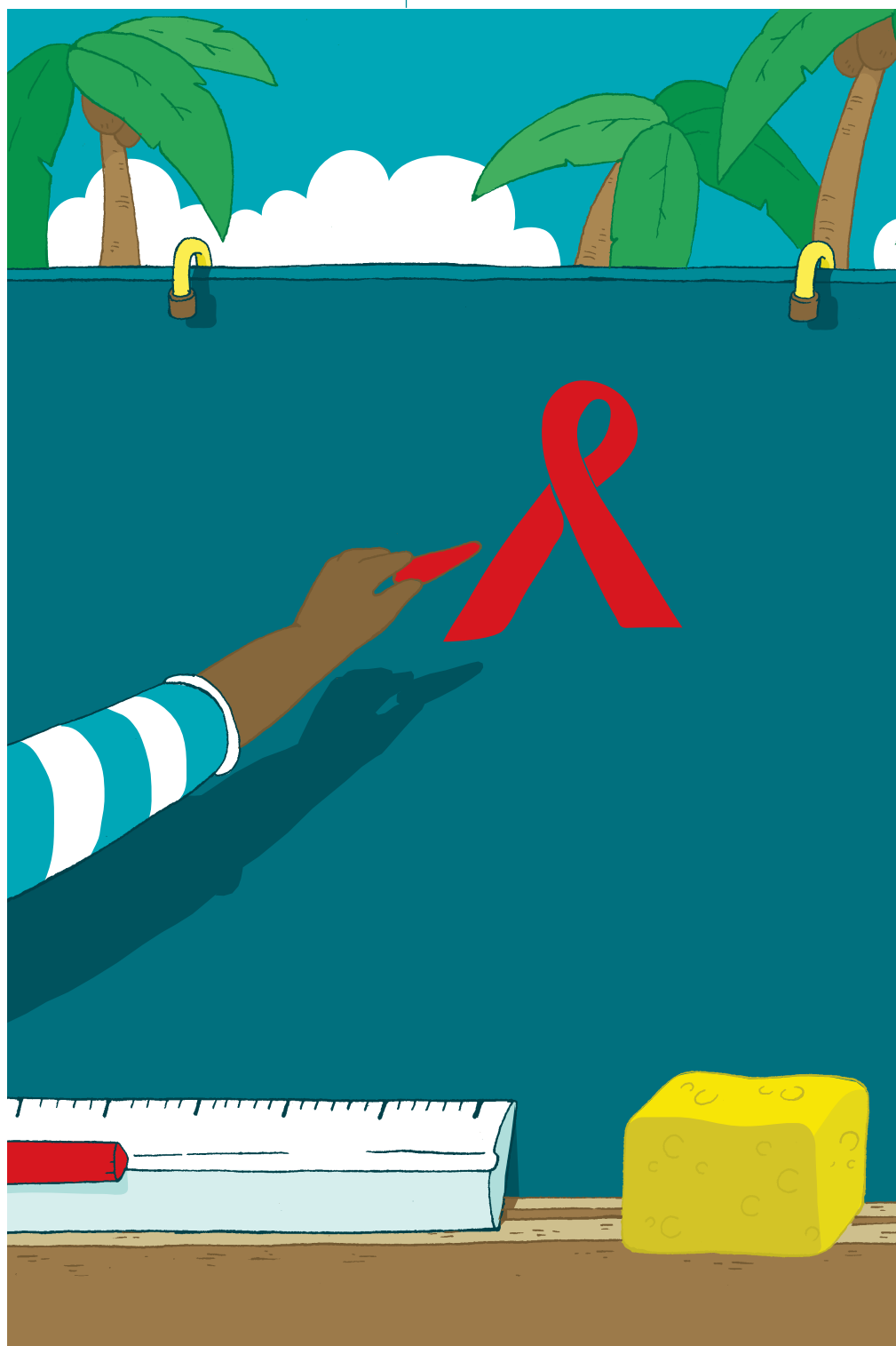
Since HIV/AIDS has a far-reaching impact on society, putting an end to the pandemic requires coherence within development policies and between different policy sectors. In the “European Consensus on Development” and the Finnish Development Policy Programme, HIV is treated as an extensive development issue. HIV/AIDS has to be effectively taken into account and its integration into other policy fields has to be ensured. The EU has both the political power and the financial resources to act as a forerunner in the fight against HIV/AIDS. It has to promote coherence in its action and take human rights as a starting point for its action.

AIDS IS SPREADING IN ASIA

In India, with a population of over a billion, HIV/AIDS is a part of everyday life. According to estimations, there were over 5 million HIV positive people in 2005 and the number is growing fast. People’s knowledge of AIDS is usually

based on rumours. That is why people who wish and dare to raise this issue are needed. Nato Balu Mugn and his daughter-in-law were brave enough to speak up about this problem.

