

Special report 1/2012 (2011 discharge): Effectiveness of European Union development aid for food security in sub-Saharan Africa

2012/2059(DEC) - 06/12/2012 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Budgetary Control adopted the report by Bart STAES (Greens/EFA, BE) on the Special Report No 1/2012 (2011 discharge): 'Effectiveness of European Union development aid for food security in sub-Saharan Africa'.

Welcoming the Court of Auditors' report and its overall conclusion (*please refer to the summary of the report dated 28/03/2012*), Members consider that there is **scope for significant improvement as regards making EU development aid for food security more efficient in this region.**

Members support the Court of Auditors' recommendation for a **structured assessment of the food security situation in each country** and a systematic consideration of the potential scope for relevant Union support by the European External Action Service (EEAS). They call on EuropeAid (Commission) to help ensure that effective early warning systems for food insecurity are in place. They also call on the EEAS to help ensure that corresponding government capacity is built to run those systems in a sustainable manner, and that prevention strategies are implemented, fostering the resilience of the most vulnerable.

Food crisis – malnutrition – food prices: given the unpredictability of new food crises and the increased volatility of food prices and speculation, Members believe that it necessary to take effective action against such speculation, including the regulation and control of derivative markets. They call on the Commission to elaborate upon response strategies for different contingencies, making any relevant proposals. They call for the **inclusion of a new Food Facility or a comparable mechanism in the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014 to 2020** to ensure the Union's ability to respond swiftly to new food crises using similar funds.

Members deplore the fact that, despite strong economic growth, one quarter of the population of sub-Saharan Africa still suffers from **malnutrition** despite the fact that the region has the technology, the knowledge and the natural resources to change this.

As regards **food security**, Members call on the Commission to:

- integrate the resources allocated under the EDF and the 'food security' budget line with a view to ensuring that they complement one another and that the funds in question are used as effectively as possible;
- take systematic account of the food security situation and chronic food insecurity, in particular when implementing Union development policy;
- strengthen the link between relief, rehabilitation and development in order to ensure the effectiveness of aid;
- prioritise agriculture in its development aid, including assistance to farmers in accessing markets given that there has been a dramatic reduction in the level of development aid allocated to agriculture since the 1980s;
- address the whole food chain, from farm to fork, in order to enhance the resilience of the agricultural sector. Members believe that long-term political commitments by governments in sub-Saharan Africa are necessary to reduce the vulnerability of the agricultural sector. Temporary subsidies, in the form of seeds that withstand extreme weather conditions, can serve as an important

safety net for small-scale farmers and families. They also stress the importance of early warnings and preventive work on sanitation, seed and feed for animals;

- unite food policy and long-term social and economic development.

Maintaining the European Food Facility: Members agree with the Court of Auditors that a longer implementation period for the Food Facility (2008 to 2010) would have been more appropriate, given its objectives and the continuous volatility and high level of commodity prices.

Welcoming the resolve of the Commission expressed in its Communication on an EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges (see [COM\(2010\)0127](#)) to integrate the nutritional dimension into Union programmes, Members reiterate their call on the Commission to draw up a specific Communication on this dimension and to integrate sound and multisectoral nutrition strategies into its development policy.

The Commission is called upon to set more realistic and measurable objectives for the interventions and to improve their definition in the general budget support programmes, where special attention should be given to encouraging entrepreneurship among the growing young population and addressing the discrimination against women in the agricultural sector.

Lastly, Members notes that the overall impact of Union action on food security is also determined by the Union's policies on agriculture, fisheries, energy and trade.