Basic information

2012/2288(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Local authorities and civil society: Europe's engagement in support of sustainable development **Subject** 3.70.20 Sustainable development 6.30 Development cooperation 6.30.02 Financial and technical cooperation and assistance	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
DEVE Development	CREȚU Corina (S&D)	18/09/2012
	Shadow rapporteur BOULLAND Philippe (PPE) GOERENS Charles (ALDE) STAES Bart (Verts/ALE) GUSTAFSSON Mikael (GUE/NGL)	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
International Cooperation and Development	PIEBALGS Andris

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
22/11/2012	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/09/2013	Vote in committee		
23/09/2013	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0296/2013	Summary
21/10/2013	Debate in Parliament		
22/10/2013	Decision by Parliament	T7-0432/2013	Summary
22/10/2013	Results of vote in Parliament		
22/10/2013	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2012/2288(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/7/11220

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE513.257	10/06/2013	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE516.879	29/08/2013	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0296/2013	23/09/2013	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0432/2013	22/10/2013	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2014)62	07/03/2014	

Local authorities and civil society: Europe's engagement in support of sustainable development

2012/2288(INI) - 23/09/2013 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Development adopted the own-initiative report by Corina CREŢU (S&D, RO) on local authorities and civil society: Europe's engagement in support of sustainable development.

The report welcomed the recent policy developments at EU and international level which are focused on a more ambitious **partnership with civil society organisations (CSOs) and local authorities (LAs)**, founded:

- on a human rights based approach to development, including economic, social and cultural rights as well as international treaties on environment and biodiversity protection,
- and on the clear commitment to strengthening the democratic process and accountability.

Members considered that democratic ownership includes not only governments but also CSOs, LAs and national parliaments, which play crucial roles in linking citizens with government and in ensuring broad-based and democratic ownership of countries' development agendas.

With a view to creating a **favourable environment for civil society organisation and local authorities**, the Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) are invited to:

- develop guidance and implementation plans to promote EU development cooperation in dialogue with CSOs and to further the implementation of the European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders;
- mainstream the promotion of an enabling environment for CSOs and LAs and to consider this a priority for the EU's position in the ongoing negotiations on the post-2015 development framework.

The report encouraged the EU to **promote institutionalised mechanisms** for multilevel and multiple stakeholder dialogue and recommended that for each partner country the EU applies the provisions on consultations with LAs provided for in the Cotonou Agreement for ACP states.

Development effectiveness: Members called on the Commission and the EEAS to:

- allocate **adequate resources** in the future programming period, to allow CSOs and LAs from partner countries to monitor and analyse progress towards PCD at local, national and international level;
- promote a **'partnership for accountability'** for strategic cooperation between elected representatives at national and local level and CSOs;
- support the inclusion of LA representatives in the **Steering Committee of the Global Partnership** for Effective Development Cooperation.
- establish **country RMs for LAs** as well, and to consider the development of joint CSO and LA country RMs;
- **adopt the sustainable development agenda**, taking account of the fact that its three core components (environmental, social and economic) are equally important and inseparable parameters.

The Union is invited to:

- make efficient use of **knowledge-sharing** and capacity-development methods, including the use of the transition experience of LAs in EU Member States;
- adopt a **scaled-up agenda** with a view to achieving a proportional increase in the effective experiences of projects and initiatives of both CSOs and Las financed by the EU.

Decentralisation and territorial approach to development (TAD): the report called on the Commission and the EEAS to establish a more ambitious policy dialogue with and within partner countries to promote TAD and a comprehensive approach to decentralisation. It stressed the importance of **strengthening EU staff expertise and commitment**, in particular at delegation level.

Education: recalling Parliament's written declaration on 'development education and active global citizenship', Members called on the Commission to:

- develop an **overarching development education and awareness raising (DEAR) strategy**;
- increase the financial resources which will be allocated in the future programming period to DEAR.

Programming documents and aid modalities: the report welcomed the Commission's engagement to systematically introduce political economy analysis at country level and recommends that this should include an analysis of the political and legal situation of CSOs and LAs.