The grandfather Nato describes his family’s situation: “A few months ago, my only son died of AIDS. When he fell ill, we did not know what to do. My son was tested for HIV in the hospital of a nearby town and the doctor told us to



go to Numbai to get drugs. We couldn't afford to do it".

The family hid the disease from neighbours. After the son's death, the matter came to light and people stopped visiting the house. Rumours were spreading in the village that burning the body would cause flies to spread the disease.

The grandfather talks about the future: "I want to take care of my son's children. Their mother is a great support to the children. As long as I shall live, I will defend my daughter-in-law and the children, even though the villagers advise me to send them away." The mother of the family is also HIV positive and the family wishes to get her medications. They have heard that regular diet and anti-inflammation drugs help HIV positive people.

The mother hopes to see her children study and get a profession. "I feel strong and try to stay healthy for the sake of my children. My life is hard because my mother-in-law blames me for my husband's death and has threatened to evict me from the house."

Five years later, the mother died of AIDS. The children have obtained information on their mother's life and thoughts from the book she had put together. In this book she had written down encouraging thoughts and experiences and had also included her will and the name of the guardian for her children. The book has helped the daughter Moheeni adjust to the loss of her parents.

Moheeni remembers how everything changed overnight when her father died. "While my father was still alive, everybody was quiet about AIDS. After he died, I felt bad because we could not visit our neighbours anymore. Everyone refused to sit next to me in school because they thought I had AIDS."

HIV/AIDS influences every aspect of society. When Moheeni's teacher became ill, school was interrupted. In Moheeni's family, the scarce money they

had was used on HIV drugs and the girls had to stop attending school.

Today, Moheeni is 18 years old, married to an older man and a mother of three children. Her family organised the marriage and Moheeni lives in her husband's shadow and has no say whatsoever in her life. The husband decides upon the use of contraception and information and contraceptives are not always even available. Like many

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

HIV is increasingly spreading among young people: currently about two thirds of new HIV infections in developing countries are among 15-24-year-old girls and women.

other Asian girls and women, Moheeni has given birth to her children at home without any professional help. So far, the births of her children have gone well. Moheeni is also financially dependent on her husband. She does not know how she would survive if he died or abandoned her. "What if my husband has HIV? What will happen to me and my children?", Moheeni sometimes thinks.

OUR DEMANDS:

- The European Union must treat HIV/AIDS as an overall theme in development cooperation and development policy.
- The EU must advocate the human rights aspect in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS.
- The EU must protect children and promote the rights of the children and youth touched by AIDS to be heard in the decision-making process.
- The prevention of HIV infections has to be integrated into sexual education and the availability of sexual health services has to be improved.

HIV/AIDS AND

TRADE

Unfair trade policies increase poverty in developing countries, which is directly connected with the spreading of HIV infections. The patents of multinational drug companies prevent developing countries from acquiring AIDS drugs.

MIGRATION

Crisis situations, armed conflicts and migration increase HIV infections. HIV is spreading among refugees and migrants because they usually do not have access to health care and family planning services.

SECURITY

In addition to individuals, HIV/AIDS is a threat to whole societies. It threatens human security: physical and structural violence towards women and children as well as unequal opportunities to education increase the risk of becoming infected by HIV. Social safety nets also degenerate because of the spreading of this virus.

ENVIRONMENT

Global warming deteriorates people's access to food and livelihood and deepens poverty, which in turn increases the risk of HIV/AIDS diminishes the working capacity of already poor societies and thus affects access to food.

7. EU PRESIDENCY 2006



EU-puheenjohtajuus
EU Presidency Project 06

Call for Coherence

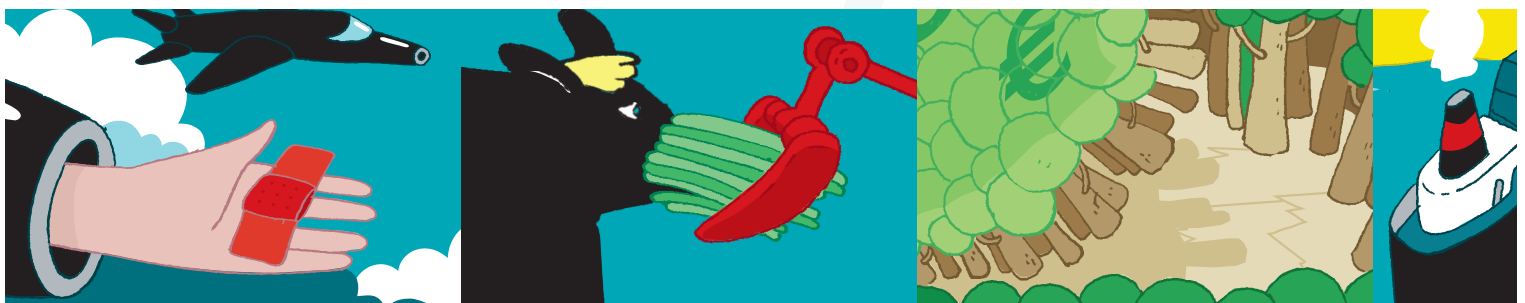
JOINT "CALL FOR COHERENCE" PROGRAMME OF NGOS

The Call for Coherence programme is coordinated by the Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU

KEHYS of which the EU presidency network includes a large number of Finnish NGOs interested in EU development policy.

