



EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS

STRASBOURG 15-17 NOVEMBER 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<http://www.eudevdays.eu>



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A great deal of additional information on the European Union
is available on the Internet. This can be accessed through
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FOREWORD



Louis MICHEL

It was a pleasure to welcome to Strasbourg, along with the representatives of the French Presidency of the European Union, Bernard Kouchner, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, and Alain Joyandet, Secretary of State for Cooperation and Francophone Affairs, the thousands of people who participated in the Third edition of European Development Days.

I want to thank the hundreds of speakers – Heads of State and Government, ministers, members of parliaments, presidents of regional and general councils, mayors, experts, professionals, researchers, professors and representatives of civil society, the media and the private sector – who contributed to the rich, diverse and energetic debate. Development Days have become the annual meeting of those who work daily to promote a fairer and better world.

It was an honour to gather the whole development family around internationally known figures such as Mrs Wangari Maathai, winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize, Mr Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change of Zimbabwe, Morgan Tsvangirai, Angélique Kidjo, singer and activist from Benin, and Aminata Traoré, Malian essayist and activist.

The main theme of the 2008 Development Days was the local dimension of development. This enabled us to give local authorities from Europe and from partner countries alike their rightful place in these debates on development. Halfway to the Millennium Development Goals, there is a need to highlight the important contribution of local authorities to governance, democracy, access to essential services such as education and health, and adaptation to climate change. The idea was to promote a message of cohesion: it is by involving every level of society that we will be successful, in a shift for development from global to local level.

What is fascinating about the European Development Days – what I called the “family spirit”, – is this common awareness that brings us together. Although our paths may sometimes differ, our horizons converge. NGOs, public authorities, partners, civil society, civil servants, men and women working in the field, political figures: we are all working together to forge a more solid, more credible and more ambitious development ideal. This is based on a common vision of man and humanity, inspired by the belief that we can change the world.

In these times of crisis, to ensure that no one gives in to the temptation of fatalism, pessimism and withdrawal, there must be more of us who believe in a better world and who dare to engage in trying to make it happen. I would like to think that European Development Days 2008 strengthened our hopes and our determination to work together in the combat against poverty everywhere

LOUIS MICHEL,
EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER
FOR DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AID





The European Development Days 2008 were held at a key moment: two months after the United Nations General Assembly, just a few weeks before the Doha Conference on Financing for Development, and in parallel with the G-20 Summit. In a context of food, financial, energy and climate crises, the European Development Days provided an occasion to point out that the only truly global crisis – the most tragic of all – is poverty. The event offered a forum of expression for the voices of development, which have their say in the new global architecture taking shape.

The European Development Days 2008 allowed hundreds of speakers to interact, debate and exchange views on a whole range of subjects. The main theme, the local dimension of development, placed at the heart of the debate the issues of local governance, decentralised cooperation and the role of the local authorities and civil society – those closest to citizens – in development. The Millennium Development Goals, the issue of “Media and Development” and the theme “Youth and Education” were also the subject of high-level discussions.

The European Development Days are already a key event for the entire development family, whether for political leaders of the partner countries or European Union Member States, development professionals, representatives of civil society, the media, academia or the private sector. More than 4,000 people gathered for three days of interaction, debates and exchanges of views on the most important development issues, among them six Heads of State and Government, three European Commissioners, 40 ministers and 300 elected local officials.

The European Development Days served as a showcase for the diversity of development stakeholders, through an open and inclusive organisation process. Everyone had the possibility to organise an event, a network meeting and a stand. Nearly 40 sessions, workshops, round tables and events were held in a spirit of multi-player dialogue and partnership. More than 50 bilateral or network meetings were also organised. More than 125 stands in the development village gave hundreds of organisations – one tenth of which from the South – the opportunity to present their projects, ideas and vision. The European Development Days are consequently an occasion to build bridges and to establish ties between stakeholders.

With the third edition of the European Development Days, Europe, already a leader in the volume of its development assistance, aims to inspire thinking in international cooperation, a reflection that is open to all. The European Union is the leading partner of developing countries and is Africa’s number one partner. It is an ally for development and will continue to take the lead in meeting the challenges of the 21st century, with more aid, more effective aid and the development and implementation of development strategies that are open to all stakeholders. The European Development Days are the confirmation of this commitment and the highlights of the 2008 edition are presented in this brochure.





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Tomorrow 2015: Local Answers to Global Challenges

"You are here in a highly committed city in the field of cooperation and partnership. Cooperation between local authorities develops in Strasbourg. We have just signed yesterday a new convention of partnership between the city of Feze in Morocco and the city of Strasbourg. I invite all participants to open themselves to the world, here in Strasbourg, where beats the heart of this Europe of fraternity and justice we yearn for."

Roland Ries

WELCOME SPEECHES BY

- **ROLAND RIES**, Mayor of the City of Strasbourg
- **ADRIEN ZELLER**, President of the Region of Alsace, France

SPEAKERS

- **BERNARD KOUCHNER**, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, France, Presidency of the Council of the EU
- **ALAIN JOYANDET**, Secretary of State for Cooperation and Francophone Affairs, France, Presidency of the Council of the EU
- **BLAISE COMPAORÉ**, President of Burkina Faso, Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Western African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)
- **MARC RAVALOMANANA**, President of the Republic of Madagascar
- **AMADOU TOUMANI TOURÉ**, President of the Republic of Mali
- **JEAN PING**, Chairperson of the African Union Commission
- **ABDOU DIOUF**, Secretary General of *la Francophonie*
- **WANGARI MAATHAI**, Green Belt Movement founder, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (2004)
- **ADAM KIMBISA**, Mayor of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Representative of the Platform for United Cities and Local Governments (UCGL)
- **MUCHADEYI ASHTON MASUNDA**, Mayor of Harare, Zimbabwe
- **NOERINE KALEEBA**, Chair of Action Aid International

SPEAKERS INTRODUCED BY

- **LOUIS MICHEL**, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid

"We cannot live separately from each other. Human and cultural wealth needs to be shared among people. Alsace is a region that has never forgotten the role it has played in North South cooperation."

Adrien Zeller

The global financial crisis has been dominating headlines and preoccupying politicians since early autumn in the North. At the same time, many countries in the developing world are facing a social meltdown, as fragile democracies struggle with issues such as rising unemployment, food shortages, weak governance, corruption, social unrest and terrorism.

Every speaker pointed to the fear sweeping the developing world that the financial crisis will be an excuse for developed countries to cutback development aid, at a time when citizens of the countries not responsible for the failure of the international financial system stand to suffer the most.

Local governments and authorities – viewed as a cornerstone for both development and democracy – have an even stronger role to play in strengthening governance, restoring trust, building partnerships for development and meeting the needs of their people. Several speakers called for stronger African leadership. Others called for a real development partnership between the industrialising and the industrialised world that would take into account the choices and aspirations of developing countries and their citizens.

In the face of such "human" challenges, the developed world cannot "justify a withdrawal from its commitments and promises," commented **Louis Michel**. "We think it is necessary to be even more committed. A stable world is a more equal world," he said.



Bernard Kouchner told participants that the French Presidency had done everything in its power to ensure that developing countries and the African Union be represented at the G-20 summit. “When you change from one kind of economic system that has resulted in a global crisis, you cannot forget the developing countries. You represent the future world even more so than those in Washington,” he said, referring to the thousands of delegates in the audience.

While the financial crisis could serve as a window of opportunity to build a more stable world based on solidarity, it is also a chance for developing countries to show leadership. “Now more than ever, it is a matter for us African leaders to take on our share of the responsibility and be the harbingers of a new vision that is credible and takes in the exigencies of globalisation in our countries,” said **Blaise Compaoré**.

Alain Joyandet added: “Development must be a key issue. [This is] not just about balancing financial institutions, but also the balance in the relationship between North and South.” He also mentioned the food crisis and reminded of the emergency to provide food security, “the very first of the eight Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations, which cannot be forgotten”.

Coming back on the financial crisis, **Abdou Diouf** said “This crisis is a unique and historic opportunity to [shape] a global approach to sustainable development within a renewed and more democratic international framework. The reform of financial institutions cannot be separated from how we deal with development.”

Marc Ravalomanana called on leaders to take the future into their own hands and show the world that African leaders are resolved, committed and determined. “To re-establish trust with our partners, we must strengthen our capacities and promote good governance,” he said. “That is a responsibility we cannot shirk... we must, we can and we will transform our countries.”

Wangari Maathai said that as long as African leaders continue to invest in warfare, violate human rights and destabilise their people, the world will not pay Africa the attention it deserves. “Africa is rich. If we invest in our people, in technology and in education to exploit our [natural] resources we would move in the right direction,” she said. “We must put our people first.”

Muchadeyi Ashton Masunda added that development programmes cannot take place in a vacuum. “We need more emphasis on the sustainable delivery of services to the poor and to the community. We also need more capacity building programmes at the central and local government levels,” he said.

Democracy and good governance go “hand-in-hand” with decentralisation, said **Amadou Toumani Touré**. However, successful decentralisation depends on “long-term actions propelled by political will and a conviction that it can only succeed if it is gradual and contingent on having the human and financial resources to ensure wealth is better distributed.”

Jean Ping noted that two-thirds of sub-Saharan African nations showed a sharp increase in governance performance. “Local governance and decentralised cooperation are the foundation for our population. [Now we must determine] how at local level we can rise to global challenges,” he said.

Development does happen at the local level and it is in cities and towns that the needs of citizens become more apparent, remarked **Adam Kimbisa**. “Today we have economic, political, social and now ecological refugees. Someone, somewhere, sometime has to do something,” he said.

Noerine Kaleeba called on developed countries to remember that when discussing the many crises facing the world that all of the figures and numbers represent “a human face, a human hope and a human experience.”





Heidemarie WIECZOREK-ZEUL

PLENARY SESSION

Financial Crisis – Which Bretton Woods Reform for Development?



Jean PING

Financial Crisis – Which Bretton Woods Reform for Development?

VIDEO MESSAGE ON THE CONCLUSION OF G-20 MEETING IN WASHINGTON

- **JOSÉ MANUEL DURÃO BARROSO**,
President of the European Commission

SPEAKERS

- **THOMAS YAYI BONI**, President of Benin
- **JEAN PING**, Chairperson of the African Union Commission
- **DONALD KABERUKA**, President of the African Development Bank
- **JEAN-LOUIS SCHILTZ**, Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs, Luxembourg
- **HEIDEMARIE WIECZOREK-ZEUL**, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the Conference on Financing for Development, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
- **AMINATA TRAORÉ**, Essayist, Coordinator of the *Forum pour l'autre Mali*

DISCUSSION MODERATED BY

- **JEAN-LUC MAERTENS**, Africa Director of EURONEWS

Held one day after the G-20 economic summit in Washington, the session was a show of force in favour of greater representation of the developing world in the global financial structure. Representatives of the developing world together with the development ministers of Germany and Luxembourg agreed on issues ranging from greater financial regulation, to active stimulation of the world economy, as well as re-conceptualising the role of the developing world as a global partner.

Europe has played a major role at the summit and in shaping the Road Map, which adopts broad outlines to address problems in the international financial system, making it more accountable to investors and more transparent to regulators.

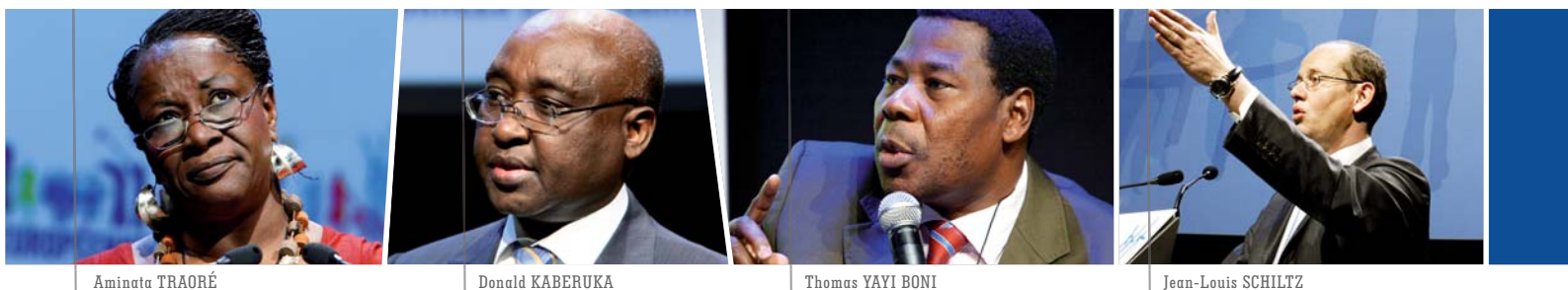
BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Speaking to participants from Washington via a video feed, **José Manuel Durão Barroso** reported: “We adopted a very important statement on international financial markers but as well on the real economy, which is the most important for the citizens, for the families, for the workers.”

“We are here to discuss the big problems of the financial economy, but it would be unthinkable to forget the poorest of the poor.”
José Manuel Durão Barroso

During the meeting of the G-20, the President of the European Commission underlined the importance to take into account developing countries. He also made reference to the core theme of European Development Days, the local dimension of development: “The global challenges need a local response. How can you think [about] global governance without local governance? Challenges are of course global, but actors are local.”





Aminata TRAORÉ

Donald KABERUKA

Thomas YAYI BONI

Jean-Louis SCHILTZ

To breathe new life into the global economy, there must be new standards. When reviewing reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, **Thomas Yayi Boni** called for the following:

- Better representation for developing and emerging market countries and more involvement in the decision-making process.
- Governance and transparency within the institutions.
- Supervision and warning systems to avert future crises.

“We must meet the needs of the real economy,” Thomas Yayi Boni said. “There can be no gap between what we say and what we do.” The President also called for an African strategy to counter external shocks.

Donald Kaberuka stated: “It is important to understand that the crisis the world is in is not simply a financial crisis. It is an economic crisis, as well as food, water, migration, security and resources crises. We have a multi-polar crisis that cannot be resolved until all stakeholders are around the table.”

Donald Kaberuka added that Africa is committed to reforming “our countries and our banking and economic sectors, as well as to developing intra-African trade.”

AFRICA’S VOICE WILL BE HEARD

Jean Ping assured participants that from now on Africa’s voice would be heard. “Neo-liberalism as implemented by Reagan and Thatcher has failed. We went along with it. Asia refused to play this game and has experienced tremendous economic growth. In Africa, development has collapsed,” he said. “The model has run out of steam and we have a systemic crisis on our hands. We represent nearly 1 billion people. Africa’s voice is going to be heard.”