The Commission is invited to:

- improve the coordination and complementarity between thematic and geographic programmes and instruments;
- encourage a wider participation of LAs in all DCI programmes;
- support decentralised cooperation and partnerships between LAs from EU and partner countries;
- facilitate experience- and expertise-sharing between Las from EU and partner countries;
- engage in more strategic partnerships with national, regional, and international associations and networks of LAs.

Lastly, the report encouraged LA partnerships in **fragile states** to provide for the development, transfer and exchange of administrative and technical skills.

Local authorities and civil society: Europe's engagement in support of sustainable development

2012/2288(INI) - 22/10/2013 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on local authorities and civil society: Europe's engagement in support of sustainable development.

The resolution welcomed the recent policy developments at EU and international level which are focused on a more ambitious **partnership with civil society organisations (CSOs) and local authorities (LAs)**, founded on a human rights based approach to development, including economic and social and on the clear commitment to strengthening the democratic process and accountability.

Creating an enabling environment for CSOs and LAs: Members considered that democratic ownership includes not only governments but also CSOs, LAs and national parliaments, which play crucial roles in linking citizens with government and in ensuring broad-based and democratic ownership of countries' development agendas.

The Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) are invited to:

- develop **plans** to promote EU development cooperation in dialogue with CSOs and to further the implementation of the European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders;
- mainstream the promotion of an enabling environment for CSOs and LAs and to consider this a priority for the EU's position in the ongoing negotiations on the post-2015 development framework;
- develop strategies on how to overcome these difficulties and to continue the vital support for CSOs.

The resolution encouraged the EU to **promote institutionalised mechanisms** for multilevel and multiple stakeholder dialogue and recommended that for each partner country the EU applies the provisions on consultations with LAs provided for in the Cotonou Agreement for ACP states.

Development effectiveness: Parliament called on the Commission and the EEAS to:

- allocate **adequate resources** in the future programming period, to allow CSOs and LAs from partner countries to monitor and analyse progress towards PCD at local, national and international level;
- promote a **'partnership for accountability'** for strategic cooperation between elected representatives at national and local level and CSOs;
- support the inclusion of LA representatives in the **Steering Committee of the Global Partnership** for Effective Development Cooperation.
- establish **country RMs for LAs** as well, and to consider the development of joint CSO and LA country RMs;
- **adopt the sustainable development agenda**, taking account of the fact that its three core components (environmental, social and economic) are equally important and inseparable parameters.

The Union is invited to make efficient use of **knowledge-sharing** and capacity-development methods and adopt a **scaled-up agenda** with a view to achieving a proportional increase in the effective experiences of projects and initiatives of both CSOs and Las financed by the EU.

Decentralisation and territorial approach to development (TAD): Parliament called on the Commission and the EEAS to establish a more ambitious policy dialogue with and within partner countries to promote TAD and a comprehensive approach to decentralisation. It stressed the importance of **strengthening EU staff expertise and commitment**, in particular at delegation level on decentralisation and on the role of CSOs and LAs in sustainable development.

Fragile States: Parliament recalled that resilience should also be a key theme of the EU's partnerships with CSOs and LAs. It called on the Commission and the EEAS to **establish guidelines** for EU delegations on how to deal with CSOs and LAs in situations of crisis and fragility, using a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach.

Moreover, it expressed deep concern at the Commission's proposal to limit financial support in service delivery only to CSOs working in LDCs and fragile states.

Education: recalling Parliament's written declaration on 'development education and active global citizenship', Parliament called on the Commission to:

- develop an **overarching development education and awareness raising (DEAR) strategy**;
- increase the financial resources which will be allocated in the future programming period to DEAR.

Programming documents and aid modalities: the resolution welcomed the Commission's engagement to systematically introduce political economy analysis at country level and recommended that this should include an analysis of the political and legal situation of CSOs and LAs.

The Commission is invited to:

- improve the coordination and complementarity between thematic and geographic programmes and instruments;
- encourage a wider participation of LAs in all DCI programmes;
- support decentralised cooperation and partnerships between LAs from EU and partner countries;
- facilitate experience- and expertise-sharing between Las from EU and partner countries;
- engage in more strategic partnerships with national, regional, and international associations and networks of LAs.

Lastly, Parliament called on the Commission to promote the participation of CSOs and LAs in the ongoing discussion on blending mechanisms in the framework of the EU Platform for Blending in External Cooperation.