

Joint CSO demands for the Breakdown of Heading 4

European Civil Society Organisations call on the EU Institutions to vigorously defend instruments which are the most development, humanitarian aid, democracy and human rights oriented during the negotiations on the breakdown of Heading 4 of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020, in accordance with the EU's external action objectives as outlined in Lisbon Treaty articles 21, 208 and 214.

By defending these instruments Member States would prove that their recent reaffirmation, in the Council Conclusions on the MFF (7-8 February 2013), to collectively commit 0.7% of GNI to Official Development Assistance and to ensure that at least 90% of its external assistance over the period 2014-2020 would be ODA-eligible, are not mere words but clear calls for action.

To ensure that 90% of Heading 4 is spent on ODA, the EU institutions need to prioritize those instruments which are most focused on development, humanitarian aid, democracy and human rights, i.e. instruments that focus on developing countries, support the implementation of development policy and development objectives, including human rights and human security, as well as the implementation of humanitarian objectives. These instruments are the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), the Humanitarian Aid Instrument, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the Instrument for Stability (IfS) and the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). At least 70% of Heading 4 should be allocated to these 5 instruments, of which the majority of expenditures comply with the ODA definition. At least 30% of Heading 4 should be allocated to the DCI, at least 10% should go to the Humanitarian Aid Instrument, at least 2.38% to the EIDHR, and the budget of these 3 instruments cannot be lower than their level in the 2007-2013 MFF.¹ Subsequently, the group of other Heading 4 instruments should not receive more than 30% of Heading 4, which corresponds with the percentages in the original Commission proposal.

Finally in order to alleviate the real cuts between 2013 and the next years², we ask the EU institutions to revise the proposal to ensure a more balanced year by year distribution.

In an interdependent world, creating peace, prosperity and well-being for all is crucial. Investing in development based on a human rights-based approach and in humanitarian aid is an investment in the future. Supporting the instruments mentioned above with a substantial budget is a way of strengthening the EU role at international level.

Signatories:



¹ According to final budgets 2007-2013 including the 2013 voted budget, in 2011 prices.

² It is only in 2017 that the present (2013) budget for Heading 4 (in current prices) will be attained again. The first 3 years of the MFF there will be real cuts in the Heading 4 budget.