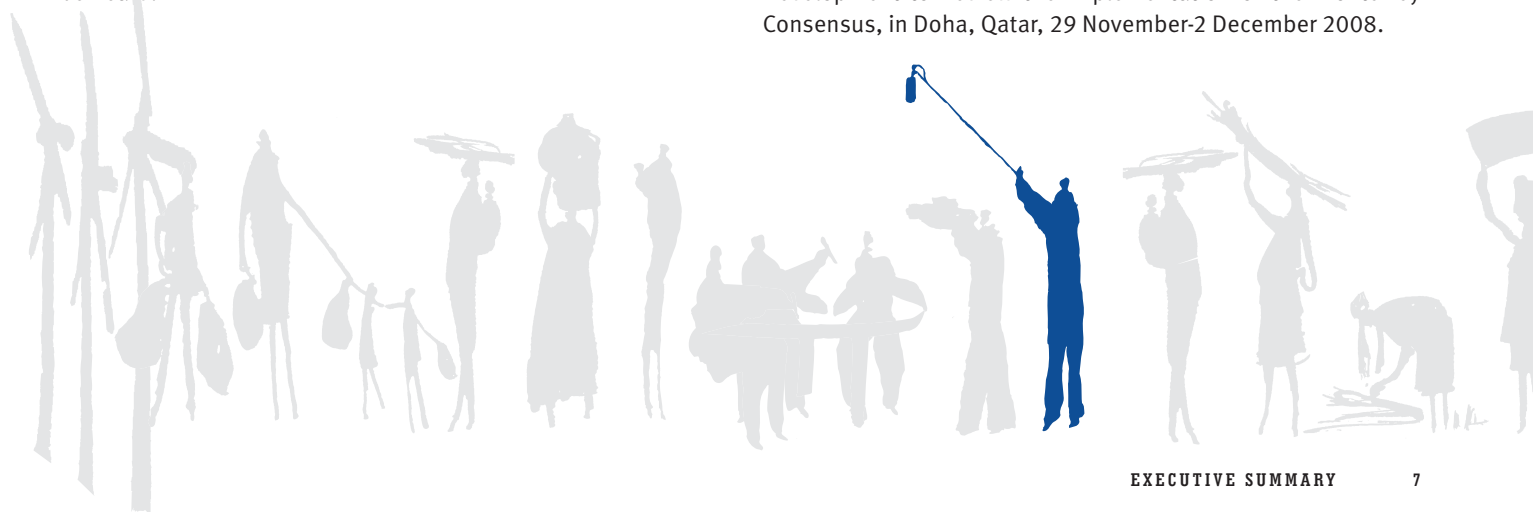
The financial crisis is not a “natural catastrophe” commented **Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul**. “It started by pushing aside the state,” she said. “If you compare the American way of quick financial profit and the European approach of economic and social responsibility, you find a difference in the two types of capitalism. We also want it reflected in international institutions.”

Confidence and trust can be lost in 30 seconds, but to rebuild it takes months or years, commented **Jean-Louis Schiltz**. The Minister, whose country is one that has met the target of 0.7% of GDP going to Official Development Assistance, promised that Luxembourg would not turn its back on those who have nothing.

“Solidarity does not stop at a country’s borders. It is an international issue. We need to make a strong commitment to development aid,” he said. “We need to ensure that we rework the financial architecture on that foundation of solidarity.”

According to **Aminata Traoré**, African economies are already in dire straits and the financial crisis is the final stage of a bankruptcy. “The IMF and the World Bank should have been reformed a long time ago,” she said, “I am speaking on behalf of hundreds of thousands of Africans with no voice who are lost in a market economy they don’t understand. They are the true losers of this violent history.” Aminata Traoré called for a changed relationship between North and South and for Africans to “re-localise” their economies.

Participants agreed on the need to work together for a strong Africa that can make its voice heard. They also agreed that now, more than ever, Africa needs increased foreign investment and development assistance. African representatives were urged to attend the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, in Doha, Qatar, 29 November-2 December 2008.





Blaise COMPAORÉ

PLENARY SESSION

Food Crisis: How to Respond?



Alain JOYANDET



Philippe MATHIEU



Food Crisis: How to Respond?

- **BLAISE COMPAORÉ**, President of Burkina Faso, Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Western African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)
- **THOMAS YAYI BONI**, President of Benin
- **LOUIS MICHEL**, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid
- **ALAIN JOYANDET**, Secretary of State for Cooperation and Francophone Affairs, France, Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- **TALBI ALAMI**, Deputy Mayor of Tétouan, Morocco
- **PHILIPPE MATHIEU**, Representative of Oxfam in Haiti
- **MODERATOR, NICOLAS BRICAS**, Researcher, the International Centre of Agricultural Research for Developing Countries (CIRAD)

Moderator **Nicolas Bricas** explained briefly the key factors of the global rise in food prices since late 2007 and the subsequent riots in numerous regions around the world. Although prices finally started to fall in July 2008, he indicated that we could expect levels to remain higher than they were previously. In addition, factors such as growth in inequalities of income, price fluctuations and the growing frequency of climatic disasters means that further crises are unavoidable.

Blaise Compaoré argued the importance of local factors and rural farming in development policies. To this end, UEMOA's action plan is structured around three main objectives: growth in farm production, regulation of agricultural markets and food safety. He commented that "price bubbles do not guarantee peace and stability."

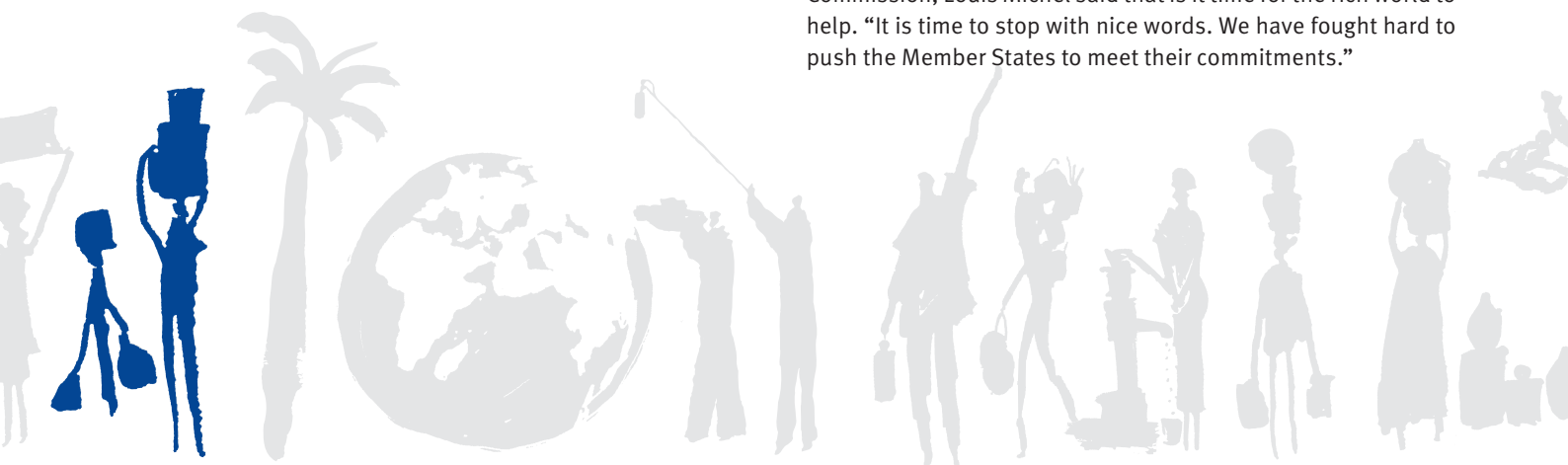
"The real economy produces in a sound and healthy way. It is a question of getting people back to work ... We need to reach out to the small producer."

Blaise Compaoré

"IT'S TIME FOR THE RICH WORLD TO HELP"

Louis Michel pointed to the need for stable input and product prices. A more structural response is also required in terms of the amounts allocated to farming and the priority given to this sector. This response is dependent on partner countries, which the Commissioner said must reach decisions on a series of issues such as biofuel, land access and technical equipment.

Referring to the €1 billion package proposed by the European Commission, Louis Michel said that it is time for the rich world to help. "It is time to stop with nice words. We have fought hard to push the Member States to meet their commitments."





Alain Joyandet outlined three areas of action that should be a priority in the current food crisis. Firstly, we need to work in partnership with regional bodies to decide on a local agricultural recovery plan. Second, at a European level we must take this agricultural recovery into account in Economic Partnership Agreements. Third, global trade discussions must also consider the special nature of farm produce and exempt food from market rules.

“We need a global plan. Any regulation needs to take into account the 1 billion people who cannot pay for their food,” he said. “There is no point in talking about the Millennium Development Goals if we are not in the position to solve food and nutrition issues.”

Talbi Alami reported on the situation in his country, reminding panellists that Morocco has applied Western rules to its market system. He noted certain repercussions of self-regulation on food markets, which have had an impact on the country’s farm production. Countries that open their doors to professional investors face a conundrum: if investors move in and buy up large swathes of land, it will jeopardise small-scale producers.

“We need an instrument – a policy tool – to intervene when the markets do not work. We cannot just cater to those who are well placed in the market. We need to protect the rights of our citizens,” he concluded.

A MULTI-SECTOR ISSUE

Philippe Mathieu noted that the food crisis affects the whole world and insisted on the need to question agricultural and food systems in the North as much as the South. He also stated how food security is a multi-sector issue, requiring measures in areas such as employment, the environment, education, professional training and taxation.

Access to food can be done by increasing aid to those who are not solvent or by providing employment. “Every time food aid is granted, it is an opportunity to stimulate local production,” he said. “We also have to try to create jobs that allow people to feed themselves on a lasting basis.”

EUROPEAN COMMISSION SUPPORTS €1 BILLION IN FOOD AID

A proposed rapid response facility of €1 billion to help farmers in developing countries is still under consideration by Member States, explained Commissioner Louis Michel. The aid would aim at encouraging farmers from developing countries, who represent a majority of the population, to increase their short and medium term production, at improving access to agricultural inputs and services, including fertilizer and seed, and satisfying the basic food needs of the most vulnerable people.

The money would come from unused European farm subsidies – due to spiraling commodity prices – and would be mainly directed at Africa. It would bring the total agricultural aid provided by Europe to poor countries in 2008 and 2009 to €1.8 billion.

Commissioner Michel pointed out that 1 billion people are suffering from hunger. He noted that although the price of grain has gone down, it has still doubled since 2005 and consumer prices have not gone down. In addition, inputs of seeds and fertilizers are three times more expensive than they were three months ago.





François BOURGUIGNON

EVENT

Millennium Development Goals at midpoint



Millennium Development Goals at midpoint Where do we stand and where do we need to go?

- **FRANÇOIS BOURGUIGNON**, Director of the Paris School of Economics, France
- **GUNILLA CARLSSON**, Minister for International Development Cooperation, Sweden
- **MICHAEL FOSTER**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for International Development, UK
- **RAVI KANBUR**, Professor of Economics, Cornell University, USA
- **BERNARD PETIT**, Deputy Director General of the Directorate General for Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific States, European Commission
- **MODERATOR, FRANCOISE MOREAU**, Head of Unit, Forward Looking Studies and Policy Coherence, Directorate General for Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific States, European Commission

Representatives of international organisations, EU Member States and civil society, together with academics discussed the recently issued EU research paper, *Millennium Development Goals at midpoint: where do we stand and where do we need to go?* produced by a research team lead by Professor **François Bourguignon**. The paper provides an independent commentary on progress on the MDGs in light of the changing global economy. This paper will feed into the first edition of the European Report on Development (ERD) to be issued in 2009.

Bernard Petit introduced the meeting by presenting the ERD initiative and highlighting the importance of a European contribution to research on development policies. He also recalled the strong political will and commitments taken by the EU in 2008 to foster progress on the MDGs. He pointed to the fact that the “triple shock” generated by the current food, energy and financial crisis is putting further strains on achieving the MDGs and insisted on the crucial importance that donors deliver on their ODA promises.

“Most development thinking bears the stamp of the World Bank or the United Nations. This stamp guarantees excellence, but does not protect against the inherent risk of a knowledge monopoly, which, in turn, would assume a monopoly of good answers. Development thinking must be conducted in diversity.”

Bernard Petit





Françoise MOREAU



Bernard PETIT



Gunilla CARLSSON



Michael FOSTER

PROGRESS SO FAR, BUT DIFFERENCES AND IMBALANCES PREVAIL

François Bourguignon outlined the progress achieved so far, for example:

- From 2000 to 2005, more than 120 million people have been lifted out of poverty.
- About 2 million lives have been saved by reducing child mortality.
- 30 million more families have access to water.
- 30 million more children are going to school, and boys and girls are in equal numbers in school in many countries where gaps used to be very large.

However, differences and imbalances still prevail among regions and countries: “Progress has been highly uneven. Global income poverty has been reduced, largely thanks to rapid growth in the giant countries of Asia, including China, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam. In many more countries, poverty reduction has been too slow, or worse, poverty has even increased,” François Bourguignon told participants. “Sub-Saharan Africa remains the lagging region with respect to both income and non-income MDGs. As a result, it is very likely that most individual countries will not reach most of the MDGs.”

INCREASE AID AND IMPROVE ITS EFFECTIVENESS

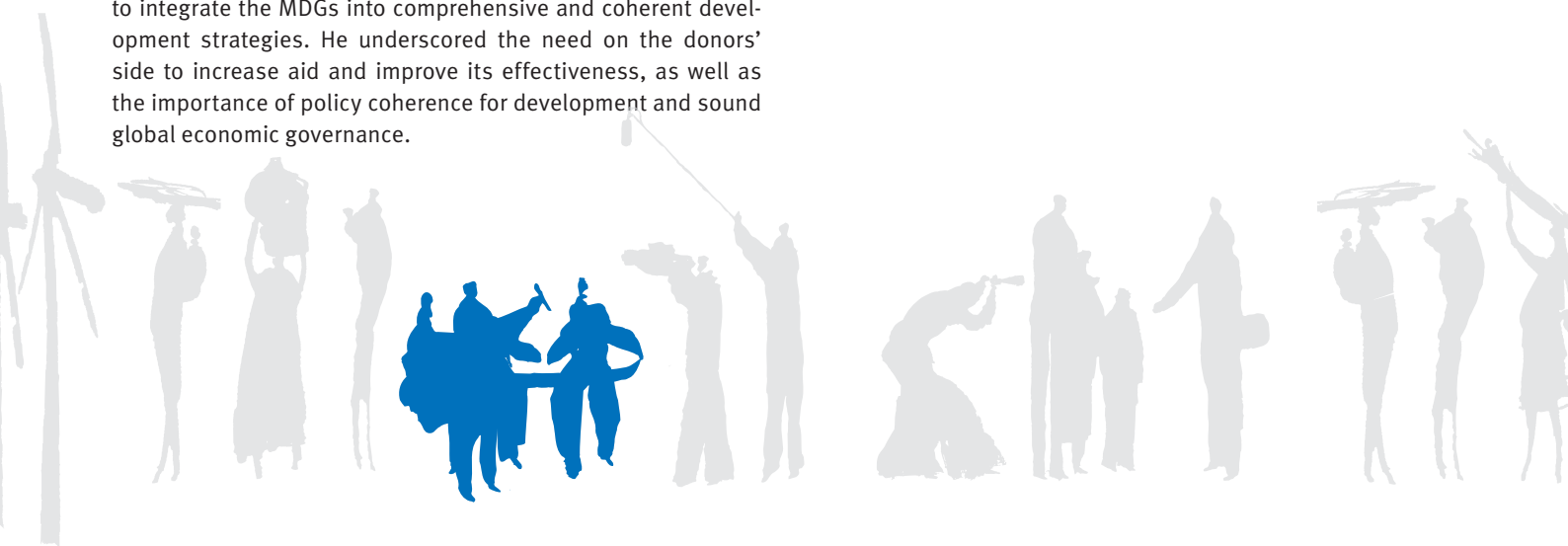
François Bourguignon presented a methodological framework to analyze progress on the MDGs, consisting of three pillars: (1) the global economic context, (2) the domestic policies, and (3) the volume and quality of aid. He detailed the main conclusions and recommendations of the report, emphasising the need to integrate the MDGs into comprehensive and coherent development strategies. He underscored the need on the donors’ side to increase aid and improve its effectiveness, as well as the importance of policy coherence for development and sound global economic governance.

