



CRT Briefing on the Reform Treaty – Development Policy

I. Introduction to the Coalition for Reform Treaty

The Coalition for the Reform Treaty (CRT) is a network of organisations and individuals advancing a positive view on the proposed EU Reform Treaty.

The principles of the CRT are as follows:

- The UK and its citizens derive significant benefit from membership of the EU.
- The EU's successful enlargements, which have increased membership from 15 in 2004 to 27 members today, necessitate reform of its institutions.
- The Reform Treaty is in Britain's interests as well as the European Union's because it will lead to more efficient, effective and democratic decision-making.
- Agreement and ratification of the Treaty by all 27 EU Member States will help the Union to focus on the issues that really matter: competitiveness, social and consumer policy, and the EU's role in tackling global challenges such as trade liberalisation and climate change.

The CRT has both individual supporters and member organisations. The member organisations of the CRT are as follows:

- All-party Group on Europe
- Business for New Europe
- Conservative Group for Europe
- Demos
- European League of Economic Cooperation
- European Movement
- Federal Union
- Foreign Policy Centre
- Global Policy Institute
- Jean Monnet Circle
- Jean Monnet Association
- Labour Movement for Europe
- Liberal Democrat European Group
- Policy Network
- Progress
- Weidenfeld Institute for Strategic Dialogue

II. The EU Reform Treaty and Development Policy

1. Background on the European Union's development record

- 1.1 Ever since the Treaty of Rome established the foundations of the European Development Fund, development policy and relations with the developing world have been central aspects of the European Union's international activities.
- 1.2. Today, the European Commission and EU member states combined constitute the world's single largest donor of development aid, delivering 55% of the world's official development assistance to more than 160 countries spanning the globe.
- 1.3. The Directorate General for Development of the European Commission, in close partnership with the external aid coordinator EuropeAid, and the Humanitarian Aid Office, works with national governments, civil society organisations and NGOs worldwide to directly administer more than €6bn a year, accounting for a fifth of the European total of €30bn.
- 1.4. Since 189 nations of the UN adopted the Millennium Development Goals in September 2000, the European Union has been instrumental in their advancement, helping to achieve the important Gleneagles agreement in 2005 for G8 countries to double aid to \$50bn by 2010, and shortly afterwards signing the European Consensus on Development, which deepened the Community's commitment to eradicating poverty.
- 1.5. To this date, only the European Union has set actual time-bound targets to reach the UN's longstanding targets for development aid.
- 1.6. Jose Manuel Barroso recently confirmed that Europe has consistently delivered on its aid promises, and remains on track to reach the agreed aid targets of 0.56% of Gross National Income by 2010, and 0.7% by 2015.
- 1.7. Ensuring greater coordination between the objectives and capabilities of the institutions of the European Union is crucial if the Union is to achieve its full potential to effect change in the developing world.

2. The UK and development policy goals

- 2.1. The UK, now the world's second largest national donor of development aid, also has a successful history of international development work that it has carried out both through the European Union and bilaterally, in partnership with over 150 countries worldwide.
- 2.2. As a key signatory to the Millennium Development Goals, the UK, through the Department for International Development, has directed its attention towards achieving the same objectives as those set out by the European Union in the field of development.
- 2.3. One of the fundamental aims of the UK's development strategy is to build a global partnership for those working in development. This objective is borne of an appreciation that, in an era of globalisation and climate change, no single actor can

hope to solve the many competing challenges facing the developing world alone. A significant impact can only be achieved through multilateral cooperation. The European Union is therefore a key platform for the UK to achieve its goals.

- 2.4. While the Reform Treaty will uphold the autonomy of the UK's activities under the department for international development, it will also help to advance the UK's development goals by providing a more coherent framework for coordinating the European Union's external activities and development policies.

3. Implications of the Reform Treaty for Development Policy

- 3.1. The Reform Treaty presents a vital opportunity to bring renewed strength and purpose to the European Union's combined development potential by bringing development to the forefront of Europe's international agenda. The Treaty's proposals strengthen and expand European commitments, increase our individual and collective potential to effect change, and simultaneously maintain member states' autonomy to uphold their own development agendas.
- 3.2. First and foremost, the Treaty places the goal of poverty eradication at the heart of European development cooperation, going further than ever before in defining a strategic and coherent development agenda.
- 3.3. Accompanying this core goal the Treaty pledges, among other things, a commitment to fostering sustainable development; to encouraging the integration of all countries into the world economy; to preserving peace and preventing conflict; to assisting in times of natural or man-made disaster; and to strengthening multilateral cooperation and good global governance.
- 3.4. The Reform Treaty also provides for qualified majority voting (QMV) in the Development Council. This means that EU decisions on humanitarian policy will be taken more efficiently under the new Treaty than previously.
- 3.5. The Reform Treaty will also help to improve the efficiency and coherence of the European Union's development policies by improving coordination between the Union's institutions working in the field of development.
- 3.6. The High Representative, new position created by the Reform Treaty, will not replace the existing Directorate Generals for Development or Trade, but will steer the Union's foreign policy agenda and control the external relations budget, ensuring that all international activities are carried out within the framework of principles common to the development cooperation agenda.
- 3.7. The Treaty also gives birth to a European Voluntary Aid Corps, creating a concrete framework to maximise and coordinate the common contributions of young Europeans to the Union's humanitarian aid efforts.
- 3.8. Ratifying the Reform Treaty will therefore ensure not only greater ambition but also greater effectiveness, by bringing into practice improved policy coherence between the European Union's stated development goals and all other European policies concerning the developing world.

III. Some Quotes on the Reform Treaty and development

Jim Murphy (Minister of State for Europe)

As the world's largest donor and the world's biggest single trading bloc, we are committed to ensuring that the EU lives up to its new objective of contributing to "the sustainable development of the Earth", and delivers on the immense task of tackling global poverty and achieving the MDGs. Ratification of the EU Reform Treaty will help it to do this.

David Miliband (Foreign Secretary)

If we care about global trade, global poverty and global warming we are better off in, at the heart of Europe, shaping the European Union and making sure it delivers on the issues that matter to us. That is what this Treaty and this government offers.

BOND (British Overseas NGOs for Development – including ActionAid, Oxfam and many others)

The establishment of the Reform Treaty also gives hope for positive advances in EU development policy, such as greater coherency, a stronger poverty focus and greater consistency of economic, financial or technical cooperation measures with development policy.

Stephen Bubb (CEO of ACEVO)

It's important that the (third) sector's leaders across Europe are aware of the positive impact this treaty could have. The Treaty is good for the EU's role in aid and development. 55% of all global aid comes from the EU. This Treaty should ensure that it will be used more coherently and effectively.