

Brussels, 14 JUN 2011
C/2011/ 4183

Dear Ms Wöhrl,

Thank you very much for transmitting the resolution of the Bundestag's Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development, referring to the resolution of the European Parliament of 15 June 2010 on "The progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals: mid-term review in preparation of the UN high-level meeting in September 2010."

Like your Committee, the European Commission also welcomed this resolution from the European Parliament, which constituted a very positive contribution towards fostering political will and momentum ahead of the UN high-level plenary meeting (HLPM) in New York. Indeed, the resolution was instrumental in helping to establish a joint EU position for the HLPM.

The Commission believes the HLPM was a success, with an Outcome Document agreed and excellent attendance by a very large number of Heads of State and Government. The Outcome Document is proof of a shared global ambition to tackle poverty and largely reflects the expectations of the European Parliament as expressed in its resolution.

The HLPM brought renewed focus on the MDGs and confirmed the need to accelerate action so that they are attained by 2015. The EU believes that, with the right policies and investment, the MDGs are attainable and it is now essential to make optimal use of the renewed commitment seen in New York.

In this endeavour, the EU maintains its ongoing commitment to deliver on our 0.7% ODA/GNI goal by 2015. Moreover, as President Barroso announced at the HLPM, the EU is ready to offer the most committed and needy countries an MDG Initiative amounting to €1 billion. This MDG Initiative is designed to provide impetus to progress on those goals that are furthest from being achieved.

Furthermore, as part of the process to ensure that EU development policy is as effective as possible in helping to eliminate poverty, the Commission launched a consultation last November on "EU development policy in support of inclusive growth and sustainable development: Increasing the impact of EU development policy", with a view to a policy Communication later this year.

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Mr. Norbert LAMMERT
President of the Bundestag

Parliaments worldwide have a key role to play in ensuring the achievement of the MDGs, not least by holding all actors – in the EU, in other developed countries and in our partner countries – to account against their commitments. I therefore look forward to the continued support of the German Bundestag in our efforts to eliminate poverty.

Yours faithfully,