

CONCORD statement on the final MFF 2021-2027 negotiations outcome

In July 2020, after two years of extensive negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, the European Council has reached an agreement which, in certain aspects, can be considered an ambitious recovery plan for the EU.

CONCORD, however, deeply regrets that this is not the case for Heading VI: Neighbourhood and the World, which was decreased to €98,4 billion. This amounts almost exactly to the current EU external action budget (Heading IV - Global Europe under the MFF 2014-2020 combined with the European Development Fund). With just 10 years left to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and in the midst of a global sanitary and climate crisis and unprecedented pressure on civil society and human rights, the fact that the level of ambition has stagnated goes beyond disappointing - it is tantamount to a dereliction of duty and is at odds with the EU's strong political ambitions to be a leading global actor. In these challenging times, the EU's stated support to the achievement of agreed international commitments and objectives, in particular the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement and to partners' recovery from COVID-19, should have been matched with ambitious funds.

Within Heading VI, major cuts were made to the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), for which the total budget now amounts to €70,9 billion (compared to the EC 2018 proposal of €79.22 billion). This has direct implications on the NDICI programmes, in particular the thematic programme, which suffered disproportionate cuts (10.6% compared to the 2018 EC proposal; while the emerging challenges cushion for instance was only cut by 5.9%). This programme is meant to support human rights and democracy, civil society, peace and security, and global challenges worldwide. A budget of €5,6 billion is clearly insufficient to fund such a large set of key priorities. Concretely, it will jeopardize the EU's ability to promote multilateralism, to provide funding to multilaterals and global (health) initiatives, to implement the EU's human rights action plan, and to provide support to civil society and local communities.

CONCORD would like to remind the European Institutions that cuts were made to NDICI under the presupposition it would benefit from a €15 billion top-up from Next Generation EU (NGEU), which did not come to fruition due to legal issues.

Therefore, CONCORD calls on the European Parliament to change this trend by advocating for an overall increase to Heading VI of the NDICI; focusing especially on thematic programs. This could be achieved by decreasing the flexibility cushion. This would also be in line with the European Parliament's mandate for the triilogue negotiations, which called for an increase of the thematic programme to €9.741 billion.



CONCORD

European NGO confederation for relief and development

NATIONAL PLATFORMS	 Global Responsibility European Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid	 BELGISCH PLATFORM PLATE-FORME BELGE CONCORD CROCOUS 45.151 11.21.151 ACODIVY coop-Aidoviste	 BPID Bulgarian Platform for International Development	 Platforma za mednarodnu grazhdanska solidarnost Hrvatske Croatian Platform – for International Citizen Solidarity CROSOL	 CYINDEP Cyprus Island wide NGO Development Platform	 FORS
 GLOBAL FOCUS Danish CBOs for Development Cooperation	 AKU	 fingo	 COORDINATION SUD	 VENRO ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AID NGOs	 Hellenic Platform for Development	 HAND
 Dochas The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations	 Network delle ONG in Europa per lo sviluppo e l'emergenza CONCORD ITALIA	 LAPAS WWW.LAPAS.LV	 LITHUANIAN NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION ORGANISATIONS' PLATFORM LITDEA	 Cercle de coopération des ONG DU LUXEMBOURG	 SKOP Solidarjetà u Koperazzjoni	 PARTOS
 ZAGRANICA	 ONGD PLATAFORMA PORTUGUESA	 FOND Fondová Organizace nevládních právnických subjektů za občanské společnosti	 Ambrella Platforma For Development Organisations	 SLOGA SLOVENIAN GLOBAL ACTION	 COORDINADORA COOPERACIÓN CON EL DESARROLLO ESPAÑA	 CONCORD ESPAÑA
 bond	NETWORKS	 actalliance eu Formerly APRODEV	 act:onaid	 ADRA	 care	 caritas europa
 cbm together we can do more	 ChildFund Alliance	 CIDSE together for global justice	 eucord European Network of Civil Society Organisations for Relief and Development	 GNDR Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction	 Habitat for Humanity Europe, Middle East and Africa	 humanity & inclusion
 IPPF International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network	 ISLAMIC RELIEF	 LIGHT FOR THE WORLD	 OXFAM International	 PLAN INTERNATIONAL	 Save the Children	 Sightsavers
 solidar	 SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES INTERNATIONAL	 Terre des Hommes International Federation	 wecf	 World Vision	 WWF	ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
 ALDA European Association for Local Democracy	 Ea ea EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS	 EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY	 NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL			



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