Basic information

2015/2004(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Role of local authorities in developing countries in development cooperation **Subject** 6.30 Development cooperation	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	DEVE Development	THEOCHAROUS Eleni (PPE)	11/11/2014
		Shadow rapporteur MANSCOUR Louis-Joseph (S&D) DEVA Nirj (ECR) MICHEL Louis (ALDE) SEBASTIA TALAVERA Jordi Vicent (Verts/ALE) CORRAO Ignazio (EFDD)	

European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**
	International Cooperation and Development	MIMICA Neven

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/01/2015	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
14/07/2015	Vote in committee		
17/07/2015	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0232/2015	Summary
05/10/2015	Debate in Parliament		
06/10/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0336/2015	Summary
06/10/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
06/10/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2015/2004(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/8/02475

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE557.178	11/05/2015	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE560.640	10/06/2015	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0232/2015	17/07/2015	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0336/2015	06/10/2015	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2015)774	25/02/2016	

Role of local authorities in developing countries in development cooperation

2015/2004(INI) - 17/07/2015 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Development adopted an own-initiative report by Eleni THEOCHAROUS (EPP, CY) on the role of local authorities in developing countries in development cooperation.

Members considered that **strategic planning at national and local level** was absolutely essential to the promotion and integration of the three main dimensions of development: the social, economic and environmental dimensions.

The report highlighted the need for translating the Commission's new guidelines on local authorities and on recognising their role as state stakeholders into the effective implementation of European cooperation, both in terms of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) and in terms of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI).

Members urged the EU to **promote decentralised cooperation as a way of implementing the development framework post 2015.**

To this end, they called on the Commission to (i) consider the possibility of making decentralisation a priority funding sector for its external aid financing instruments, starting with the **DCI and the EDF**, and to (ii) step up efforts to include local authorities as full stakeholders in the implementation of the **11th EDF** in partner countries, regions, and in relation to sectorial and budgetary assistance.

For their part, Member States should **accord an appropriate role in their development programmes to local authorities** and to coordinate their activities with those of the Commission and of other Member States.

The report stressed the importance of the following points:

- **ensuring a fairer transfer of resources from national level to sub-regions, towns and municipalities**, ensuring also that some European budgetary assistance be allocated to funding local authorities, and establishing a genuine political dialogue among local authorities as part of European cooperation;
- **bearing in mind the role of local authorities in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals:** the MDGs revealed the crucial role of LAs in the fight against poverty and in the delivery of community services, such as water and sanitation, primary healthcare and education; additional resources should be allocated to strengthening the capacities of decentralised authorities so that they could provide high-quality public services;
- **setting reliable targets and indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals** that match the contexts, needs and worries of local populations; the post-2015 process should provide a clear vision for an implementation of Rio+20 outcomes that recognises the role of local authorities;
- **establish a renewed effective global partnership (with civil society, the private sector,** etc.) with a clear definition and division of responsibilities among partners;
- **strengthening partnerships with the private sector** by supporting: (i) the emergence of a middle class through the promotion of private entrepreneurship; (ii) local, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in job creation and promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth, notably through public-private policies; (iii) effective implementation of accountability mechanisms and definitions of mandatory social and environmental safeguards;
- **strengthening partnership with civil society**: the post-2015 global development agenda needed to change the role and impact of civil society organisations (CSOs). The report wanted to see the setting up mechanisms for regular dialogue between CSOs and Member States;
- **supporting domestic accountability and capacity building**: governments must be accountable both to domestic stakeholders and to the international community. The report stressed the importance of promoting good governance at local level by promoting the principles of accountability, transparency, participation, responsiveness and the rule of law; strong efforts needed to be made to improve the capacity of LAs to deliver public services;
- **engaging indigenous people** in the preparation of local and regional development and investment plans;
- **creating an enabling environment for the transfer of technologies** through cooperation that should also include longer-term investments;
- **providing in the Commission's partnership plans support for the management of a sustainable urbanisation process** adopting a territorial approach to address issues such as waste management and urban poverty
- **stepping up international cooperation to tackle illicit financial flows** and decentralising power to combat corruption, including corruption originating from multinational companies;
- **strengthening the mobilisation of resources**: the report stressed the urgent need to consolidate LA capacities in partner countries in the area of municipal taxation and budgetary planning. It asked the Commission to encourage the mobilisation of innovative sources of financing for decentralised cooperation, and urges the European Union to hence bolster the decentralised budgets that are a prerequisite for local development.