Gunilla Carlsson described the proactive role and strong commitment of Sweden in the international fight against poverty. Commenting on the Swedish approach, she pointed to the importance of democracy and the need for social inclusion and social protection mechanisms, as well as a focus on gender issues. She also highlighted the importance of multilateralism and global coherence for development. “Multilateralism must be reinforced and the EU is a key actor in that process,” she said. Gunilla Carlsson concluded by mentioning the Swedish support to the ERD initiative.

DELIVER ON PROMISES TO INCREASE AID

Michael Foster described the paper as “a major contribution to thinking on the MDGs and a valuable source of new evidence and ideas.” He highlighted one of the conclusions – the need to place economic growth within a broader framework of development-related policies and the importance to deliver on promises to increase aid. He told participants that the UK is committed to increasing aid to 0.56% by 2010 and to 0.7% by 2013.

The panellists answered questions from the audience related to the important role of non-state actors – including the diasporas – as watchdogs and in poverty reduction efforts. They also discussed the importance of peace and the need to control trade in weapons, using the example of the armed conflict in the Great Lakes region. The positive development impacts of twinning operations and decentralised cooperation was also discussed, but participants were reminded of the need to ensure sound coordination of aid to avoid “overlaps”.





MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE

Local Governance and the Millennium Development Goals



José BRITO



Pierre SCHAPIRA

Local Governance and the Millennium Development Goals

Local authorities at the heart of access
to essential services

- **JOSEP BORRELL FONTELLES**, MEP, Chairman of the Committee on Development, European Parliament
- **JOSÉ BRITO**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities, Cape Verde
- **KEITH HINDS**, Mayor of Portmore, Jamaica
- **HENRIETTA HOLSMAN FORE**, Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- **MICHEL KAZATCHKINE**, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- **PIERRE SCHAPIRA**, MEP, Rapporteur on local authorities, Deputy Mayor of Paris
- **MODERATOR** **TUMI MAKGABO**, Presenter and Independent Producer, former presenter of Inside Africa, CNN

In a context of strong demographic growth and unprecedented urbanisation, with today more than half the world's population living in urban areas, progress in meeting the MDGs in developing countries is linked closely to the role and capacities of local authorities. In a very broad range of fields, local governments must exercise their specific competences. This requires local authorities to manage resources so as to provide fairly and efficiently the services that are essential for the well being of populations.

Moderated by former CNN correspondent **Tumi Makgabo**, representatives of local, national, and multilateral institutions set out to discuss the role of local governance in the context of a renewed commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. Speakers agreed that there must be a greater involvement of citizens, local authorities, as well as the private sector.

Josep Borrell Fontelles opened the roundtable by insisting on citizen participation in local level decision-making processes, citing the participatory democracy model in the Brazilian city of Porto Alegre. Following up on his comments, **Pierre Schapira** emphasised the importance of local authorities and the concrete needs they respond to: "If we speak of democracy, there still must be a register of civil status," he argued.

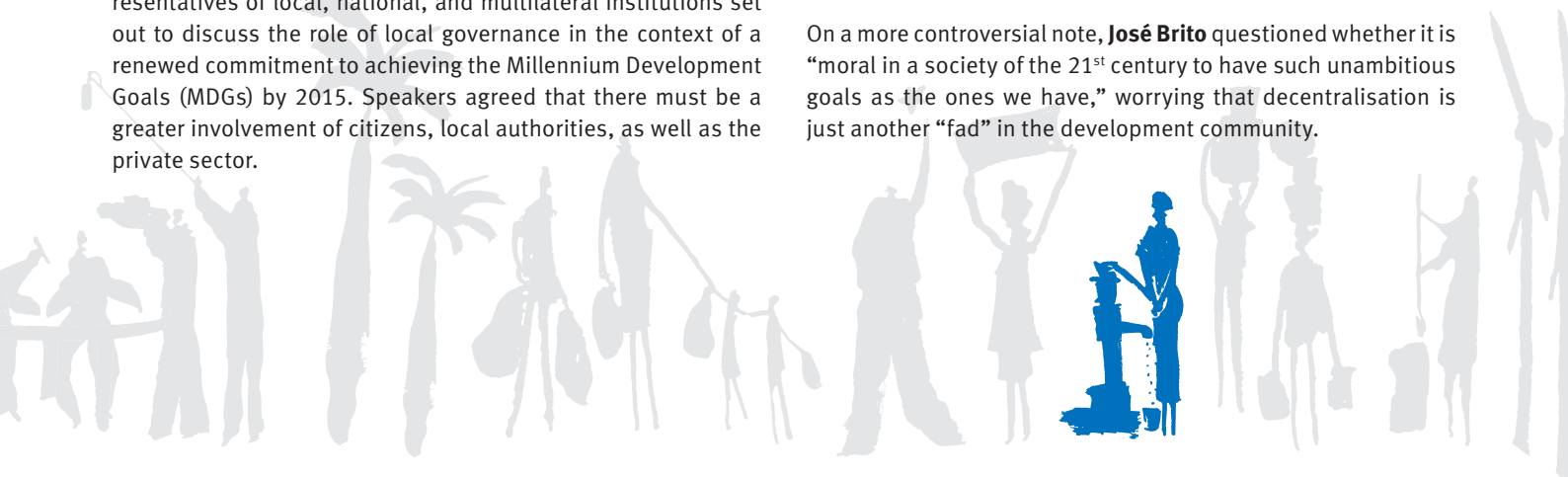
"There is no need to go back on the importance of the role of local authorities. But, if we want them to fulfil this role, we must give them the means."
Josep Borrell Fontelles

Participants explored the role of the private sector and corruption at the local level. **Henrietta Holzman Fore** called for an increased commitment to public-private partnerships (PPPs) at the local level, as well as a larger role for civil society in the fight against corruption. **Michel Kazatchkine** backed Henrietta Holzman Fore's commitment to PPPs and insisted on the importance of inclusive partnerships with all the fundamental actors at the local level.

"The United Nations model where only Member States talk to Member States without including the private sector is no longer the model we need in the 21st century," he said.

Following up on the issue of corruption, **Keith Hinds** drew on his experiences in Jamaica, highlighting the need for an advisory board of citizens that allows "civil society and NGOs to have access to our accounts and ask questions."

On a more controversial note, **José Brito** questioned whether it is "moral in a society of the 21st century to have such unambitious goals as the ones we have," worrying that decentralisation is just another "fad" in the development community.





MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE

Decentralisation and National Cohesion



Habiba SORABI



Dame Carol KIDU



Alfredo L. MANTICA

Decentralisation and National Cohesion Placing local autonomy in coherence with the various levels of governance

- **JAFFER HAMED MOHAMED JAFFAR**, Vice Minister of Local Administration, Yemen
- **CHARLES JOSSELIN**, President of *Cités Unies*, France
- **DAME CAROL KIDU**, Minister for Local Development, Papua New Guinea
- **STEFANO MANSERVISI**, Director General of the Directorate General for Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific States of the European Commission
- **ALFREDO LUIGI MANTICA**, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Italy
- **HABIBA SORABI**, Governor of the Bamiyan Province, Afghanistan
- **OUSMANE SY**, Director of the Centre for Political and Institutional Expertise in Africa
- **MODERATOR, CHRIS LANDSBERG**, Professor at the Political Science Department, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Many developing countries are the product of arbitrary borders drawn by colonial powers without regard to diverse ethics, tribal and linguist groups. Developing national coherence and identity remains an ongoing challenge in these nations. At the same time, decentralisation is seen as useful, if not vital, for effective service delivery, political participation and development. Many in the development aid community believe that to be effective, much more aid should be decentralised.

Chris Landsberg launched the debate: “The very goal of decentralisation could pose a threat to national unity. The challenge is to implement decentralisation in ways that can be good for national cohesion.” **Ousmane Sy** agreed and asserted that decentralisation and national unity are not incompatible.

The process of decentralisation, while necessary for democracy, will not come easily in many developing countries, added **Habiba Sorabi**. She reminded the audience that decentralisation requires that local authorities have the capacity to govern effectively.

“We now recognise that we must have both national unity and democratising that comes with decentralisation. We must take diversity into account.”
Ousmane Sy

Yemen has a decentralisation strategy, but the serious work of implementation lies ahead, said **Jaffer Hamed Mohamed Jaffar**. “Anything that can be done locally, should be,” he said. “Capacity building is vital because you cannot transfer authority to people without the ability to exercise it.”

In Papua New Guinea clans and tribal groups are key, said **Dame Carol Kidu**. Effective decentralisation – including political autonomy and financial support – are critical. “We need policies that focus on growing the nation from the bottom up,” she added.

Charles Josselin urged the audience to remember that national governments should not be demonised. Local governments are not the solution to all problems. National governments must work with local governments through dialogue and cooperation.

Alfredo Luigi Mantica reminded the audience that development aid is more effective if donors work closely with local authorities. “There are many sectors where decentralised cooperation for development works best, including gas, electricity, water and transport,” he said.

Stefano Manservisi stated: “If I had the choice, I would like to give budget support to governments at local level.” He said there should not be tension between local and national level and added that a way to avoid tension may be found in the EU model with its principles of subsidiarity and solidarity among people at supranational, national, regional and local level.



MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE

Local Governance, Participation and Empowerment of Citizens



Olga ALGAYEROVA



Theresia SAMARIA



Ramatoulaye MAIGA

Local Governance, Participation and Empowerment of Citizens

Political awareness and engaging the citizens: the role of local authorities

- **OLGA ALGAYEROVA**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovak Republic
- **RAMATOULAYE MAIGA**, National Coordinator of the African Movement of Working Children and Youth, Mali
- **NGONE NDOYE**, Senator, Mayor of Rufisque East, Vice-president of a network of locally elected women, Senegal
- **ALAKH NIRANJAN PRASAD SINHA**, Secretary General of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj Institution, India
- **THERESIA SAMARIA**, Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia for the Nordic countries
- **MODERATOR, GILES MERRITT**, Founder and Secretary General of Friends of Europe

In respect of people's living conditions on the ground, the local level is the one at which economic and social democratic participation are built day after day. Involving local actors in the definition and implementation of the policies affecting their territories is therefore an essential purpose of local governance. Speakers representing the development aid donors, local and national authorities and citizen movements shared their experiences of promoting citizen involvement at the local level.

Olga Algayerova emphasised that the Slovak Republic is only at the beginning in terms of development aid, but nevertheless underscored her country's experience in local governance, particularly in neighbouring countries.

Ngone Ndoye described the different initiatives taken in her community to encourage citizen involvement, such as the launch of a participatory budget with a gender equality dimension. Built on traditional practices, these initiatives succeeded to considerably reinforce exchanges both with and within the population. However, she pointed to certain difficulties, such as forging partnerships and gaining the confidence of certain donors.

Ramatoulaye Maiga described her commitment from an early age to the African Movement of Working Children and Youth, as well as her experience as national coordinator of the movement. The movement's goal is to raise awareness and to inform political decision makers about children rights. In a powerful and moving declaration, relayed by several youths in the audience, she called on political decision makers to finally listen to the voices and grievances of the youth, but also to address them in a language they understand.

Alakh Niranjana Prasad Sinha underscored the critical role of national and local institutions in promoting citizen participation at the local level. **Theresia Samaria** highlighted the importance of dialogue for learning about democracy and its different principles, which are often not shared across the whole world. She suggested putting into place a research centre aimed at promoting dialogue and exchanges of points of view and experience with different types of democracy in the North and South.

Participants discussed, among other things, the consideration of gender in the promotion of local governance and the necessary political will required for local authorities to promote real citizen involvement.





Territories and Sustainable Economic Development

Promoting local capacities and preparing climate change adaptation through a partnership approach

- **BASHIR SALEH BASHIR**, President of the Libya Africa Portfolio Investment
- **GUNILLA CARLSSON**, Minister for International Development Cooperation, Sweden
- **SIMON COMPAORÉ**, Mayor of Ouagadougou, Chairman of the Association of Burkina Faso Mayors, Treasurer of the International Association of Francophone Mayors
- **MICHAEL FOSTER**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for International Development, UK
- **DANUTA HUBNER**, European Commissioner for Regional Policy
- **NDIDI NNOLI-EDOZIEN**, Executive Director of the Growing Business Foundation, Nigeria
- **TOKE TALAGI**, Premier of Niue
- **MODERATOR, ANYA SITARAM**, Founding Director and Executive Producer of Rockhopper TV and Presenter at BBC World News

Climate change affects those who can least afford it. Developing countries contribute little to climate change but are hit the hardest by rising sea levels, cyclones, floods, desertification and natural disasters. Industrialised countries are supporting their partners in the developing world to establish national response strategies. Participants focused on the important role that various actors, local authorities but also the private sector, can play in adapting to and mitigating climate change.

Danuta Hubner explained how Europe could help Africa and the developing world by knowledge sharing, while **Gunilla Carlsson** explained the progress that Sweden is making on climate change adaptation and mitigation with a view to taking on the European Presidency in 2009.

Michael Foster agreed with Danuta Hubner, saying that the UK is sharing its expertise with the developing world and gave examples of funding. Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai, who was in the audience, thanked the UK for its help in her campaign to protect the forests of the Congo Basin.

Simon Compaoré said that despite being a very dry country, there has been devastating rainfall in Burkina Faso in recent years. Ouagadougou is preparing for more malaria during these unusual heavy rains and farmers are finding it harder to grow crops. At the same, he is trying to convince farmers not to move to the city.

Ndidi Nnoli-Edozien remarked how little the private sector had been mentioned during the conference and said that local government should work with business to implement adaptation measures rather than rely solely on the government and public sector.

Toke Talagi described the economic impact of climate change on Niue, particularly the fishing industry. Asked whether he thought relocation was an option, Toke Talagi said that his people had too great a sense of national identity to give up their island.

Bashir Saleh Bashir described the progress Libya is making in adapting to climate change. The country has invested in a major hydroelectric dam and built a canal to carry drinking water from hundreds of miles inland to the coast. As a major investor, Ndidi Nnoli-Edozien pointed out that his organisation could both help and benefit from working with local governments in Africa.





LUC VAN DEN BRANDE

EVENT

Decentralised Cooperation and Twinings for Development



Decentralised Cooperation and Twinings for Development

CHAIRS

- **LOUIS MICHEL**, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid
- **LUC VAN DEN BRANDE**, President of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union

COMMENTATORS

- **ABDOURAHIM AGNE**, Minister of Land and Decentralised Cooperation, Senegal
- **STEFANO MANSERVISI**, Director General of the Directorate General for Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific States, European Commission
- **ISTVÁN SÉRTÖ-RADICS**, Chairman of the Commission for External Affairs and Decentralised Cooperation

PANELLISTS

- **DO HOANG AN**, President of the Town Planning and Urban Development Association of Hanoi
- **JEAN-PHILIPPE BERNARD**, Representative, Ile-de-France
- **MAAN CHIBLI**, Mayor of Aleppo, Syria
- **ABEL TOUSSAINT COULIBALY**, Minister in charge of local authorities, Burkina Faso
- **ROLF HARLINGHAUSEN**, Member of the Hamburg State Parliament, Chairman of the Committee on European and International Affairs
- **AGNÈS MPINGANA KAFULA**, Deputy Mayor of the city of Windhoek, Namibia
- **VICTORIANO DE JESÚS OVANDO GONZÁLEZ**, Mayor of Champerico, Guatemala
- **FREDERICK O. PONDAMALI**, Coordinator of the Hamburg – Dar es Salaam Cooperation
- **PATRICIA ALEJANDRA ROJAS ARAYA**, Director of the Department of the Land Register of the City of Viña del Mar, Chile
- **HERBERT SCHMALSTIEG**, Emeritus Mayor of Hanover, Germany
- **FABIOLA SOTELO**, Director General for External Cooperation, Regional Government of Galicia, Spain
- **JULIETTE SOULABAILLE**, Rapporteur of the Committee of Regions on Governance and Development, France
- **MASSIMO TOSCHI**, Minister for International Cooperation of the Tuscany Region, Italy
- **HEINI UTUNEN**, Member of the City Council Jyväskylä, Finland

The local dimension of development cooperation is a central theme for the European Development Days. In this framework, European Commissioner **Louis Michel** launched the Twinning for Development initiative and in July addressed an open letter to local EU authorities urging each to engage in “twinning” with a partner from the South, noting: “If each local authority, with its resources, however limited, decided to get involved in a twinning with a town, a municipality, a district, a province, or a region in the South, the world would be changed and poverty would decrease rapidly.”

