

Title of the initiative: **Communication on the updating of the European Consensus on Development**
Type of initiative (CWP/Catalogue/Comitology): CWP
Lead DG: **DG DEV**
Expected date of adoption of the initiative (month/year): **April 2011**
Date of modification: 25/03/2010
Version No: 2

Initial IA screening & planning of further work

A. Context and problem definition

(i) What is the political context of the initiative?

The European Consensus on Development is a statement on development policy jointly adopted by the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission in 2005. It affirms for the first time a common EU and Member State vision on development with poverty reduction as overarching goal in the context of sustainable development including the achievement of MDGs.

Over the four years of its implementation, several developments call for an adaptation of the Consensus to maintain the relevance of the development policy in the coming years. These developments include the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and the new global challenges such as climate change and the social, economic and financial crises.

(ii) How does this initiative relate to past and possible future initiatives?

The European Consensus on Development was a key factor in the formulation of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) regulation and in ensuring its focus on poverty. The updating of the Consensus will provide a modernized and strengthened political guidance in view of the discussion on the next EU financial perspectives post 2013.

and to other EU policies?

One of the fundamental principles of the European Consensus is to promote Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) ensuring that the EU shall take account of the objectives of development in all policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries and that these policies support development objectives. Over the recent years, the EU has substantially strengthened its approach towards PCD. The updating of the Consensus will therefore build on progress made in the implementation of the PCD commitments.

What are the main problems identified?

In 2009 the Commission has commissioned a study for a preliminary assessment on progress made towards the commitments taken in the European Consensus on Development. Based on the findings of the assessment study, as well as on Commission own analysis, there are a number of issues that call for a process of updating, such as:

- the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, which will provide the EU with a strategic opportunity to reaffirm the EU and Member States' common vision for development and to enhance the underlying goal of poverty reduction;
- need to further raise awareness and build ownership on the Consensus within the newly elected European Parliament and appointed Commission;
- need for an update on the progress achieved on commitments, namely aid volumes, aid effectiveness, new approach to governance, fragility and Policy Coherence for development, ...;
- need to integrate links with new global and priority challenges (climate change, social, economic and financial crisis, security strategy);
- need to update regarding new actors involved in EU development policy (local authorities);
- need to get an updated and strengthened vision on EU development policy for the discussion on the next EU financial perspectives.

Who is affected?

All stakeholders in the field of development will benefit from the initiative. The updating of the European Consensus will improve effectiveness to respond to current and future development challenges and will increase responsiveness of the EU and its Member States to the achievement of the MDGs.

(i) Is EU action justified on grounds of subsidiarity? (ii) Why can the objectives of the proposed action not be achieved sufficiently by Member States (necessity test)? (iii) As a result of this, can objectives be better achieved by action by the Community (test of EU Value Added)?

The European Consensus on Development has provided, for the first time, common principles, values and objectives to guide action in development co-operation both at the EU and its Member States levels. The European Consensus has reduced the gap between what the EU does individually and what the Member States do, thereby opening the way for progress in aid effectiveness including through complementarity and division of labour. This common vision has led to a strengthened and more unified voice of the EU as development actor in particular in the international fora as demonstrated for instance in the negotiations of the Accra Agenda for Action. The updating of the Consensus will build on these grounds.

B. Objectives of EU initiative

What are the main policy objectives?

The objective of the updating of the Consensus is to ensure a modernized vision on development policy in order to maintain its relevance for the coming years.

Do the objectives imply developing EU policy in new areas or in areas of strategic importance?

No.

C. Options

(i) What are the policy options? (ii) What legislative or 'soft law' instruments could be considered? (iii) Would any legislative initiatives go beyond routine up-date of existing legislation?

a) No revision;

b) Updating of the European Consensus on Development to strengthen the shared vision on development.

The updating of the Consensus will result in a Commission Communication to be endorsed by the College in April 2011. The Communication will be submitted together with the package on the annual report on the MDG Review.

Does the action proposed in the options cut across several policy areas or impact on action taken/planned by other Commission departments?

No.

Explain how the options respect the proportionality principle

The updating of the Consensus will not result in legislative instruments. It will have the status of a Commission Communication.
The objectives set out by this initiative are in line with the proportionality principle.

D. Initial assessment of impacts

What are the significant impacts likely to result from each policy option (cf. list of impacts in the Impact Assessment Guidelines pages 32-37), even if these impacts would materialise only after subsequent Commission initiatives?

Option a): Risk of diluting the effectiveness and responsiveness of development policy in the short-term and in the long-term;

Option B): More effectiveness of policy in contributing to the achievement of the MDGs; more consistent EU development policy; in the context of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, enhanced EU and its Member States focus on poverty reduction as the overarching goal of development co-operation.

No foreseeable impacts on economic, social and environmental impacts within the EU.

Could the options have impacts on the EU-Budget (above 5 Mio €) and/or should the IA also serve as the ex-ante evaluation, required by the Financial Regulation?

No impact on the EU Budget.

Could the options have significant impacts on (i) simplification, (ii) administrative burden or on (iii) relations with third countries?

The initiative will benefit all stakeholders in the field of development policy and development co-operation both in EU and developing countries.

E. Planning of further impact assessment work

When will the impact assessment work start?

The impact assessment work might not be necessary for this initiative. To be discussed with the SG.

The policy work on the initiative will start in October 2010 and will build on a debate and consultation process to be conducted with different stakeholders between October 2010 and December 2010.

(i) What information and data are already available? (ii) Will this impact assessment build on already existing impact assessment work or evaluations carried out? (iii) What further information needs to be gathered? (iv) How will this be done (e.g. internally or by an external contractor) and by when?

(v) What type and level of analysis will be carried out (cf. principle of proportionate analysis)?

This initiative will build on the existing European Consensus on Development and on the findings of its preliminary evaluation undertaken in 2009 by an external contractor. Need to gather views and policy proposals on the issues addressed in the updating of the Consensus from different stakeholders (EU institutions, distinguished academics/researchers, NSA, developing countries, wider public). Information will be gathered both internally (ISC) and with the support of external contractors (organisation of consultations/workshops with stakeholders and study on the qualitative analysis of the responses to consultations).

Which stakeholders & experts have been/will be consulted, how and at what stage? Different stakeholders at different stages: Inter-Service Consultation within the Commission services, workshops with distinguished academics/researchers, civil society, policy-makers, European Parliament and development partners. An online public consultation will be also launched.