Role of local authorities in developing countries in development cooperation

2015/2004(INI) - 06/10/2015 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 556 votes to 56, with 65 abstentions, a resolution on the role of local authorities in developing countries in development cooperation.

Parliament considered that strategic planning at national and local level was absolutely essential to the promotion and integration of the three main dimensions of development: the social, economic and environmental dimensions.

It highlighted the need for translating the Commission's new guidelines on local authorities and on recognising their role as state stakeholders into the effective implementation of European cooperation, both in terms of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) and in terms of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI).

The EU is urged to promote decentralised cooperation as a way of implementing the development framework post 2015.

To this end, Parliament called on the Commission to:

- consider the possibility of making decentralisation a priority funding sector for its external aid financing instruments, starting with the DCI and the EDF;
- step up efforts to include local authorities as full stakeholders in the implementation of the 11th EDF in partner countries, regions, and in relation to sectorial and budgetary assistance.

For their part, Member States should accord an appropriate role in their development programmes to local authorities and to coordinate their activities with those of the Commission and of other Member States.

Parliament stressed the importance of the following points:

- **ensuring a fairer transfer of resources from national level to sub-regions, towns and municipalities**, ensuring also that some European budgetary assistance be allocated to funding local authorities, and establishing a genuine political dialogue among local authorities as part of European cooperation;
- **bearing in mind the role of local authorities in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals**: the MDGs revealed the crucial role of LAs in the fight against poverty and in the delivery of community services, such as water and sanitation, primary healthcare and education; additional resources should be allocated to strengthening the capacities of decentralised authorities so that they could provide high-quality public services;
- **setting reliable targets and indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals** that match the contexts, needs and worries of local populations; the post-2015 process should provide a clear vision for an implementation of Rio+20 outcomes that recognises the role of local authorities;

- **establish a renewed effective global partnership (with civil society, the private sector,** etc.) with a clear definition and division of responsibilities among partners;
- **strengthening partnerships with the private sector** by supporting: (i) the emergence of a middle class through the promotion of private entrepreneurship; (ii) local, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in job creation and promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth, notably through public-private policies; (iii) effective implementation of accountability mechanisms and definitions of mandatory social and environmental safeguards;
- **strengthening partnership with civil society**: the post-2015 global development agenda needed to change the role and impact of civil society organisations (CSOs). The report wanted to see the setting up mechanisms for regular dialogue between CSOs and Member States;
- **supporting domestic accountability and capacity building**: governments must be accountable both to domestic stakeholders and to the international community. The report stressed the importance of promoting good governance at local level by promoting the principles of accountability, transparency, participation, responsiveness and the rule of law; strong efforts needed to be made to improve the capacity of LAs to deliver public services;
- **engaging indigenous people** in the preparation of local and regional development and investment plans;
- **creating an enabling environment for the transfer of technologies** through cooperation that should also include longer-term investments;
- **providing in the Commission's partnership plans support for the management of a sustainable urbanisation process** adopting a territorial approach to address issues such as waste management and urban poverty
- **stepping up international cooperation to tackle illicit financial flows** and decentralising power to combat corruption, including corruption originating from multinational companies;
- **strengthening the mobilisation of resources**: the report stressed the urgent need to consolidate LA capacities in partner countries in the area of municipal taxation and budgetary planning. It asked the Commission to encourage the mobilisation of innovative sources of financing for decentralised cooperation, and urges the European Union to hence bolster the decentralised budgets that are a prerequisite for local development. Parliament considered that it is more effective to act at local level in order to improve living conditions for communities, especially in rural areas. Lastly, it called on the World Bank and the international financial institutions to update environmental and social safeguard policies.