

NDICI: CONCORD's Views on an essential vote ahead February 2019

The Upcoming Vote and What is at Risk

Next **Monday 4 March** ([17.00 - 19.30](#)), the Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation committees in the European Parliament will vote on amendments to the Multiannual Financial Framework's (MFF) "Neighborhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument" (NDICI) regulation, in a process led by the co-rapporteurs Charles Goerens (ALDE, DEVE), Cristian Dan Preda (EPP, AFET), Pier Antonio Panzeri (S&D, AFET) and Frank Engel (EPP, DEVE). Currently, the co-rapporteurs hold meetings with the shadow-rapporteurs to decide on compromise amendments.

This vote will **determine the position of the European Parliament**, and the text and amendments adopted will create a basis for the triologue on the next EU budget - the negotiation between the European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament.

This vote will be decisive for the legacy of this European Parliament and the shape of the NDICI on which the European Commission will have to build end of this year. In the Council, there has been little progress. **Both EDF-budgetisation and the inclusion of the neighbourhood instrument have been put on hold until Autumn 2019.** The Romanian Presidency will focus on finding common positions in the Council on the other aspects of the NDICI.

CONCORD's concerns, demands and ideas

Under the Commission's proposal, the NDICI will receive **89 billion EUR**. The EU has the responsibility to ensure that this money is following the EU's international commitments and is spent where it is most needed. **Sustainable development** should therefore be at the centre of the NDICI. The following issues coincide with CONCORD's key concerns with the NDICI regulation:

1. Migration and securitisation:

By putting migration at the focus of EU foreign policy and external action, there is a risk for NDICI money to focus on migration management and countries on the migratory route rather than on the objective of development assistance and the primary purpose of poverty eradication. 10% of the instrument cannot be serving the misguided purpose of stemming migration instead of projects respecting aid effectiveness while catering for persons on the move and communities hosting large displaced populations.



2. Private sector:

A growing trend is increasing investment with and through the private sector as a means of promoting international development. Under the NDICI regulation, the Commission calls for the creation of a European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) which builds off of and substantially increases the size of the current Sustainable Development Fund (EFSD) and the External Action Guarantee. This is despite the fact that no projects of the original EFSD, created in June 2016, have taken off and to date only one has been signed. Therefore there is a lack of clear assessment of the development impact and additionality of the current instrument and on whether funds like EFSD+ will actually benefit the local private sector, particularly those based in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Whilst the private sector can play an important role in reaching the SDGs, safeguards must be put in place to ensure that money, which should support sustainable development, is not being misspent and targets countries that need this type of support the most. CONCORD and Eurodad co-wrote [10 key concerns with the EFSD+ proposal](#), which elaborates on these points.

3. Climate change and nature loss:

Our planet is at risk: there is clear scientific evidence about the extent and speed at which biodiversity is being lost, ecosystem degraded and our climate warming. This is already impacting the livelihoods and wellbeing of people all around the world and undermines efforts to achieve inclusive sustainable development, prosperity and peace. In light of such alarming trends and international commitments reflecting the urgent need to act, as highlighted most recently in the [Council Conclusions on Climate Diplomacy](#) adopted on 18 February 2019, the European Parliament has a unique opportunity to make sure that ambitious benchmarks and safeguards are included in the regulation so that money is spent on tackling the most pressing threats to our planet and wellbeing. CONCORD is advocating for the adoption of a comprehensive and ambitious target within NDICI of **50% for actions relevant to climate and environment** that can deliver co-benefits across a wide range of sectors. In addition, all funding should be consistent with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and not contribute to environmental degradation nor to further carbon emissions.

Covering the upcoming NDICI vote and looking for input, visions and further reflections from civil society on the issues laid out above? Get in touch with us and we'll put you in contact with the relevant experts within CONCORD's network.

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