

**Resolution on**  
**Development Co-operation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

*Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting, 6 September 2008*

**Stating that:**

- For YEPP human beings with their needs for a life in dignity and security, peace and freedom are the central concern for development policy. The Goals of development policy are the existence of personal security, access to education, food, health, water, but also freedom, democracy, rule of law and market economy. By these means stability is promoted in developing countries.
- The international community is responsible for providing a basis for a global guarantee for these basic human needs. In that regard Europe has to take its own responsibility in every sense.

**For that reason YEPP calls on Europe to:**

1. contribute its own part in order to grant the aforementioned basic needs.

**Stating that the basis for a guarantee of the basic needs depends on the fulfilment of the following international conditions:**

- An international financial system shaped in such a way that no country becomes insolvent due to short term speculations and an unbearable debt. But for that incentives are needed as well as an effective sanctions system correlated with international conciliation authorities with decision-making power.
- The international trade system has to take into consideration not only economic criteria but also ecological and social criteria, so that trade in the international markets becomes fair and sustainable. This implies also the reduction of the purely protectionist subsidization of business branches in the industrialized countries, which make the international trading system inefficient while restraining the development of the poorest countries. Ecological and social criteria must not be misused as a pretext for unjustified trade barriers.
- Foreign direct investments which are better integrated in the local economic environment and which contribute substantially to the promotion of the local know-how, while respecting the rule of law free from any unnecessary barriers to trade.

**Recognizing that:**

- It is an incontestable fact that these conditions are still far from being fulfilled.

**Therefore YEPP calls for:**

2. Europe's development policy in the above-mentioned fields (trade policy, financial policy, debt relief policy, export risk guarantee, etc.) to become

compatible and coherent with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's)<sup>1</sup> of the United Nations. As a consequence, one of the most essential goals of European development policy must be to contribute effectively to the achievement of the MDG's by 2015.

**Stating that:**

- Besides the fulfilment of the international conditions, the achievement of the MDGs depends additionally on the self-efforts of the developing countries themselves. The governments must place themselves at the service of their population and procure sufficient means, according to the democratically legitimised legislation of their own country, in order to ensure the satisfaction of the basic needs of the population, the protection of human rights, the sustainable macro-economic development as well as the establishment of both the framework conditions and the impulses for the development. Development policy can only be successful in the long run if governments of developing countries take up their responsibilities for creating a free, democratic society based on the rule of law and market economy.
- There is a need to develop an effective system quantifying the essential global utilities (like the rainforests) situated in developing countries. This is an essential element of sustainable development policy in line with the Rio Declaration.
- As long as the fulfilment of the international conditions is not achieved and the governments of the developing countries are not able to procure the needed resources locally, development co-operation is still required.

**Considering that:**

- The European Union provides 55%<sup>2</sup> of the world-wide development co-operation. Development aid from EU countries added up to €46.1bn in 2007 which corresponds to an amount of €93 per EU citizen. The EU is thereby the most important contributor to world-wide development co-operation. Yet, only very few member states reach 0.7% of their annual GDP's for the development assistance, as repeatedly requested by the United Nations.

**Based on these considerations, YEPP requests that:**

3. The MDG's should be implemented by 2015. Likewise measures have to be supported, which promote their further advancement.
4. The part of the GDP, which is spent for development policy, has to be increased by 2015 to 0.7%, respectively to 0.33% (new member states) of the GDP.
5. Alternative sources for the financing of development are not neglected, in particular from steering-taxes for the reduction of global challenges such as pollution, climate change, food security, migration, pandemics, financial crises etc. and from foundations and CSR<sup>3</sup>-efforts of the private sector.

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<sup>1</sup> The MDG's are the following: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, Achieve universal primary education, Promote gender equality and empower women, Reduce child mortality, Improve maternal health, Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, Ensure environmental sustainability, Develop a global partnership for development.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.bmz.de/de/wege/ez\\_eu/index.html](http://www.bmz.de/de/wege/ez_eu/index.html)

<sup>3</sup> Corporate Social Responsibility = is a concept whereby organizations consider the interests of society by taking responsibility for the impact of their activities on customers, suppliers, employees, shareholders, communities and other stakeholders, as well as the environment. This obligation is seen to extend beyond the statutory

**Considering that:**

- Even in Europe there are millions of human beings, who live in very difficult conditions. In many states unemployment amounts far over to 10% and the poverty rate is still too high also in Europe (16%)<sup>4</sup>.

**Stating that:**

- In order to justify an increase of the means for development co-operation in domestic politics, the system of development co-operation must become more efficient and obtain tangible results in poverty reduction.

**For these reasons YEPP calls for:**

6. The immediate implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness<sup>5</sup> and a stronger consideration of pre-existing structures, country-specific conditions and the respective cultural background. As main-supporter of international organizations, Europe's countries have to ensure that a simplification process of the system will take place and that the crossing points and parallelisms in the multilateral development co-operation are strongly reduced. In the meantime Europe's countries and the EU must make sure that they coordinate better their cooperation according to their respective know-how and acquired experiences both thematically/sectorially as well as geographically (countries/regions) (so that the needs of all developing countries are covered) and that they concentrate it more (so that in each single country less but better qualified operators are active).
7. The employment system of resources has to be coupled to the observance of the good governance<sup>6</sup> criteria. If the criteria conditions are met, the resources can be employed in the form of global or sectoral budget support, while reinforcing accountability systems within the administration and through the civil society. However, the less these criteria are respected, the more the beneficiaries should instead receive program or project support through partners other than the central administration. Europe's NGOs should provide direct support in particular to the civil society of countries with insufficient governance in order to establish accountability systems and to build democratic systems from the bottom up.
8. The proposed impact of the invested resources has to be determined and evaluated by the partners in the field. In this way, no parallel accountability systems will be created, and on the contrary those of the local partners are strengthened and used so as to report on the development progress achieved.

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obligation to comply with legislation and sees organizations voluntarily taking further steps to improve the quality of life for employees and their families as well as for the local community and society at large.

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.bpb.de/themen/785PR9,,0,Armut\\_in\\_der\\_EU.html](http://www.bpb.de/themen/785PR9,,0,Armut_in_der_EU.html)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/11/41/34428351.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> The respect of human rights, the democracy and the rule of law belong, beside the good administration and the fight against corruption, to the concept of good governance.