A WIN-WIN SITUATION

In this session, representatives of local European authorities and their partners in developing countries presented the wide diversity of their cooperation activities. The first example of decentralised cooperation concerned the collaboration between the local government of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, represented by **Frederick O. Pondamali** and **Rolf Harlinghausen** of Hamburg. The latter explained that when Hamburg put its know-how and diverse skills at the disposal of Dar es Salaam, it is above all a win-win situation in which each partner learns from the other.

Another example is the cooperation between the Region Ile-de-France and the city of Hanoi, Vietnam. Since 2002, the Region Ile-de-France, together with the Brussels-Capital region, the city of Hanover and the European Commission, has supported a programme to improve public transport. **Jean-Philippe Bernard** explained that in developing the network of public transport and in increasing the number of buses in Hanoi, the number of passengers increased from 10 million to 350 million a year.

Abdourahim Agne noted that there is a rise in this type of cooperation. “Partners from the North, such as Spain, France and Italy have mobilised funds to support the health sector or women’s groups,” he said.

IMPORTANT ADDED VALUE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Commissioner Michel recognised the important added value of local authorities in development: “I have seen with my own eyes the difference that can be made by local European authorities in development in countries of the South. Local authorities have experience, expertise and know-how worth their weight in gold in various areas.”



This is why the European Commission is encouraging twinning: “Twinning favour relations between citizens of different countries and cultures, which directly involves their universal responsibility for men and women. There is tremendous leverage to make the populations of our countries better understand their duty to humanity and solidarity in regards to those who live in under-developed areas and in poverty,” said the Commissioner.

Luc Van den Brande commented: “The difficulties to be tackled to have sustainable development are many, protean and often cumulative. An adapted response demands good governance at each level of power, greater coordination and better concentration between different authorities.” He noted: “Decentralised authorities are not the subcontractors of the state. Cities and regions must be able to participate in the European and international debate and respond to questions regarding their own areas of responsibility.”

“The integration of input from the cities and regions in the process of development is now a necessity. It is certain that the Millennium Development Goals will never be achieved without the participation and active contribution of regional and local authorities.”

Luc Van den Brande

RECOGNISING THE BEST TWINNING PROJECTS

Commissioner Louis Michel awarded prizes to three twinning projects co-financed by the European Commission between 2005 and 2008. These projects were chosen by a jury composed of representatives of the Commission, the Committee of the Regions and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions for their contribution to development.

FIRST PRIZE: REHABILITATION AND EXPLOITATION OF THE WATER IN ZIBAKO, BURKINA FASO

The goal of this twinning project between Limoges, France and Pabré, Burkina Faso is to improve access to water in the dry region of Burkina Faso thanks to the improvement of pumping and drawing water techniques, as well as for actions in the field of education. It brings together a twinning for development between Limoges and several partner communities in the South. This project, which led to practical outcomes, showed its reliability over time, and is an excellent example of cooperation at the local level.

SECOND PRIZE: URBAL II LAS MUJERES TRANSFORMAMOS LAS CIUDADES, QUITO, ECUADOR AND OTHER CITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

The jury was impressed by the deepness and the scope of this project, which brings together six cities in six different countries (Quito in Ecuador, Saint-Denis in France, Gijón in Spain, Montevideo in Uruguay, Escazú in Costa Rica and Santa Tecla in El Salvador). It promotes the participation of women in the local decision-making process and in providing local services. It meets objective three of the Millennium Development Goals to promote gender equality and empower women, and is expected to have a long-term impact in each participating region. It also emphasises the importance of local civil society in each participating city.

THIRD PRIZE: METHODOLOGICAL SUPPORT TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN KENSCHOFF, HAITI

This twinning project, between the *Conseil régional de Basse-Normandie* (France), the *Groupe d'Action francophone pour l'environnement* – GAFE (Haïti), the *Service de coopération et d'action culturelle* (France) and the city council of Kenschoff (Haïti) in one of the world's poorest countries that recently suffered from a series of political problems and natural disasters, was particularly noted for the importance placed on the social element of sustainable development. Not only does it involve a large number of people and local institutions, but it adopts a unique approach based on role playing games which teach citizens to consider things from a new angle and in a new perspective.

In addition to the three prizes, the jury gave special mentions to two twinning projects; *URBAL II Energías Renovables y redes de desarrollo local* and the Zimbabwe Local Democracy Enhancement Project.

SIGNING CEREMONY OF TWINNING CONVENTIONS

Concluding this event, the representatives of the 119 new twinning conventions signed following the call of Commissioner Louis Michel were invited to come on stage for a group photo and a warm handshake with the European Commissioner and the President of the Committee of the Regions.



PLENARY SESSION

European Development Cooperation Charter in Support of Local Governance



European Development Cooperation Charter in Support of Local Governance

- **CHAKIB BEN MOUSSA**, Minister of the Interior, Morocco
- **SIMON COMPAORÉ**, Mayor of Ouagadougou, Chairman of the Association of Burkina Faso Mayors, Treasurer of the International Association of Francophone Mayors
- **OLIVIER CONSOLO**, Director of CONCORD, the European Confederation of Relief & Development NGOs
- **GÁBOR DEMSZKY**, Mayor of Budapest, Hungary
- **XAVIER GIZARD**, Secretary General of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and the Forum of Global Associations of Regions (FOGAR)
- **CHARLES JOSSELIN**, President of *Cités Unies*, France
- **WOLFGANG SCHUSTER**, Vice-President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Mayor of Stuttgart, Germany
- **LUC VAN DEN BRANDE**, President of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union

The European Development Cooperation Charter in Support of Local Governance was launched on the 16th of November. Initiated by the French Presidency of the EU (Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs) and United Cities France, supported by the European Commission, the Charter establishes the principles and terms required to improve the effectiveness of cooperation at local level in partner countries.

Faced with an increasing number of actors involved in cooperation at local level, the Charter seeks to find more coherent methods of action, which are complementary to other international initiatives that already exist. It recognises the commitments of the Paris Declaration and confirms the support of the signatories for decentralisation, de-concentration, local democratic governance and local authorities.

Charles Josselin praised the “extraordinary progress of the concept of decentralised cooperation in Europe, Africa and the rest of the world,” and added, “given the financial crisis, the return of governance is essential, as long as it is based on democracy.”

Wolfgang Schuster underscored the need for practical approaches and good practices. “As we are the ‘winners’, we have a responsibility,” he said. “We must work together for a better world.” He called for “heightening the awareness of the citizens to the need for a more effective cooperation between the North and the South”.

“To become involved together in the Charter is to help to give effective answers together to the needs of local development. Support from everyone in this process is essential.”

Charles Josselin

Olivier Consolo noted that the process must be taken back to ground level with three priority aspects: furthering the multi-party scope of the process; going beyond sector approaches; and strengthening partnerships. “We talk a lot about aid, but we think it is insufficient in volume,” he said. “We need to double local resources available for aid and development and give local organisations the means to mobilise their resources.”

“We are on the right track!” said **Xavier Gizard** “To make development aid more effective, coordination from all levels is necessary from international bodies down to cities, via the regions. Today we have taken a step forward in maintaining that the territorial dimension can be considered as a key to development.”

Gábor Demszky described how his city had countered poverty with social measures. According to the Mayor of Budapest, “regions must hold power and planning must be organised at a regional level”.

According to **Luc Van den Brande**, the Charter is no longer a 3-D tool, rather, “it is better to think in terms of five dimensions: debate, dialogue, decentralisation, democracy and development.”

Simon Compaoré, a strong supporter of local governance, said that the Charter meets local authorities expectations: “We are basing our hopes on its boldness,” he declared.

His enthusiasm was shared by **Chakib Ben Moussa**, who noted, “We have gathered together all parties involved in decentralisation issues. We have moved from supply-side cooperation management to one based on demand.”



SIGNING CEREMONY

A Cornerstone of European Support for the ACP Regions

A Cornerstone of European Support for the ACP Regions

Signing ceremony with the executives of ACP regional organisations

On the 15th of November, the European Commission signed regional strategy agreements with five ACP regions under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) covering the period of 2008 to 2013. Opening the signing ceremony, **Louis Michel**, explained, “these strategies, drawn up together in a spirit of partnership, are the cornerstone of Europe’s support to the integration of your regions”.

“These [regional] strategies are a resounding proof of the attention the European Union pays to regional integration in ACP countries, and of the support for your own efforts to this end.”

Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid

The regional strategies under the 10th EDF are worth a total of €1.6 billion; nearly double that of the 9th EDF. The European Development Fund is the main financial instrument for geographic cooperation with ACP countries. Funded by Member States on the basis of voluntary contribution, the EDF is additional to the regular Community budget. Regional cooperation with ACP countries is governed by the ACP-EC partnership agreement signed in Cotonou in 2000 and revised in Luxembourg in 2005.

The European Commission adopted strategy documents for each country and region, as well as for intra-ACP relations. Implementation will be subject to annual monitoring while strategies are to be re-examined half-way, in 2010, and at the end of the EDF, in 2012.

After Commissioner Louis Michel’s opening speech and in the presence of **Jean Ping**, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, representatives signed the agreements. **Tuiloma Neroni Slade** signed on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum, followed by Dr **Tomaz Augusto Salomão** for the Southern African Development Community. For West Africa, **Mohamed Ibn Chambas** (Economic Community of West African States) and **Christophe Dabire** (West African Economic and Monetary Union) were the signatories.

The Eastern and Southern African and Indian Ocean representatives were then invited to the podium to sign. **Sindiso Ngwenya** (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa), **Juma Mwapachu** (East African Community), **Mahboub M. Maalim** (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) and **Callixte d’Offay** (Indian Ocean Commission) were the signatories.

Represented by **Edwin Carrington** of the Forum of the Caribbean ACP States, the Caribbean region signed later the same day.

At the end of the ceremony, Commissioner Christophe Dabire (WAEMU) stated: “The signing of this agreement will enable the European Union to continue its support for our union and ensure that the current integration process can be consolidated and strengthened to benefit the region’s people.”

Mohamed Ibn Chambas (ECOWAS) underlined the concrete benefits of the agreement for farming, trade relations and regional markets, as well as for peace and security in the region.



EU Donors and their Role in the European Development Agenda

“We must rise above divisions between Member States.”

Maciej Popowski,
Director for EU Development Policy: Horizontal Issues,
Directorate General for Development and Relations
with African, Caribbean and Pacific States,
European Commission

This statement from **Maciej Popowski** at the launch of the seminar on the role of new Member States in European cooperation policies illustrates the European Commission’s wish to involve EU newcomers. Just as importantly, he pointed to the “sizeable hurdles” that must be overcome.

The 12 new EU Member States are the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Malta, Slovakia and Slovenia since 2004, and Bulgaria and Romania which joined in 2007.

This seminar brought together the EU-12 development actors and potential actors, including representatives of local authorities, NGOs, media and partner countries. The result was an exchange of ideas and the sharing of good practices to facilitate the exchange of new contacts and to build up new networks.

ADDING VALUE, WIDENING GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

New Member States have unique expertise, especially regarding situations of transition. Traditionally focused on their neighbours – Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans, South Caucasus and Central Asia – development cooperation activities of the EU-12 present an opportunity for these regions.

Meanwhile, the level of official development assistance (ODA) from the new Member States must follow a specific path in relation to Member States who have a long tradition of development policy. After joining the EU in 2004, the new Member States pledged to increase the amount of development aid to 0.17% of GDP in 2010 and 0.33 in 2015.

This seminar was an opportunity to discuss how they could widen their geographic scope so that the partner countries of the European Union could also benefit from their expertise.

As **Michal Kaplan**, an expert from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs underlined, it is not as obvious to the new Member States as to the EU15’s that the priority should be given to Sub-Saharan Africa.

Maciej Popowski outlined the three priority areas of work the European Commission is planning with new Member States: internalisation of European development policies by New Member States, capacity building and raising public awareness to the importance of cooperation in development.





TRANSITION MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE?

During the breakout session roundtables, political and geographic priorities, transition management, capacity building and awareness raising issues as well as the comparative advantages that new Member States could offer were discussed. “The new Member States are highly active in Caucasus, Eastern Europe and Western Balkans; they could spearhead aid programmes in these regions, allowing for a distribution of tasks in the EU” said Maciej Popowski, highlighting the value these new Member States can add in terms of transition management.

The European Commission is considering a “transition compact”, which would combine experience in the field to benefit countries lacking expertise. Article 33 of the European Consensus refers to this explicitly, although calls for applying the concept have so far gone unheeded.

“We hope this will change soon,” added Maciej Popowski, referring to the framework of the EU’s Neighbourhood Policy into which such a compact could be incorporated.

Several speakers pledged that financial support should be made available to fund this platform for expertise. **Marek Dabrowski**, from the Warsaw-based Centre for Social and Economic Research, suggested that first and foremost, “new donors must catch up with the others”.

Most of them were of opinion that the transition element should be an integral part of the EU development policy, even though transition processes vary over time and over borders. Michal Kaplan stressed the fact that “each country must go through its own transition”.

A GREATER ROLE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

Various speakers called for discussions and a greater role for NGOs and civil society in drawing up development policies so that a basis for intercultural dialogue might be created or strengthened. Civil society in these new Member States has an important role to play in raising public awareness. “We need to inform the public but to do this we have to sell the idea of cooperation in development,” said Kaplan.

To conclude, Maciej Popowski underlined the importance of an open dialogue: “We are going to involve local authorities in new Member States, as well as society, to discuss action procedures [as well as to] continue trying to overcome the differences between the 15 and the 12 inside the EU.”





Larisse HOUSSOU

AWARD CEREMONY

Lorenzo Natali Prize 2008



Wangari MAATHAI



Xavier LAMBRECHTS



Lorenzo Natali Prize 2008

Journalists committed to development, democracy and human rights

"For all the wonderful things that journalists do and we really know that you risk your life every day, I want to thank the European Union for establishing this award because too often, we don't find time enough to say thank you."