KEHYS actively follows the official development policy agenda during the EU presidencies and focuses on advocacy in Finland and in other EU countries. KEHYS also serves Finnish and European organisations by coordinating events and providing information on current development policy issues. KEHYS acts as a national platform and represents the Finnish development organisations in CONCORD, the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development. CONCORD represents over 1600 NGDOs (Non-Governmental Development Organisations).

The main event of the EU presidency programme is the international conference on policy coherence, which will be held in Helsinki on 2-3 October. This conference will be carried out in cooperation with Finnish NGOs, KEHYS, CONCORD, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the European Commission and the Finnish Development Policy Committee. It will gather together a large group of experts from various fields who are interested in coherence issues. The goal of the international conference is to act as a discussion forum for finding solutions to improve the coherence of decision-making affecting development policies and also to develop appropriate follow-up mechanisms. The conference aims to explore the main themes of the manifesto, security, trade, environment, migration and HIV/AIDS, from a wider perspective.

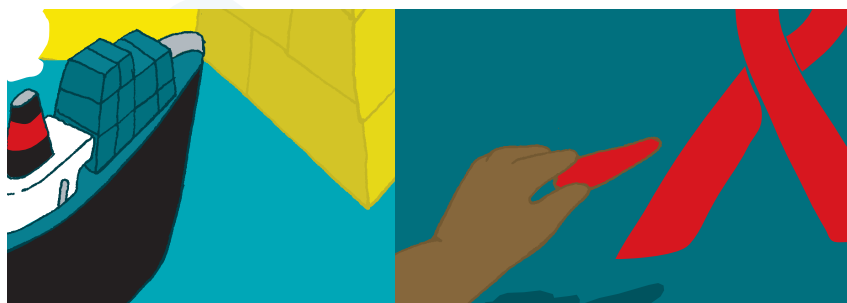




FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ACTIONS OF NGOS DURING THE EU PRESIDENCY:

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A WARM THANK YOU TO:

All our Children
Amnesty International
Artists for Peace in Finland
Association of Teachers of English in Finland
Central Union for Child Welfare in Finland
Citizens' Global Platform
Civil Society Conflict Prevention Network (KATU)
Committee of 100
Crisis Management Initiative (CMI)
Development Cooperation Committee of the Student Union of the University of Helsinki
DODO – Living Nature for the Future
Ecclesiastical Board of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
Educators for Peace
Emmaus Helsinki
Family Federation of Finland
Fida International
FinnChurchAid
Finnish AIDS Council
Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
Finnish Association of the Deaf
Finnish Caritas
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission
Finnish Fair Trade Association
Finnish League for Human Rights
Finnish Lutheran Overseas Mission
Finnish oneworld.net (Maailma.net)
Finnish Red Cross
Finnish Refugee Council
Finnish United Nations Association
Finnish-Nicaragua Association
FinnWID – Women in Development
Friends of the Earth Finland
Green Youth and Student League, ViNo
Helsinki Deaconess Institute
Immigrants Support in Finland
Institute of Development Studies of the University of Helsinki
International Solidarity Foundation
Left Youth of Finland
MONIKA- Multicultural Women's Association in Finland
National Union of Students in Finland
Operation a Day's Work Finland
Operation Mobilisation – Finland
Physicians for Social Responsibility – Finland
Plan Finland
Save the Children Finland
Service Centre for Development Cooperation (KEPA)
Sports Development Aid
Suomen Rauhanliitto – UN Association
Technical College's Researcher's Association
Terveystutkimuskeskus
The Refugee Advice Centre
Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland
UFF Finland
Unioni, The League of Finnish Feminists
Workers' Educational Association
World Federation of the Deaf
World Vision Finland
Youth Academy

An intergovernmental "International Organization for Migration, IOM" has also been involved in preparing the section Migration and Development.



KEHYS SERVES NGOS IN ISSUES RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION OF THE EU

KEHYS provides:

- Information on EU development policy and development cooperation
- Information on the opportunities for Finnish NGO's to receive EU funding
- Information, training and project consultancy

KEHYS promotes:

- Cooperation and networking between Finnish and European development cooperation and development education organisations
- Discussion on EU development policy issues in Finland and in the European Union

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NGOs' Call for Coherence programme coordinated by KEHYS wishes to raise discussion on development policy coherence during the Finnish EU presidency. How must different policy sectors be harmonised with development policy goals? What kind of solution models are there for improving coherence and how they and their implementation can be strengthened in future? This publication deals with policy coherence from the point of view of trade, security, environment, HIV/AIDS and migration issues.