

Helping more people with EU funds worldwide

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Better focused and coordinated EU financial instruments could achieve more in humanitarian aid and development, MEPs said in a resolution on Tuesday.

Taking stock of the implementation of the Development Cooperation Instrument, the Humanitarian Aid Instrument and the European Development Fund in the first half of the 2014-2020 budget cycle, MEPs have put forward a number of recommendations aimed at a better functioning of these tools and to eradicate poverty more effectively around the world.

Key suggestions:

- Maintain separate development and humanitarian aid instruments, so as not to jeopardize poverty alleviation,
- continue providing budgetary support because as it is efficient, flexible and allows for economic self-governance,
- keep on supporting states even after they have become middle-income countries, as withdrawing aid abruptly can hamper their progress to achieve the SDGs,
- allocate 20% of the EU's Official Development Assistance to social inclusion and human development, as confirmed in the European Consensus on Development,
- provide more robust and tailor-made support for civil society actors as they have been under immense pressure worldwide,
- boost coherence between geographic and thematic programmes, instruments and EU policies,
- avoid a proliferation of EU trust funds and use them only in emergencies,
- increase transparency and efficiency in humanitarian aid without failing to help the most vulnerable,
- member states must respect their commitment to give 0.7% of their GNI in ODA,
- the transfer of funds between objectives for changing priorities within an instrument should never divert ODA funds for other purposes and
- the European Development Fund, alongside other instruments outside the MFF, should be integrated into the EU budget.

The non-binding resolution was backed unanimously by development MEPs.

Quote

"The report aims to evaluate and learn from the implementation of the financial instruments with the purpose of helping the fight against poverty, exclusion and granting the respect of human rights along with the access to social goods such as education or health in those regions of the world with whom we cooperate", said rapporteur Enrique Guerrero Salom (S&D, ES).

Quick facts

The EU's Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) provides € 19 700 million to the Development Cooperation Instrument, € 6 621 million for humanitarian aid, while the EDF has a budget of € 30 506 million for 2014-2020. Although EDF is the main financial instrument of the EU's development cooperation policy it is financed directly by the Member States and has stayed outside the EU budget.

Next steps

The Full House is expected to vote on the resolution during the April plenary in Strasbourg.

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Further information

- > Procedure file
- > Profile of the rapporteur Enrique Guerrero Salom (S&D, ES)
- > Committee on Development

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