Wangari Maathai

WINNERS OF THE NATALI PRIZE 2008

GRAND PRIZE

LARISSE HOUSSOU, Benin

AFRICA

1st prize: **LARISSE HOUSSOU**, Benin

2nd prize: **JULIE LAURENZ** and

NICOLENE TROLL, South Africa

3rd prize: **JOHN NJOROGUE**, Uganda

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

1st prize: **RAPHAEL GOMIDE**, Brazil

2nd prize: **MARIA PAZ CUEVAS SILVA**, Chile

3rd prize: **EDGAR CHERUBINI LECUNA**, Venezuela

ASIA AND PACIFIC

1st prize: **ARIES RUFO**, Philippines

2nd prize: **RAGHU KARNAD**, India

3rd prize: **GEORGE THOMAS**, India

EUROPE

1st prize: **ANGELA ROBSON**, United Kingdom

2nd prize: **PIERRE GUYOT**, France

3rd prize: **MIRJANA RAKELA**, Czech Republic

MAGHREB AND MIDDLE-EAST

1st prize: **NASSIMA OULEBSIR**, Algeria

2nd prize: **MEHDI SEKKOURI ALAOU** and

YOUSSEF ZIRAOU, Morocco

3rd prize: **ANNE-MARIE JAZZAR-EL HAGE**, Lebanon

SPECIAL PRIZE TELEVISION

BRIGIT VIRNICH, Germany

SPECIAL PRIZE RADIO

HYRE TEJECI, Kosovo

PRESENTERS

- **OMAR BELHOUCHE**, Editor-in-Chief of the Algerian paper *El-Watan*
- **MAUD DE BOER-BUQUICCHIO**, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- **GENEVIÈVE GARIGOS**, President of Amnesty International France
- **LARRY KILMAN**, Director of Communications, World Association of Newspapers
- **XAVIER LAMBRECHTS**, Editor-in-Chief and presenter on TV5 Monde
- **WANGARI MAATHAI**, Nobel Prize Winner (2004), Founder of the Green Belt Movement
- **LOUIS MICHEL**, European Commissioner in charge of Development and Humanitarian Aid
- **FEMI OKE**, journalist and former presenter of *Inside Africa* on CNN
- **PIERRE-LUC SÉGUILLON**, presenter on the French news channel LCI

At the award ceremony, organised on 15 November, 17 winners from across the world were awarded a Natali Prize. Five first regional prizes, one special TV prize and one special radio prize were given. The Grand Natali prize was awarded to **Larisse Houssou**, Benin, Africa, for his article on Darfur, "Dressed to Kill".

The jury president, **Xavier Lambrechts**, Editor-in-Chief and presenter on TV5 Monde, told participants, "the Natali prize rewards demanding and quality journalism". Deciding among the candidates was not an easy task, given their quality and quantity. Some 1,500 candidates from more than 150 countries were under consideration. The first selection was done by students from the Paris School of Journalism, then an independent jury made up of journalists (including TV5, *Courrier International* and *Le Monde*) and representatives of NGOs (including, Reporters Without Borders, Amnesty International, AFP Foundation and the World Association of Newspapers) selected the winners. The prize ceremony was hosted by **Femi Oke**, journalist and former presenter of *Inside Africa* on CNN.

For the Latin American and Caribbean region, the first prize went to **Raphael Gomide**, Brazil, for his article "Infiltrated: the Interior Police" in *Folha de São Paulo* and was given by **Genevieve Garrigos**, President of Amnesty International France.



1st prize winners

Pierre-Luc SÉGUILLON

The Maghreb and Middle East first prize was given by **Omar Belhouchet**, Editor-in-Chief of the paper *El-Watan* (Algeria) to the Algerian journalist **Nassima Oulebsir** for her article, “Children Forbidden from School”, which appeared in *Le Jeune Indépendant*. The Editor-in-Chief of *El Watan* recalled how Algeria is one of the countries facing difficulties on the political front, where human rights are not always respected. “Fortunately the fight continues, including through such ceremonies, which are very important to us,” he said.

In the Asia category, the first prize was awarded to the Filipino journalist **Rufo Aries**, author of the article, “A Cry for Justice”, published in the paper *Newsbreak*. The prize was given by **Larry Kilman**, who represented the World Association of Newspapers, a partner of the Natali Prize, together with Reporters Without Borders.

For the European region, the first prize was given to the independent British journalist **Angela Robson** for her article, “The Bad Child Must Stay in the Community”, which appeared in *Le Monde Diplomatique*. In this report, she was interested in child soldiers in Sierra Leone. “I saw children from six to 18 years old, kidnapped, drugged, used to destroy society, raping, pillaging and even cannibalizing their own parents”. Her prize was given by **Maud de Boer-Buquicchio**, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Finally, for the Africa region, the first prize was awarded to Beninese journalist **Larisse Houssou** for his article on child soldiers from Darfur. His prize was given by **Wangari Maathai**, 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner. Wangari Maathai recalled how she felt respect for journalists. “And too often, we don’t find the time to tell them, ‘thank you’,” she said.

This year, the Natali Prize was opened to radio and television journalists as well. To mark the opening to audiovisual media, the jury decided to grant two special prizes “radio” and “television”, given by the “godfather” of the Natali Prize, **Pierre-Luc Séguillon**, presenter on the French news channel LCI.

The Kosovar journalist **Hyre Tejeki** was awarded for her radio report on the fate and future of women during and after the war in Kosovo. The special “television” prize was given to **Brigit Virnich** for her documentary on the women victims of rape by the Democratic Republic of Congo government forces. “I am very happy to know that the war in the DRC is recognised as one of the key problems on the planet,” she declared.

Larisse Houssou received the 2008 Grand Natali Prize from Commissioner **Louis Michel**. “The role that the media plays in development is a subject that I hold closely to my heart,” said the Commissioner. “Making progress in the freedom of the press, quality journalism and active journalists is the goal of the Lorenzo Natali Prize. What we recognise today from these 17 Natali laureates is their commitment to progress.”

THE LORENZO NATALI PRIZE

Created in 1992 by the European Commission to promote dedicated journalism of the highest quality, it was named after Lorenzo Natali for his dedication to his work as former vice-president of the European Commission, in charge of cooperation and development 1985-1989.

- It is a global prize: more than 1,500 journalists from more than 150 countries submitted their work in 2008.
- The prize awards journalists involved in development, democracy and human rights.
- It is organised by the European Commission in partnership with the World Association of Newspapers and Reporters Without Borders.

More info: www.nataliprize2008.eu

“This award strengthens my commitment and my determination to continue fighting for human rights.”

Larisse Houssou





HIGH-LEVEL EVENT

Media and Development

Louis MICHEL & Jean PING



Alain JOYANDET & Muchadeyi Ashton MASUNDA



Media and Development Media and Development Forum: What's Next?

- **JEAN PING**, Chairperson of the African Union Commission
- **LOUIS MICHEL**, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid
- **ALAIN JOYANDET**, Secretary of State in charge of Cooperation and Francophone Affairs, France, Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- **MACTAR SILLA**, Director General of the STV Group, Cameroon and President of the African Association of Private Producers and Television (APPTA)
- **MUCHADEYI ASHTON MASUNDA**, Mayor of Harare, President of the Voluntary Media Council, Zimbabwe
- **ERIK BETTERMANN**, Director General, Deutsche Welle, Germany

In September 2008 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, the African Union Commission and the European Commission jointly organised the first Media and Development Forum in partnership with *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*, Commonwealth and *Comunidade de los Países de Lengua Portuguesa*. At the end of the forum, on the basis of the debates, African Union Commission's Chairperson Jean Ping and European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid Louis Michel decided to sign a joint roadmap for action in this field mentioning concrete actions to be pursued according to both of them as continental institutions.

Mactar Silla, moderator of the roundtable, called the first Media and Development Forum a “groundbreaking” event that identified common positions on the role of free media in building fair and democratic states. He presented the three short-term propositions:

- Draft a new pan-African Charter.
- Develop a pan-African Portal.
- Set up a pan-African Media Observatory.

“The work we started in Ouagadougou is to look at ways and means to improve the content and professionalism of journalists. We are not here to regurgitate CNN; we have our own way of conveying information to [our people] and to the North.”
Jean Ping

Media and development are “part and parcel of our approach to democratic governance,” explained **Louis Michel**. “It is a policy which, in a way, derives from the European Consensus on Development.” The Commissioner confirmed that there would be financial support to support the objectives and shore them up. Jointly with President Ping, he also indicated that the project of pan-African Media Observatory was opened to consultation to all: media, NGOs, International Organisations “do not hesitate to enrich this consultation”.

Commissioner Michel called for large participation in this process: “This Media Observatory must be recognised and respected by all stakeholders”. He explained that the Observatory would have as one of its missions to “ensure, at the continental level, the respect and the quality of ethical and deontological principles.”

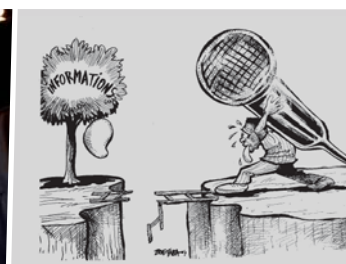




Mactar SILLA



Jean PING & Erik BETTERMANN



Alain Joyandet reminded participants that in 2008 so far, 35 journalists have been killed on the job and 130 were imprisoned or are still in prison. A former radio broadcaster, the Secretary of State pointed out that any media needs an independent financial backbone if it is going serve citizens.

“There is no freedom of the press if there is no independence, which poses the question of how the media are structured – how are they financed?” He also raised the issue of how new and old media in developing countries could find the financial balance they need to promote free-thinking journalists. “A key challenge is how to create a framework that will sustain a free media in the South that is not afraid to take their voices to the world,” he said.

For Alain Joyandet, economic’s viability for the media is a key condition for their freedom

Muchadeyi Ashton Masunda was the chair and chief executive of the Associated Newspapers of Zimbabwe that published the *Daily News* and the *Daily News on Sunday*, independent publications both banned by the government. The newspapers survived numerous attacks on press freedom – including having their printing press bombed – and helped the newly formed political party, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), gain acceptance with the population.

“The state of health of any country is determined by, among other things, how healthy the media is. The pillar of the media is a pillar of governance. When investors come to a country they ask how free is the press and how free is the judiciary,” he said. “The stronger the judiciary, the stronger and the freer the press.”

According to **Erik Bettermann**, creating and maintaining an independent media is always a process that must be worked on everyday.”He pointed to Deutsche Welle’s Global Media Forum, launched in 2008, which brings together people from around the world: “It is important for journalists to work within networks and in the global dimension,” he said. This is particularly true in today’s digital world.

Follow-up of the Media and Development Forum is expected in the incoming months. The African Union and the European Union’s Commissions are both determined to move forward with the implementation of the propositions of the Joint Road Map, the first step being the opened consultation of their project for a Pan African Media Observatory.

For more information on this joint AU – EU initiative for Media and Development, visit <http://media-dev.eu>



Development: Does the Media Help or Hinder?



Development: Does the Media Help or Hinder?

“What we need is balanced coverage across the continent – the good, the bad and the ugly.”
Tumi Makgabo

- **OMAR BELHOUCHE**, Editor-in-Chief of the Algerian newspaper *El Watan*
- **ERIK BETTERMANN**, Director General, Deutsche Welle, Germany
- **JONATHAN CLAYTON**, Africa correspondent for *The Times*
- **JEAN-MICHEL DEBRAT**, Deputy Director General of the French Development Agency (AFD)
- **WIJAYANANDA JAYAWEERA**, Director of Communication Development Division, Communication and Information Sector, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- **TUMI MAKGABO**, Independent Broadcaster and Producer, and former co-producer and host, CNN, *Inside Africa*
- **ANYA SITARAM**, Founding Director and Executive Producer of Rockhopper TV and Presenter at BBC World News
- **MODERATOR, GILES MERRITT**, Secretary General of Friends of Europe

Part of the Friends of Europe Development Policy Forum (DPF), this event brought together journalists, media representatives and development aid officials to debate whether the media helps or hinders development. The event was preceded by the release of a Friends of Europe DPF background report, *How Reporters See the Aid World*, which argued that aid agencies frequently misunderstand both the role of and constraints on media when covering development stories.

Speakers and participants generally agreed that the answer to the question depends upon the contexts in which it raised. Media can help development by raising awareness of development aid needs, but coverage of development issues is constrained by media budgets, perceived audience boredom and difficulties of access, particularly in many needy, strife-torn and autocratic areas of Africa.

At the same time, media can hinder development when it indulges in stereotypes and fails to perceive or report that Africa is not one country, but a vast, multi-nation, multifaceted continent in which there are several development successes in addition to notable tragic failures.

Participants also explored the different roles of Northern and African media in covering development aid issues and what the North might do to enhance the capacity of African journalists and media to cover development and governance issues professionally, but from the African prospective.

Omar Belhouchet conceded that there is both a lack of resources and professionalism among many African journalists, but that “many African journalists are longing to improve”. **Jonathan Clayton** argued that training journalists, “will not help much if African journalists lack the resources to publish and broadcast.”

Jean-Michel Debrat advised that those involved with development must learn to speak the same language as the media. “Both sides – development agencies and the media – are moving in the right directions,” he said. Development agencies are learning that they cannot use jargon to get their messages across. “If we provide the media with useable information, it seems far more open-minded about using it.”





Louis MICHEL

AWARD CEREMONY

Development Youth Prize 2007 – Sustainable Development in Africa



Development Youth Prize 2007 – Sustainable Development in Africa Young people in Europe committed to the fight against poverty

The European Youth Prize is organised every year by the European Commission to raise awareness about development among young people. Young people from the European Union aged 16 to 18 can participate by submitting a poster or a video. Last year, 1,128 young people from across Europe entered the competition, demonstrating their concern for poverty and development issues.

On the 17th of November, the winners of the 2007 Youth Prize were awarded their prizes by **Louis Michel**. The 27 first prize winners – one from each Member State – will accompany Commissioner Michel on a five-day work and study visit to Africa. “You are not going on vacation,” he said. “It will be much better than that. I am always touched when people tell me that they return from Africa transformed. I say that one comes back [from Africa] better.”

“These school children and students have put time and energy into studying the topic of this year’s competition – sustainable development in Africa – and have developed very creative ideas in poster and video campaigns.

This shows that young people do believe in the need to tackle poverty urgently and that they are the future drivers for development and positive change.”

Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid

In light of the enormous challenges faced by the people of Africa, it is important to realise that Europe is privileged. “For this reason, we in the industrialised world have a duty to [display] humanity, solidarity and generosity towards those populations that suffer. You will become ambassadors for development,” the Commissioner added.

As the topic of the 2007 competition was environmental issues (climate change, sustainable tourism and water and energy), **Marc Durando**, Director of European SchoolNet, emphasised the impact of climate change on Africa, particularly in the Sub-Saharan region. “Global warming, the management of natural resources and tourism are enormous challenges confronting the international community and that deeply affect developing countries,” he said.

Second prize winners were invited to the European Development Days and received their certificates during the ceremony. Posters of the winners were shown at an exhibition during European Development Days.

The Commissioner also launched the 2008-2009 Development Youth Prize competition. The topic is human development, which comprises gender equality, children and youth and cultural diversity.

For information about the competition: www.dyp2008.org

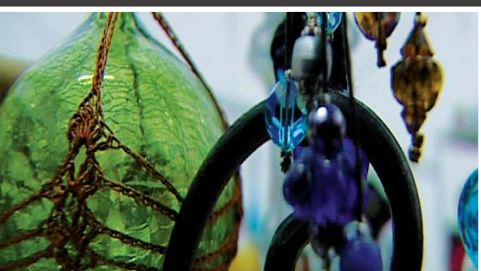




THE «OFF» European Development Days for the Wider Public



Katherine PRADEAU, Anggy HAIF and Sandra MUENDANE



The «Off» programme of European Development Days consisted of advocacy, development education as well as cultural activities towards the general public. These activities mainly took place in the city of Strasbourg and included conférences, exhibitions, music and danse, festival of African movies...



