



Revision of the European Consensus on Development (EUCD)

Trade union priorities for the consideration of the Council of the EU/CODEV WP

7 February 2017

Trade union engagement

- Trade unions have been involved in the MGDs, in the Post-2015 process and more recently in the 2030 Agenda. Trade unions have their own strategy to make the 2030 Agenda a reality, based on awareness raising, advocacy and shadow monitoring of SDGs implementation at national, regional and global level.
- Trade unions contributed to the EC proposal on a new Consensus and reached out all EU institutions. Previously, trade unions contributed to the drafting process of the EU Global Strategy (EEAS).

Positive points about the EUCD (EC proposal)

Recognition of social partners

- Trade unions welcome the recognition of trade unions as partners that promote responsible, sustainable and effective approaches to sustainable development. **Trade unions support paragraph 43 of the EC proposal and ask the Council to follow the same approach.**
- Trade unions welcome the recognition of decent work throughout the EC proposal as a way to achieve sustainable development, to reduce inequalities, and to address the root causes of migration. **Trade unions support paragraph 25, 30, 33, 40 and 43 of the EC proposal and ask the Council to follow the same approach.**

Enabling environment for trade unions and international labour standards

- Trade unions welcome the acknowledgement of an enabling environment for trade unions and civil society organisations to operate freely, allowing for freedom of association and collective bargaining, basic elements of decent work creation. Trade unions also defend a rights-based approach to development cooperation. **Trade unions support paragraph 20 and 71 of the EC proposal and ask the Council to follow the same approach.**
- Trade unions welcome the EU's continued support of responsible business practices and responsible management of supply chains, integrating labour rights, the UN guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, labour standards and the work of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Trade unions support the EU's continued support to the transition from the informal to the formal economy. **Trade unions support paragraph 43 of the EC proposal and ask the Council to follow the same approach.**

Benefits for a development cooperation of the 21st century

- Implementation of key principles of development effectiveness to all forms of development cooperation, including private sector activities. Strong impetus on partnerships for implementation of 2030 Agenda. **Trade unions support paragraphs 90 to 92 of the EC proposal and ask the Council to follow the same approach.**

Desired improvements / way forward (input from EP DEVE report)

Social dialogue as a means of implementation

- Social dialogue (all types of negotiation, consultation between, or among, governments, employers and workers, on issues of common interest relating to economic and social policy), should be kept in the EUCD,



as in the 2006 Consensus. Social dialogue is amongst the political priorities of the Juncker Commission, as materialised in the Quadripartite Statement on “A new start for social dialogue”, signed by the European Commission, the Council of the EU and European social partners. The EU should promote a similar approach in its external policies and instruments, making social dialogue a priority of EU development policy and thus promoting it as a means of implementation of the SDGs. **Trade unions support paragraph 53 and 73 of the EP DEVE report and ask the Council to follow the same approach.**

- Consultation with social partners and civil society should be embedded into all processes of EU development policy and related policies. **Trade unions support paragraph 20 and 21 of the EP DEVE report and ask the Council to follow the same approach.**
- The EU should continue supporting civil society, one of its comparative advantages as global development actor. Vibrant civil societies (including trade unions) increase the transparency and accountability of societies. **Trade unions support paragraph 91 of the EP DEVE report and ask the Council to follow the same approach.**
- Social dialogue is also related to the livelihood of workers and their families, for which social protection plays a crucial role. **Trade unions support paragraph 31 of the EP DEVE report and ask the Council to follow the same approach.**

Clearer rules for private sector as actor of development

- If private sector is championed as “an engine of long-term sustainable development”, trade unions demand the mainstreaming of social dialogue in EU development policy.
- Shrinking ODA has enshrined blending of public grants and loans, to leverage private finance in development projects. Trade unions are sceptical both about blending and public-private partnerships in developing countries. Evidence-based research shows serious concerns in terms of accountability, ownership, and development results of this development finance modalities. These innovative financing tools should follow the development effectiveness principles and never erode the access to public good, respect national development objectives and internationally agreed human rights and social and labour standards. **Trade unions support paragraph 52 of the EP DEVE report and ask the Council to follow the same approach.**
- International binding agreements frameworks and agreements should hold companies accountable for their malpractice in the countries where they operate. **Trade unions support paragraph 56 and 68 of the EP DEVE report and ask the Council to follow the same approach.**
- ODA should primarily be used for poverty eradication and to reduce inequalities, and not to contain migration flows or to finance security and defence projects. The EU should abide to its commitment to allocate 20% of its ODA to social inclusion and human development. **Trade unions support paragraph 7 and 71 of the EP DEVE report and ask the Council to follow the same approach.**

Policy coherence for (sustainable) development and link with related frameworks

- The EUCD should not replace the Agenda for Change but be part of the same package.
- Consistency should be granted between the new Consensus, the EU Global Strategy and the 2030 Agenda, and between development policy and internal and external policies of the EU, in the spirit of policy coherence.
- Development effectiveness principles should guide the work of development partners, from EU institutions to private sector to trade unions alike. **Trade unions support paragraph 43 of the EP DEVE report and ask the Council to follow the same approach.**

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