

EUROPEAN UNION

1. Measures to accelerate progress towards the MDGs by 2015

The EU adopted a common position ahead of the UN High-Level Meeting on the MDGs by reaffirming its commitment to meet the 0.7% ODA/GNI target by 2015. EU members agreed to take realistic and verifiable action to meet their individual ODA targets. The EU also promotes the mobilisation of developing countries' own domestic resources and the use of additional, innovative and predictable sources of finance at the global level. The EU will focus on those MDGs most off-track and on the regions that are most lagging behind, especially least developed, fragile and Sub-Saharan countries.

2. Changes in development policy and what drives them

The economic and financial crisis led the EU to provide quick access to additional financing to the most vulnerable and affected ACP countries. To ensure greater coherence between EU policies and development goals, the EU has adopted a more focused approach with targets and indicators. It links all relevant EU policies to five global challenges: trade and finance, climate change, food security, migration, and security. Improving overall coherence of EU's external policies, including development policy, is also an intention of the Lisbon Treaty and the European External Action Service. Further, the 2009 Council Conclusions on an "Operational Framework on Aid Effectiveness" take a practical approach to increasing aid effectiveness.

3. Measures to increase the predictability of aid

The current financial aid instruments of the EU allow for predictability within their specific time horizon. National Indicative Programmes, the EU's instruments for bilateral co-operation, operationalise its country strategies by indicating focal areas of cooperation and indicative amounts. They have a horizon of three to five years, and are published on the internet once approved. Planning for African, Caribbean and Pacific countries covered by the European Development Fund is based on indicative financial plans for a five-year period (2008-2013); other countries eligible to receive aid are covered by the other financing instruments of the EU, such as the Development Cooperation Instrument and European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument, which operate on the basis of three-year periods (2007-2010, 2011-2013). Within these planning periods, regular and timely information on expenditures is secured and reviewed annually.