

Resolution on the revision of the Cotonou Agreement and setting of the amount for the 10th European Development Fund (EDF)

2005/2655(RSP) - 23/03/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The Parliament has adopted a joint resolution on the revision of the Cotonou Agreement and the setting of the amount of the 10th EDF. However, it regrets that the overall amount for the 10th EDF decided by the European Council is below the original calculation of the Commission. It equally regrets that the plethora of political commitments made in 2005 in support of substantial increases in ODA have not been translated into a substantial increase in the contributions of Member States to the EDF; underlines that the proposed amount for the 10th EDF would amount to only 0.028% of Member States' GDP.

Moreover, it deplors the fact that, on the one hand, Member States have made commitments to increase development aid but on the other hand, if the level of the 10th EDF remains at that fixed by the European Council, the overall levels of ODA managed by the Commission will fall from 19% to just 14% by 2015, making this a de facto re-nationalisation of development policy.

The Member States are called upon to consider significantly raising their contributions to the 10th EDF. It requests that the Council and the Commission to clarify how the development dimension of the Economic Partnership Agreements, currently under negotiation, will be financed. The Council is urged to provide new money for 'aid for trade' programmes and insists that such programmes should not shift resources already earmarked for other development initiatives, such as the MDGs. Both the Council and the Commission are urged to ensure that the contributions of Romania and Bulgaria to the 10th EDF will be additional once they have acceded to the EU. They should also take into account the accession of East Timor to the Cotonou Agreement and the fact that aid directed to this new country should clearly be additional in the light of the formula described in Annex 1a to the Cotonou Agreement. The question of future financing of cooperation with OCTs should be clarified as soon as possible. In addition, The two institutions should clarify the future financing of the African Union, including what level of financing should come from the MEDA programme.

Lastly, the Parliament recalls that all EDF expenditure must satisfy the ODA eligibility criteria, as defined by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee and it calls on the Commission to take the lead in ensuring coordination between the Member States in order to enhance the effectiveness of both EU and bilateral development funding.