A cosmopolitan fashion show featured three top African designers, including the multicultural haute couture of the French designer **Katherine Pradeau** and two previous winners of the *Africa is Fashionable* Competition – **Sandra Muendane**, from Mozambique who won in 2006, and **Anggy Haif**, the 2005 winner from Cameroon. The Show was highly appreciated by the audience. It was followed by a short performance given by the Burkinabese artist **Flobby**.



Taslima NASREEN



Ján FIGEL

In a special address, **Ján Figel**, European Commissioner responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, emphasised the importance of “a comprehensive approach to incorporate culture in external relations,” especially in 2008, the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. The Commissioner pointed to the role that artistic creation can play as a vehicle for development and stressed that the European Commission remains strongly committed to invest in culture in its relations with Europe’s neighbours and partners around the world, a commitment that is strongly supported by the 27 Members States. “Cultural exchange promotes stability and reconciliation. It gives civil society a voice and it helps the cultural sector to build its own capacity for reflection and action,” he said.



Forums for Innovative Thinking

As in previous years, stakeholders of the global development community – International Organisations, Member States, NGOs, local authorities, academic institutions, parliaments – had the opportunity to contribute to the policy forum of the European Development days through the organisation of workshops and roundtables.

The stakeholders' events are presented in the following pages. They illustrate the inclusive spirit of the European Development Days. There are a few examples. All events are then categorised in three different parts: local dimension of development, sustainable development and visions for the future.

CIVIL SOCIETY AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The reality of partnership in Europe and in the South

- CONCORD (European Confederation of Relief and Development NGOs)
- The Council of European Municipalities and Regions

"In this time of crisis, the temptation is big to withdraw from development cooperation. In the meantime, NGOs, local authorities and civil society actors are no small players. The problems are at local level and it is at local level that they will be solved. It is the citizens who will implement solutions with the help of their local authorities. To respond to the crisis, local actors have an obligation to cooperate which is bigger than ever before."

Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa

Participants at this session discussed the partnership between civil society and local authorities. How do they interact? Do they have common actions to support democratic dialogue? What are their difficulties? At a time of food and financial crises, what do they fear?

Speakers identified four types of cooperation:

- › Technical cooperation in the field where NGOS and local authorities play a major role by implementing programmes, transferring knowledge and creating partnerships.
- › Local governance, whereby local authorities create forums for dialogue and how civil society participates.
- › Raising public awareness about international solidarity.
- › Advocacy to influence European policy decision-makers at local level in the North and the South.

CITIZENS AS PARTNERS

Capacity development for ownership in local governance

- SNV, the Netherlands Development Agency

"The starting point is the local level. It is there where citizens are becoming protagonists in building a new level of responsibility in developing countries..."

The new paradigm will be investing in people to be citizens and building the capacity of local authorities."

Stefano Manservisi, Director General, DG Development and Relations with ACP States, European Commission

Going beyond rhetoric and recognising citizens as partners is the key to eradicating global poverty. Speakers included Professor Jeffrey Sachs for Columbia University through a video message, Stefano Manservisi, Koos Richelle (Director General of AidCo), Luisa Morgantini (Vice-President of the Development Committee of the European Parliament) and Dirk Elsen (Director of SNV, Netherlands Development Organisation). They confirmed the need for local ownership of development, which is both effective and – more importantly – empowers citizens.

They agreed that the starting point is the local level, where citizens are becoming protagonists in building a new level of responsibility. European Commission officials noted that the EU is trying to emphasise participatory and decentralized approaches to development, but noted that success depends on political will.

Several speakers called for more openness and inclusion, pointing out that Africans know what they need to do to change their lives. The Deputy Mayor of Kigali, Jeanne d'Arc Gabuka, showcased the Joint Action Development Forum in Rwanda as a way to foster local ownership. Here, partners identify priorities based on the needs expressed by the people. Once the NGOs are gone, projects survive because the local people, who remain involved, own them. The event was concluded by a short performance of Angélique Kidjo, Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter from Benin.



Aminatou SAR

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD:

A FORUM FOR YOUTH IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Young people's participation in local governance

- Plan International

The right for children to participate in decisions that affect them is enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Increasingly, children and youth are demanding that their voices be heard in their communities.

Young people from West Africa and Europe met at a youth forum, which was followed by a public debate. One of the young participants joined the panel for an official European Development Days roundtable – Citizens as partners: strengthening the appropriation of local governance – to present the messages from young people.

Together with the European Commission and the French Presidency, Plan International sponsored 17 youth media journalists from Burkina Faso, Mali, Togo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, as well as Norway, Sweden and the UK to participate in and report on the European Development Days.

The journalists interviewed a number of high-level participants including European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Affairs Louis Michel, President of the Movement for Democratic Change (Zimbabwe) Morgan Tsvangirai, President Touré of Mali, President Boni of Benin and the President of the African Union Commission, Jean Ping.

DIALOGUE OF GENERATIONS

Visions and experiences

- Youth Ambassadors for Rural Development (YARD)

The Youth Ambassadors for Rural Development (YARD) represents young people from rural areas all over the world. At the Dialogue of Generations session, they told their stories about the challenges and opportunities of their daily lives in their rural home towns and villages – about going to school, finding a place in university, meeting friends, their joys and struggles, and most importantly, the future they would like to have.

These young people are strongly committed to developing their rural surroundings. They could be tomorrow's leaders, researchers, representatives of farmer or rural networks or political decision makers.

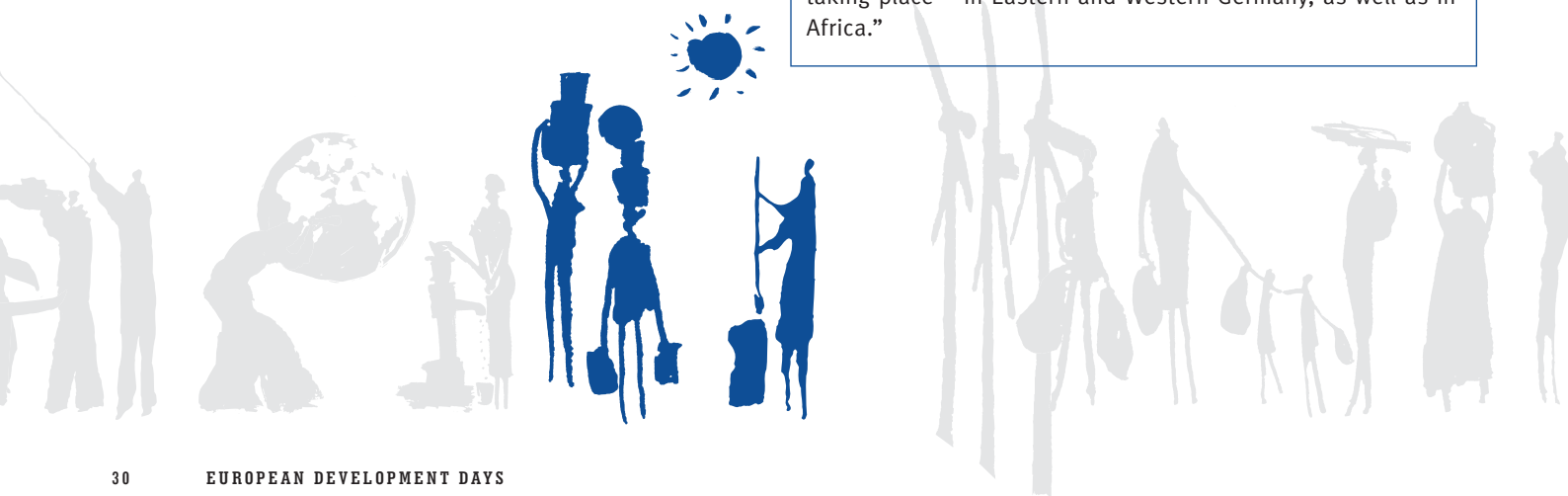
At the Dialogue of Generations, YARD representatives met with European leaders to tell them how a new political framework could accommodate the needs of the young.

Rachida, 32, from Morocco: "By cultivating desert crops in the traditional manner, I want to improve women's income while preserving our most important natural resource: water."

Eka, 26, from Indonesia: "It doesn't take much to be successful, when you are young. Young people have great ideas, and they have great strength to put them into practice."

Luckson, 28, from Zimbabwe: "I grew up in poverty, and today my life is all about the poor again, the poorest of the poor, in fact. I want them to be able to live in dignity."

Carolin, 30, from Germany: "All around, we see a rural exodus taking place – in Eastern and Western Germany, as well as in Africa."





STAKEHOLDER EVENTS

The Local Dimension of Development



The Local Dimension of Development

As the core theme of the 2008 European Development Days, many events were focusing on the role of local authorities in development, local governance and decentralised cooperation.

ACCESS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO EUROPEAN FINANCING AND IMPLEMENTING EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROGRAMMES

What is the role of local communities in partner countries?

- International Association of Francophone Mayors

Local communities have become major players in European development programmes and have therefore new opportunities. Participants at this session looked at:

- › How to reinforce participation of local authorities in the elaboration of European development programmes.
- › What the mayor's role should be in gaining access to financing.

Discussions were based on concrete experiments carried out by local communities in developing countries.

TERRITORIAL APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

Cities and Regions cooperating towards a Renewed Euromediterranean Policy?

- Aosta Valley Region, Italy; Piedmont Region, Italy; Liguria Region, Italy; Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur Region, France; Rhône-Alpes Region, France

The five Regions of the Alps-Mediterranean Euroregion have extensive experience in decentralised cooperation with other regions in partners countries. This session focused on the importance of the territorial approach to development whereby regions contribute towards achieving the MDGs. This event was also an opportunity to promote good practices of decentralised cooperation such as institutional capacity building.

HARMONISATION AND ALIGNMENT IN THE FIELD OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND DECENTRALISATION

Experiences from cooperation projects in Africa

- Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH (InWEnt) – Capacity Building International, Germany

European and African speakers discussed harmonised and aligned approaches for strengthening local governance and decentralisation in South Africa and Tanzania. They also showcased project results.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Public launch of the new European platform

- Council of European Municipalities and Regions (EMR); CONCORD

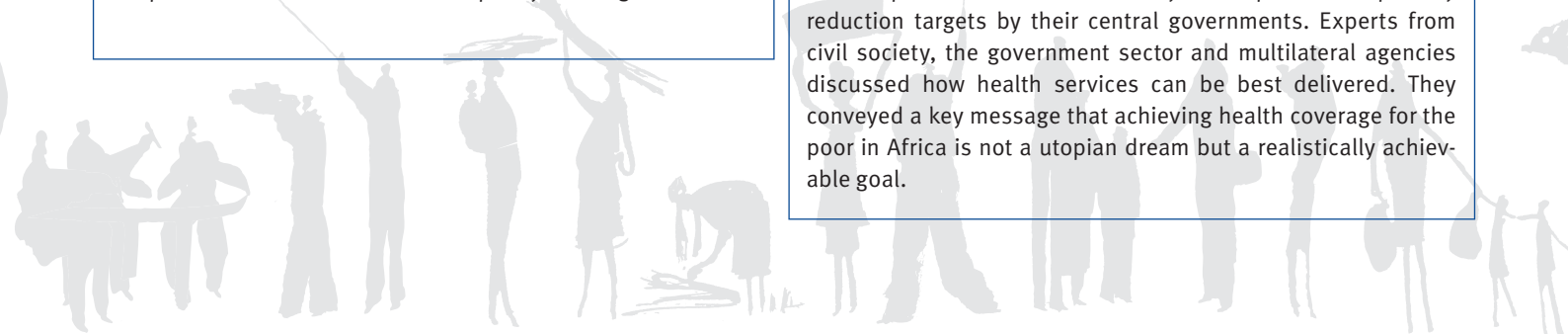
EMR and its partners launched a new platform to give a voice to local and regional authorities in Europe to mark their growing role in international cooperation. The platform will cooperate with CONCORD (European Confederation of Relief and Development NGOs) and help exchange best practices.

HEALTH MDGs AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Are we on the right track to effective and people centred health service delivery?

- Action for Global Health; Countdown 2015 Europe; European Alliance Against Malaria; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; World Health Organization; The World Bank

Three of the eight MDGs are directly health-related and the other goals have a major impact on health. Local governments in developing countries are being increasingly endowed with responsibilities to achieve key development and poverty reduction targets by their central governments. Experts from civil society, the government sector and multilateral agencies discussed how health services can be best delivered. They conveyed a key message that achieving health coverage for the poor in Africa is not a utopian dream but a realistically achievable goal.





Virginia MARIEZCURRENA



Christophe CHAILLOUN



KOOS RICHELLE



Tariq KABBAGE



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN GERMANY

Concepts, strategies and external support

- Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH (InWEnt) – Capacity Building International, Germany

Participants discussed issues such as fair procurement and the contribution of local governments to the extension of fair trade, citizens and participation in the budget, learning from the North-South dialogue, strengthening and extending local government partnerships, and inter-cultural capacity building in local governments by cooperation with diasporas.

COOPERATING LOCALLY TO ACT GLOBALLY

Southern expectations and European perspectives

- Practitioners' Network for European Development Cooperation

Even though development aid is mainly aimed at central administrations of partner countries, some development agencies and institutions already have significant experience in financing cities or other local entities from the South. This session showcased success stories of collaboration between European development institutions and Southern local authorities.

THE ROLE OF LOCAL LEVEL ON AID EFFECTIVENESS

Success stories

- Committee on Development, European Parliament; Pan-African Parliament

This session showcased success stories drawn from the experience in the field and discussed the main features of aid at local level – how it contributes to the effectiveness of development aid and what are the lessons learned to identify local level value added.

MANAGING SCHOOLS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

- Conference of Education Ministers having French in Common; Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France

Participants discussed school management at local level, as well as solutions to realise the concept of education for all, the role of school management committees, community involvement and the commitment of local authorities.

COOPERATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Synergy of European actors

- Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France; United Cities France; French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions

Because of the number of development cooperation actors involved at the local level – states, local governments, civil society and the private sector – it is necessary to harmonise decentralised cooperation to strengthen its efficiency. This session presented different innovative approaches to mutualisation in decentralised cooperation, including for instance cooperation between Southern countries with participation of a Northern partner (South-South-North).

