

**COMMUNIQUE BY THE DAC CHAIRMAN  
BELGIUM CALLED UPON TO MAXIMISE THE BENEFIT OF ITS INCREASED AID**

In 2004, Belgium was in ninth position among the DAC countries in terms of the percentage of Gross National Income (GNI) allocated to official development assistance (ODA), with a ratio of 0.41%. At USD 1.46 billion in 2004, its aid volume was appreciably up on the period 2000-04, but has fluctuated under the impact of debt forgiveness programmes.

The DAC congratulated Belgium on its commitment to reach 0.7% by 2010, which is backed by the introduction of a legal and budgetary mechanism providing for an increase of 0.05% per year until 2010. The ratio of 0.45% is likely to be attained in 2005. The DAC also congratulated Belgium on the strong geographical concentration of its aid, which facilitates increased impact, and on its commitment vis-à-vis the least developed countries and, in particular, the fragile states of Central Africa.

The DAC appreciated the considerable progress that Belgium has achieved since 2001 and, in particular, the efforts made to adapt its development co-operation structures and procedures. Belgium could consolidate this by further rationalising the architecture of existing instruments and developing a more strategic approach on the part of all those involved in its development co-operation. Belgium will also have to strengthen the technical and human capacities of its institutions and improve the links between the Directorate-General for Development Co-operation (DGDC) and Belgian Technical Co-operation (BTC), to manage aid volumes set to double between 2004 and 2010.

Belgium seeks to promote aid effectiveness, as is illustrated by the co-management of projects that it supports and its active involvement in co-ordination measures taken in its partner countries. Its commitment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as leader of the pilot exercise on implementing the Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States is indicative of its engagement. The system of programming and implementing Belgian aid could nevertheless be reviewed with the object of responding better to the requirements for harmonisation and alignment, as formulated in the Paris Declaration. The DAC also invited Belgium to strengthen the sectoral concentration of its aid, as part of its commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In this respect, an important challenge for the coming years will be to bolster policy coherence by better structuring of interministerial co-ordination mechanisms at the different levels of authority and by developing long-term, cross-cutting strategic thinking.

Where humanitarian aid is concerned, the DAC recommended finalising as soon as possible guidelines based on the *Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship* to which Belgium has subscribed, and also consolidating its humanitarian aid management system.

The DAC Peer Review of the Development Co-operation Policies and Programmes of Belgium took place on 26 October 2005. The discussion was led by the DAC Chair Mr. Richard Manning. The Belgian Delegation was headed by Mr. A. De Decker, Belgium's Minister for Development Co-operation. The examiners for the Peer Review were Austria and Portugal.

The DAC's Main Findings and Recommendations will be published on the OECD website, at [www.oecd.org/dac](http://www.oecd.org/dac), during the week commencing 31 October 2005.

## Belgium's Aid at a glance<sup>1</sup>

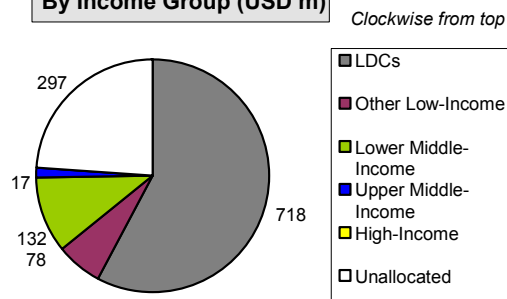
### BELGIUM

*Gross Bilateral ODA, 2003-04 average, unless otherwise shown*

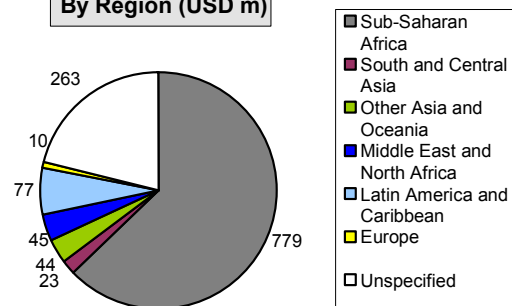
Net ODA	2003	2004	Change 2003/04
Current (USD m)	1 853	1 463	-21.0%
Constant (2003 USD m)	1 853	1 301	-29.8%
In Euro (million)	1 640	1 178	-28.2%
ODA/GNI	0.60%	0.41%	
Bilateral share	79%	62%	
<b>Net Official Aid (OA)</b>			
Current (USD m)	163	190	16.5%

Top Ten Recipients of Gross ODA/OA (USD million)	
1 Congo, Dem. Rep.	529
2 Cameroon	25
3 Burundi	21
4 Rwanda	20
5 Burkina Faso	16
6 Ecuador	16
7 Bolivia	16
8 Tanzania	15
9 South Africa	14
10 Senegal	14

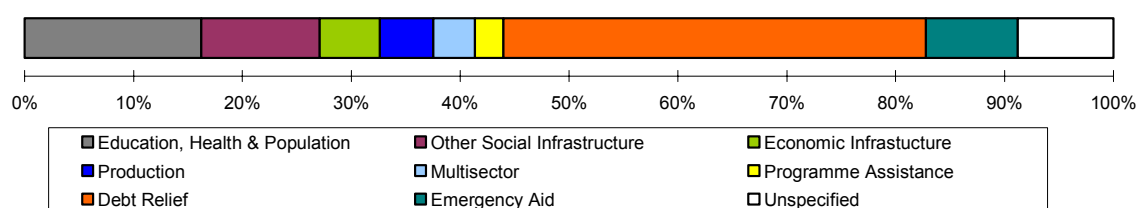
**By Income Group (USD m)**



**By Region (USD m)**



**By Sector**



1. The 2003 aid volume is significantly higher than in 2004 due to the DRC's debt relief operation that year.

Graph I - Net ODA from DAC countries in 2004 (provisional data)

