



European Research for Development Policies

PROFESSOR FRANCOIS BOURGUIGNON TO LEAD AN EU PAPER ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

On the eve of the June European Council, the EU today announces that a team of development specialists has been formed to review progress towards the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in light of the changing world economic situation. The team will be led by François Bourguignon, former Chief Economist of the World Bank (2003-2007) and current Director of the Paris School of Economics.

The team is supported by the Commission and EU Member States, and has been tasked to provide independent commentary on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The report will raise the profile of the fight against global poverty and increase momentum on actions to eliminate it.

Half way to the 2015 deadline of the Millennium Development Goals, much remains to be done. The task is being made harder by new trends in the global economy which are likely to impact on the development agenda, most notably the rising prices of food and oil.

This paper is designed to situate the ongoing efforts to fulfil MDG commitments within the broader context of the changing world economy; to challenge development thinking to adapt to the new economic environment, to demonstrate what actions need to be taken, and to raise public awareness.

The paper is a first step towards the realization of the European Report on Development (ERD), which is designed to be a major research-led review of development issues aiming at enhancing a European perspective on development in the international arena. The first ERD is due for publication in 2009.

A first draft of the paper will be available in mid-July. The final version will be issued in mid-September in time to inform the September UN General Assembly debates on Africa and the MDGs.

The team comprises:

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Stefan Dercon	University of Oxford
Antonio Estache	Free University of Brussels
Jan Willem Gunning	Free University of Amsterdam
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Stephan Klasen	University of Göttingen
Simon Maxwell	Overseas Development Institute
Jean-Philippe Platteau	University of Namur
Amedeo Spadaro	Paris School of Economics and University of Balearic Islands

Biography

François Bourguignon (b. 1945) is Director of the Paris School of Economics and the former Chief Economist (2003-2007) of the World Bank. He is a renowned authority on the economics of growth and development and played a vital role in placing economic growth and its relationship with inequality and income distribution and poverty at the centre of the World Bank's agenda.