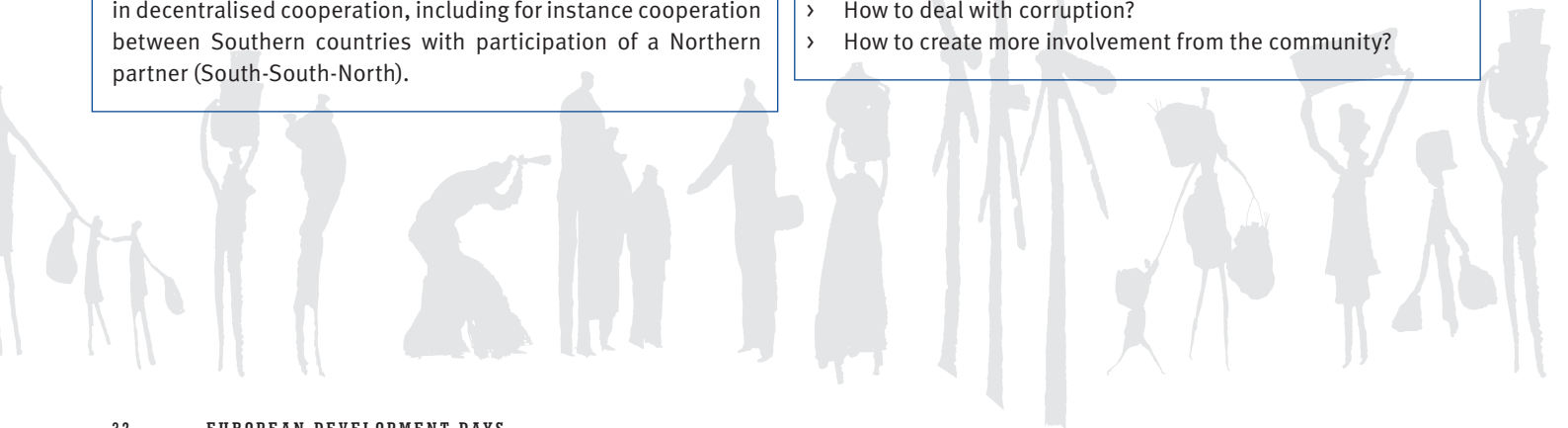
MASTERCLASS ON DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP AT LOCAL LEVEL

An interactive class on the role of local leaders in accelerating local development

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands; VNG International; The Hague Academy for Local Governance

This masterclass discussed the challenges facing local governments in developing countries and ways to respond to them, including how to strengthen local leadership. On the basis of local leaders' roles and responsibilities, participants tried to find answers to the following questions:

- › How to improve management of local services?
- › How to deal with corruption?
- › How to create more involvement from the community?





Sege BAHCHET & Chief Joseph TEMBWE MAYUNI



Hamilton SILVA DA PENHA



Jean-Luc FRANÇOIS & MOHA HADDOUCH

Sustainable Development

Climate change was the core theme of the 2007 edition of EDD. As one of the biggest looming challenges faced by the international community, the environment was also at the heart of the events proposed and organised by development stakeholders. Indeed, discussions on the subject will be long needed and propositions will need follow-up.

BIODIVERSITY

Source of wealth for local authorities

- Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France

Fighting to preserve biodiversity is a development-related issue. Experience shows that when managed by local authorities biodiversity can provide income to local communities and boost their development. This session reviewed several experiences led by local authorities and communities supported by French local authorities through decentralised cooperation in Africa and Latin America.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

How to ensure that income from natural resources benefit local populations?

- United Cities France; Caritas France; Global Call to Action Against Poverty, France; Confédération générale du Travail (CGT); Catholic Committee Against World Hunger

“Abundance of natural resources = conflicts and impoverishment of the populations”: is this equation irreversible? Participants studied the prerequisites for the development of a local democratic governance of natural resources through the experiences of Guinea and Democratic Republic of the Congo.

TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRAL RESILIENT TERRITORIES

UN and regions' partnerships for sustainable development and to address climate change

- UNDP; UNEP; AIRF; NRG4SD; Euskadi Region, Spain; Brittany Region, France; Tuscany Region, Italy; Welsh Assembly Government, United Kingdom; Fatick Region, Senegal; Hessen Region, Germany; Poitou-Charente Region, France; Western Cape Region, South Africa; North Sumatra Region, Indonesia; Le Forum du Nord; AER; CPMR; MFA, France

This session presented the pilot phase results of a new partnership initiative between the United Nations (UNDP and UNEP) and regions from industrialised, emerging and developing countries. This partnership will make available methodologies and expertise from the UN, regions and the private sector, as well as funds to reinforce the capacities of regions to design, develop and implement mitigation and adaptation climate change strategies and action plan.

ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY RESOURCES

AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

A debate launched by the forthcoming Czech Presidency

- European Commission, DG Development; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

Accessible energy is necessary for economic development as well as for achieving the MDGs. Yet, approximately 1.6 billion people lack electricity in their homes. The upcoming Czech Presidency, one of the organisers of this session, is determined to renew the EU debate on sustainable energy in the first half of 2009.

PROVIDING WATER, MANAGING WASTEWATER

The role of African and European local authorities

- AMGVF; Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France; Water Solidarity Programme (PS-Eau)

Participants discussed the global problem of water, as one of the critical challenges to attain the MDGs. It is often managed from the local level and therefore implies numerous actors, making management of water access and wastewater more complex but offering possibilities of higher ownership by the communities at stake. This session gave the floor to the promoters and beneficiaries of successful examples of decentralised cooperation projects involving French local authorities and African partners.



Pilar ARMANET



Henri-Bernard SOLIGNAC-LECOMTE

Visions for the Future

European Development Days forum is the ideal place to launch new initiatives, present innovative projects and discuss new ways to improve the lives of the poor and make the world a better place. Giving a vision for the future on various subjects related to development cooperation was the goal of several events organised by stakeholders.

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION TO 2020

The impact of “emerging powers” on governance in partner countries

- European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI); German Development Institute/ Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik

While providing additional funding and investments, the increasing international role of “new donors” such as China or India poses coordination challenges to partner countries. Those new development partners also challenge the approaches of the traditional DAC-donors. Participants discussed this issue together with the recent European Development Cooperation 2020 report prepared by EADI.

DEMOCRACY IN DEVELOPMENT

Global Consultations on the role of the European Union in Democracy Building

- International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)

IDEA has launched an initiative to consult partner countries on the policies and actions of the European Union and its role in democracy building worldwide. In preparation of the upcoming Swedish Presidency of the EU, the aim is to come up with a set of policy options to strengthen democracy building in the EU's external actions. This session aimed at gathering and discussing the views and experiences of civil society actors from partner countries.

BUSINESS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Business Europe

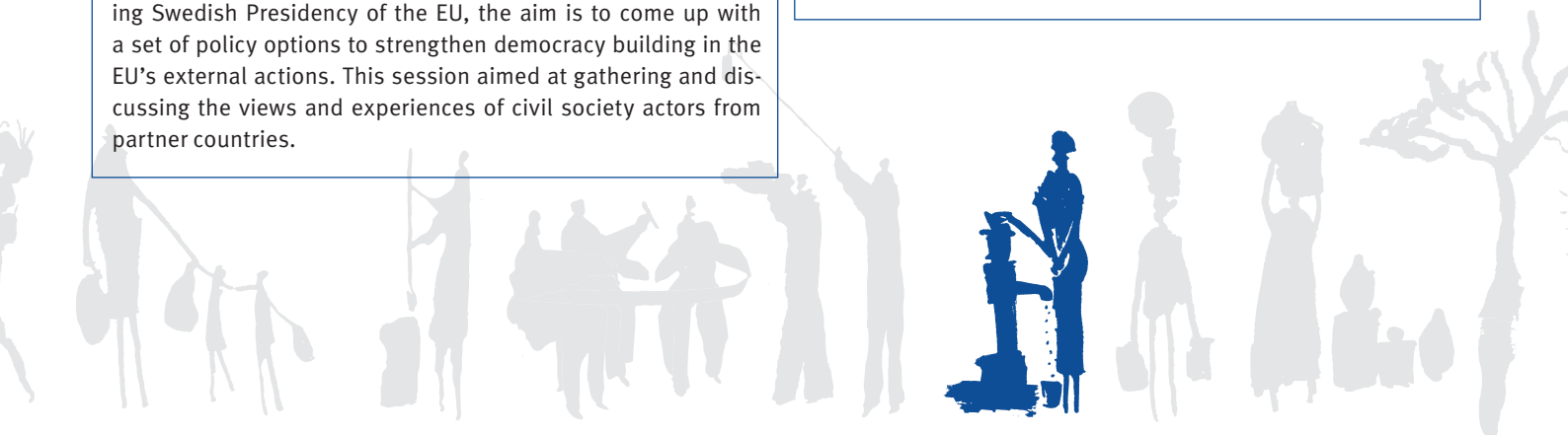
During this four-hour event, the role of the private sector in the various areas of development was discussed. The first part focused on the food crisis with a motto, “Don't make the error of the past”. The session highlighted the importance of agri-industrial evolution and the opportunities presented by renewable energy sources. The second part was entitled “People and Investment: Africa on the move”. It included discussions on the emergence of the new generation of businessmen and women in the South and the investment of big European groups in local development and in social and environmental responsibility. The third part featured “Traces of Success” while the last part was focusing on Public-Private partnerships. Alain Joyandet, Secretary of State in charge of Cooperation and Francophone Affairs, French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, gave the closing speech of the event.

EUROPEAN CONSENSUS ON EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

The role of local authorities and other actors

- CONCORD Development Education Forum (DEF); Council of European Municipalities and Regions; North-South Centre; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

Participants discussed the implementation of the European Development Education Consensus – a framework document on principles and challenges for development education in Europe, including recommendations to institutions and civil society – launched at European Development Days 2007 in Lisbon. They also analysed the situation of development education in Europe, with a particular focus on the role of local authorities. A review of development education in the Czech Republic was launched by the Minister.





Alonso ARROBA



PUBLIC POLICIES IN POST-CRISIS COUNTRIES

What sort of international support should contribute to their development?

- Pays de la Loire Region, France

Since the 2005 international conference in London, the issue of fragile states has been the subject of many initiatives. As a result, responses to fragile environments are becoming more and more adapted. This session brought together a high-level panel of European and international actors who are involved at different levels of action aiming at consolidating peace and reinforcing public policies in countries emerging from crises.

CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORMS ACTING FOR DEVELOPMENT

Key actors for development cooperation

- HUMANIS

What do the terms “NGO platforms”, “thematic networks” and “multi-actors networks” really mean? Participants at this session discussed how to define civil society’s role in Europe and how these actors can coordinate themselves to increase their efficiency. Speakers presented the various forms of alliances and partnerships which exist to pool their competencies and lead advocacy campaigns.

THE WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2009

Reshaping Economic Geography

- The World Bank; Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France

Places do well when they promote transformation of economic geography: higher densities, as seen in the growth of cities; shorter distances, as workers and businesses migrate closer to density; and fewer divisions, as nations lift barriers to trade and enter world markets to take advantage of scale and specialisation. Participants discussed the 2009 World Development Report, *Reshaping Economic Geography*, which concludes that the changes along these three dimensions – density, distance, and division – are essential, and should be encouraged.

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

A new paradigm for development?

- Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France

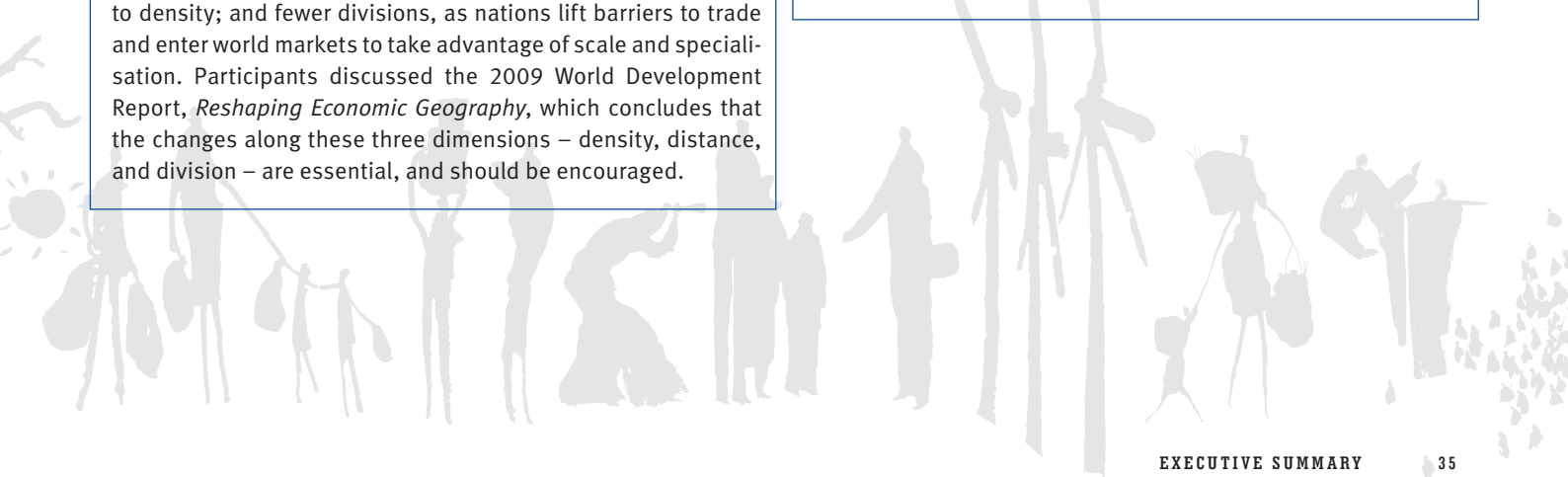
When reduced to management issues, the debate on governance sometimes leads donors to act as lecturers on development issues, who unwillingly compel to follow their processes and economic models. Faced with these obvious insufficiencies, some donors, such as the European Commission and France, have developed a more global approach: “democratic governance”, which departs from the “one size fits all” solution. The debate brought together several co-authors of the book, *Democratic Governance: A New Paradigm for Development?*, which has been edited by the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

BETTER EDUCATION & TRAINING

Creating opportunities for the young people in Africa and Latin America

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

This session highlighted the importance of good-quality education and vocational training for improving the competitiveness of developing economies and creating new opportunities for young people. It drew on the main findings of two reports published by the OECD Development Centre. The first one, the *African Economic Outlook*, is edited jointly by the Centre, the African Development Bank and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, with support from the European Commission. The *Latin American Economic Outlook October 2009* edition will build on the results of the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) study in order to assess the quality of public expenditure in education in Latin America and formulate policy recommendations on how to improve school performance.





A CROSSROAD FOR SHARING EXPERIENCES

The Development Village



The Development Village of European Development Days has clearly become the leading European professional fair for international cooperation actors, with a number of exhibitors that doubled between 2007 and 2008. 128 stands representing several hundreds of organisations of the development family, NGOs, ACP institutions, regional authorities, local authorities platforms, foundations, development agencies, private sector representatives, media, parliaments, research institutes, international organisations, schools and EU Member States a chance to showcase their development work.



Furthermore, about 12% of the exhibitors were representatives of southern organisations. The joint financing of the European Commission and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU made this possible.





More than 4,000 European Development Days participants were able to experience the lively atmosphere where people learned about each other, shared experiences, debated the issues and laid the groundwork for future collaboration. This year, there were displays and demonstrations of art and handicrafts from developing country artists, as well as a special “Media and Development” section of the Village.





A CROSSROAD
FOR SHARING
EXPERIENCES

The Development
Village





TV STUDIO



On the venue of European Development Days 2008, a TV Studio was available to journalists for them to conduct interviews with the many personalities present in Strasbourg. It made it possible to reach people who could not attend EDD.

"There is a risk that the financial crisis will be used as a pretext to reduce public development aid and to add another indecent injustice to a profound injustice."

Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid



"Internationales"
TV5 Monde,
RFI, Le Monde

**Richard Branson
and
Morgan Tsangirai**

"Once the new government is formed, we will get the business community together to invest in Zimbabwe. We will try to get airlines like Virgin to fly in to Harare. And try to get Zimbabwe back on its feet as soon as possible. There are a number of different areas where we can invest in whether it's mobile phones, financial services, the airline industry. We will sit down with the new government and work out how we can help. It is one of the most beautiful countries in the world. We have a big holiday company and one of the first things we would love to do is bring people to see the country."

