

European Report on Development : opening speech by Andris Piebalgs

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On 9 April 2013, Andris Piebalgs, Member of the EC in charge of Development, welcomed the new European Report on Development (ERD) on how global action can best support the efforts of the poorest countries in achieving development. This video shows the opening speech given by the Commissioner.



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00:00:00	Soundbite by Andris Piebalgs, Member of the EC in charge of Development(in ENGLISH) saying that he is very happy to welcome all of the participants to launch of the European Report on Development. The presence here today shows that this year's report has hit the nail on the head by dealing with one of the "hottest" topics for the global community at the moment: the post-2015 development agenda. Saying that it also shows that, in only four years, the ERD has succeeded in demonstrating its credibility as a valuable contributor to the debate on development policy. Saying that before going further, he wants to thank the authors of the report: he has been sincerely impressed with the wealth and breadth of	00:17:34

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knowledge the report puts forward, and by the quality of the analysis it presents. He is confident it will give them the opportunity to discuss in depth how they can shape the development framework of tomorrow. And the issues involved here are weighty, to say the least. Saying that of course they are not starting from scratch. The development policies of today have done much to take the development cause forward. Likewise, the MDGs have been a global rallying call for fighting poverty. They proved that setting clear human development goals and targets can have enormous effect. Impressive progress has already been registered, and they hope to achieve even more by 2015. Yet millions of people worldwide will still be living below what should be considered a decent standard of living. In some countries and among some populations the situation is particularly difficult. Low-income fragile and conflict-afflicted states are badly off-track in meeting progress towards the MDGs. In short, they are left with unfinished business to attend to. In parallel, and linked to the discussion on post-2015, is the global debate on sustainable development. Saving that it is

saying that it is increasingly clear – and it is his personal conviction – that efforts to end poverty must go hand-in-hand with global and national action on sustainability. As last year's ERD report clearly showed, global problems like climate change, lack of energy access and scarcity of resources such as land and water threaten to destroy any gains made in fighting poverty, with the poorest countries hardest hit again. So a post-2015 framework must embody both poverty eradication and sustainable development. As the world's largest collective donor of development aid and a world leader in fighting climate change and promoting the low-carbon economy, the EU takes its responsibilities in taking up the twin challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development very seriously. That's what has prompted the European Commission to formulate a single, overarching vision for an EU position on the post-2015 framework which brings together the strands of poverty, sustainability, equity and security. The result? A comprehensive and coherent response to future challenges called A Decent Life for All: ending poverty and giving the world a sustainable future. It is a

sustainable future. It is a vision that he believes can work. It is a vision that he knows enjoys strong support in many quarters. But equally there are others who are not yet convinced that they need this kind of comprehensive approach. He travelled last month to India and Bali, in the framework of his participation to the UN High Level Panel on the post-2015 agenda. He can tell that, for different reasons, India or Brazil for instance are still very much focused on sheer poverty alleviation and believe that sustainability issues should be dealt with in a separate agenda. Saying that they therefore have still some work to do to persuade them of the merits in their vision.