Richard Branson, Chairman of the Virgin Group



"When developing answers to a crisis that has become global, there is a need for global solutions. So everyone has to take part in finding solutions. When the Bretton Woods system was set up in 1945, we were colonies. We were not there. Today we are. And we think that the others must not act as if we were not there, as if we were still colonies."

Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission



"Agora" Euronews

**Media &
Development**



"What I find extraordinary in this project [the Media & Development Forum] is the fact that we have the European Commission and the African Union Commission together. I think that these two coming together is something we've never seen before in the media. It's been seen in other areas, but in the media this is the first time. This common initiative, this will to develop ties, this will to understand the different realities [...] creates fantastic political leverage."

Jean-Luc Maertens, Head of Distribution for Africa, Euronews



"It is necessary to work with people on the ground. It is the only way to make things happen and evolve. A lot of things are done for Africa, but without including the Africans. We have to find a way to get the message of what we are trying to do to the people in rural zones because it is they who we are speaking about when we speak about development." **Angélique Kidjo**, Grammy Award-winning singer and poverty activist



Interview



"You must understand. Richard [Branson] is a businessman. Should he come to Zimbabwe, it is a vote of confidence in the country. He will attract more people. He has business contacts in various areas of investment opportunities. We believe it is a very significant step for the country. Zimbabwe is in dire humanitarian need. The country has been isolated for the last 10 years."

Morgan Tsvangirai, President of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), Zimbabwe



"It is indecent to use the financial crisis, with its effects on the European economy, to make less of an effort or to decrease our development aid. It is exactly the opposite which needs to be done."

Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid



"I think that development of the media and development pure and simple are inseparable."

Mactar Silla, African Association of Private Producers and TV Broadcasters, President



"Journalists are often tempted by corruption to the detriment of their duty to provide information. How can journalists be protected against repression but also against themselves?" **Maarould Ouada**, journalist, Agence mauritanienne d'information



"During the [G-20] meeting I stressed repeatedly that we needed to focus our statement and actions on development. The world's leaders need to ensure there is a place in the process or developing countries."
 Message from **José Manuel Barroso**,
 President of the European Commission



"This is not 1944, but 2008. I don't know how many the G-whatever will add up to, but I do know that it will be a much bigger G (...) with the voice of Africa."
Wangari Maathai,
 Green Belt Movement founder,
 Nobel Peace Prize Winner (2004)



"It is important to understand that the crisis the world is not simply a financial crisis. It is an economic crisis, as well as crises in food, water, migration, security and resources. We have a multi-polar crisis that cannot be resolved until all stakeholders are around the table."

Donald Kaberuka,
 President of the African Development Bank



"In the face of the challenges and difficulties demanding our attention, we must take hold of our future and show the world that we African leaders are serious, committed and determined. We have to build confidence with our partners."
Marc Ravalomanana,
 President of the Republic of Madagascar



"I welcome the decision to focus this year's European Development Days on local authorities. Local authorities are well placed to translate broad development aspirations into specific, concrete meaningful action in the daily lives of their constituents. They can also serve as a bridge between the global and the local."
 Message from **Ban Ki-moon**,
 Secretary General of the United Nations





"There are two important cities in the world right now. Here, in Strasbourg, where participants have a certain concept of sharing, of the need for a different sharing, and a certain idea of globalisation, a certain idea of the world. And then in Washington, where different participants are in the process of inventing what is sadly lacking, namely regulation of the market economy."

Bernard Kouchner,
Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, France,
Presidency of the Council of the European Union



"The global food crisis, the financial crisis and other global challenges such as HIV and AIDS must not be measured in numbers, but in terms of their impact on the poorest and the most marginalised people in our world. 2008 will be remembered as a year of crises."

Noerine Kaleeba,
Chair of ActionAid International



"The collective awareness that emerges from the conclusions of the G-20 summit gives hope to the planet's poor countries; they do not want to be disappointed."

Thomas Yayi Boni,
President of Benin



"It is time for Europe to unambiguously tell its partners throughout the world, 'yes, we can'!"

Olivier Consolo,
Director of CONCORD,
European Confederation
of Relief & Development NGOs



"Every time food aid is granted, it is an opportunity to stimulate local production. We also have to try to create jobs that allow people to feed themselves on a lasting basis."

Philippe Mathieu,
Oxfam, Haiti



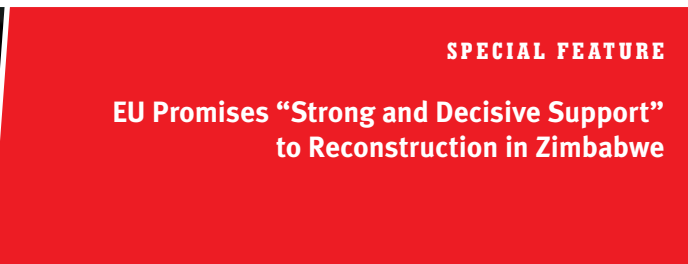
"If you compare the American way of quick financial profit and the European approach of economic and social responsibility, you find a difference in the two types of capitalism. We also want [this] reflected in international institutions."

Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul,
Special Envoy to the Secretary-General of the UN for the Conference
on Financing for Development, Federal Minister for Economic
Cooperation and Development, Germany





Louis MICHEL



Morgan TSVANGIRAI

EU Promises "Strong and Decisive Support" to Reconstruction in Zimbabwe

Press conference

Louis Michel – Morgan Tsvangirai

For the first time since the elections from which he had to withdraw due to the violence perpetrated against his supporters, the President of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) Morgan Tsvangirai was able to leave his country and address the world. He chose to do so from European Development Days and was warmly welcomed.

He held a press conference with Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid

The EU is firmly committed to providing "strong and decisive support" to the reconstruction of Zimbabwe once the last hurdle of an equitable sharing of power has been resolved, promised **Louis Michel**. The Commissioner described an "ambitious reconstruction" that would include fighting poverty, supporting economic [development] and normalising of all the indicators that today are "catastrophic".

Louis Michel told participants that the EU cannot envisage triggering strong support for reconstruction in Zimbabwe until the necessary requirements are met. This includes an alliance government with an equitable balance of power sharing and the means for the Prime Minister to launch a reconstruction programme in a context of security.

A TRAGIC HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Morgan Tsvangirai told participants that his country is enduring a "tragic humanitarian crisis" as well as the current political crisis. "We signed the deal to achieve a solution to allow us to make the transition from the current crisis to a democratic outcome," he said. "The delineation of power between the president and the prime minister must be clear. The sharing of power must be equitable and it must reflect responsibility with authority to respond to the people's plight."

Among other things, the impasse is focused on the powerful home affairs ministry, which controls the police as well as the control of the military through the ministry of defence.

"It is now a question of implementation. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has tried to unlock the impasse without any success. This is unfortunate. As time goes by, we hope it will go through so that we can deal with the myriad issues of economic and social decay," Morgan Tsvangirai added.

The SADC and the African Union Commission will be approached again to serve as mediators, he reported. Questioned on whether the organisations were sincere in their efforts to secure a deal in Zimbabwe, Morgan Tsvangirai pointed out that rather than a lack of sincerity or commitment, it is the lack of leverage they wield to resolve the issue.





Morgan TSVANGIRAI, Jean PING & Louis MICHEL

“It is important that a functional government be set up, otherwise we risk a dysfunctional government,” he added. “If we miss this opportunity, the tragedy for the country is too ghastly to contemplate. We are not walking away from the deal, we are continuing to defend it, but it must be just.”

Morgan Tsvangirai described an ongoing and escalating humanitarian crisis of epic proportions: by January, the government will only be able to feed 5.5 million people, leaving 50% reliant on humanitarian aid to survive. Schools have been closed down in the capital because teachers cannot go to classes. Hospitals have also shut their doors.

He added that the Zimbabwe people remain firm. “They say no deal is better than a bad deal. They are prepared to suffer in the knowledge that one day, they will live free from hunger and poverty.”

THE EU “HAS NEVER LEFT” ZIMBABWE

The Commissioner reported that the European Commission is continuing to support the country with humanitarian aid – more than €90 million last year – working through partners, not the national government headed by President Robert Mugabe.

“We have never left Zimbabwe,” Louis Michel declared. “We have got through using different players. Under no conditions would I accept to suppress the humanitarian aid of the EU to the Zimbabwean people.”

“When the last problems of equitable power sharing have been resolved, the EU will provide strong and decisive support towards to the reconstruction of Zimbabwe and an ambitious reconstruction project to fight poverty, support economic [development] and normalise all of the indicators that today are catastrophic.”

Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid

Questioned whether such humanitarian aid might actually reinforce Mugabe’s hold on the country, both Louis Michel and Morgan Tsvangirai agreed that in government, an elected leader’s first and foremost responsibility is towards the people.

“The first responsibility is to the people. They must be fed. You cannot govern over dead bodies,” Tsvangirai told participants.



“Every day that passes, we are losing an opportunity to drive this country away from chaos.”

Morgan Tsvangirai,
President of the Movement
for Democratic Change (MDC),
Zimbabwe



Bernard KOUCHNER



Michèle PIERRE-LOUIS



Two Days after the G-20 Summit – What Paradigm for Development?

- **BERNARD KOUCHNER**, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, France, Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- **THOMAS YAYI BONI**, President of Benin
- **MICHÈLE PIERRE-LOUIS**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti
- **MORGAN TSVANGIRAI**, President of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), Zimbabwe
- **LOUIS MICHEL**, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid

SPEAKERS INTRODUCED BY

- **ALAIN JOYANDET**, Secretary of State for Cooperation and Francophone Affairs, France, Presidency of the Council of the European Union

European Development Days 2008 followed on the heels of the G-20 economic summit in Washington. Although African leaders were not at the G-20 table, a point made frequently throughout EDD, speakers praised world leaders for reaching consensus on a principle that opens the door for a reconstruction of global governance and recognizes the importance of development in the worldwide financial framework.

OPTIMISM AND DETERMINATION TO ROLL BACK POVERTY

However, “we must be vigilant over the next few months,” cautioned **Alain Joyandet**. “It is up to us to continue working on practical proposals to give our ministers to ensure development be given the weight it deserves and ensure that we achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).” The Secretary of State added that EDD participants could walk away with “new found optimism and determination to roll back poverty.”

Bernard Kouchner acknowledged that many are afraid of the effects of the financial crisis on the most fragile economies and that recession in the developing world will have huge repercussions. “A lot of you are afraid the developed world will retreat into itself. Many have said the MDGs are unattainable,” he declared. “But [France’s] commitments will be maintained.”

A STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY FOR THE POOR

Africa needs a macro-economic stimulus programme and a commitment from the developed world to eradicate poverty and improve the daily life of citizens, said **Thomas Yayi Boni**. “It is important that strategies defined by developing countries themselves be supported. The international community needs to prove that it is really willing to support Africa,” he said. At the same time, the enormous efforts made by the international community to counter the financial crisis give hope that it is possible to eradicate poverty if everyone works together. “It is important that the sense of collective responsibility be seen for what it is – a statement of solidarity for the poor of this world,” Yayi Boni concluded.





Louis MICHEL



Thomas YAYI BONI



Alain JOYANDET



Morgan TSVANGIRAI



NEW, APPROPRIATE AND REGULATED INSTITUTIONS

“In its painful experiences of poverty and marginalisation, Haiti has often been tired of empty promises of international aid. Too often illusions!”, denounced **Michèle Pierre-Louis**. “Therefore it is now time to commit and deliver!”, she added.

In an impassioned plea on behalf of the Zimbabwe people, **Morgan Tsvangirai** told participants that the humanitarian crisis in his country is “man-made” by a dictator and a party that are trying to hold on to power. The crisis is escalating. By January, the government will only be able to feed 5.5 million people, leaving 50% reliant on humanitarian aid to survive. Schools have been closed down in the capital because teachers cannot go to classes. Hospitals have shut their doors and cholera is killing people every day.

Morgan Tsvangirai described the situation as “heartbreaking”, but also noted that the Zimbabwe people remain firm. “They say no deal is better than a bad deal,” he said. “They are prepared to suffer in the knowledge that one day, they will live free from hunger and poverty.” Morgan Tsvangirai – who was introduced as the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe – said that the sharing of power must be equitable and it must reflect responsibility with authority if MDC is to respond to the people’s plight.

“Everyone who attended this third European Development Days is united in the belief that we can change something. We do have the power to bring about change.”

Louis Michel

Commissioner **Louis Michel** reconfirmed the international community’s support for Morgan Tsvangirai and the Zimbabwe people. He took again the opportunity to call upon European governments and national parliamentarians to ensure they keep their commitments on development aid. “All of us know just how much hope the poor of the world still have. We cannot take the luxury once again of dealing them a crushing disappointment,” he said. He concluded the ceremony and therefore this year’s European Development Days, which, with more than 4,000 participants, deserved to be qualified as a “resounding success”.





CONCLUSION



This Third European Development Days (EDD) brought together the development community during a turning point in our history. The financial crisis unfolding around the world created fear among many participants that developed countries would back down from their commitments, thus hurting the world's poorest citizens the most.

But participants heard from representatives of developed countries that this should not happen. Now, more than ever, vulnerable and marginalised populations – people who played no role in creating the financial meltdown – need the developed countries to not only keep their commitments, but to increase development aid. The financial crisis may have overshadowed the food crisis in mainstream media, but for the participants at EDD, the food crisis shared centre stage with the crisis gripping the financial sector.

Louis Michel, European Commissioner Development and Humanitarian Aid, called on the heads of European Member States to approve the proposed food facility of €1 billion to help farmers in developing countries. The Commissioner also called on the Member States to keep their commitments on aid.

To this end, the political leaders of Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Hungary, Russia, Senegal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Togo, the United States, Yemen, the European Commission, the African Union Commission, the African Union, and the European Union, signed a Declaration on Monday the 17th of November, as a resonance to G-20 Summit.

Among other things, the leaders expressed deep concern about the impact of these crises on developing countries, especially the most vulnerable of them, and on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They agreed that in this context, development aid represents an essential element of the responses to the crises, and respect for commitments is all the more important.

This third EDD centred on the role of local governments and authorities, viewed as a cornerstone for both development and democracy. Several sessions focused on how these local actors can strengthen governance, restore trust, and build partnerships for development that meet the needs of their people and involve better the citizens. In this regards, the European Commission's Twinnings for Development Initiative is expected to help: several successful "twinning" between local European authorities and their partners in South were showcased, which spell promise in the near future.

At mid-point of the deadline for the achievement of MDGs, European Development Days 2008 highlighted the relevance of what Europe has been saying for several years now: "More aid, better aid, more effective aid". It also underscored the importance of real partnerships at all levels: from Head of States to mayors, from International Organisations Chairs to Civil Society leaders, from Ministers to simple citizens, at European Development Days all agreed that more than ever, it is together that we must and will make change happen for a better world.

More about what happened at EDD can be found at:
www.eudevdays.eu

What's next? The Fourth European Development Days will take place in Stockholm, Sweden, under the auspices of the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, in autumn 2009.

"Next year we will be happy to welcome people to European Development Days in Stockholm, to take this progress further, to see how we can engage civil society, business, academia to discuss the theme Citizenship and Development. We will talk about what drives development and, after this financial crisis, how can we live up to aid commitments? How can we see that we are efficient in our delivery? How can we see that there is good governance and democracy in our partner countries so that we can have a sustainable poverty reduction? This is a challenge for the whole development community and it is where the EU can play a key role because of its experience in extending freedom and democracy." **Gunilla Carlsson**, Minister for International Development Cooperation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden



