

To Mrs.
Dr. Monika Vana
Member of the European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60, ASP 08H 141
B-1047 Brussels

Vienna, 9 November 2020

Subject: NDICI trilogue on migration-related conditionality

Dear Mrs. Vana,

The negotiations on the future Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) have reached a crucial point: whether EU development assistance will be conditional on the cooperation of third countries with the EU's migration objectives.

We urge Members of the European Parliament to maintain their position of March 2019 which rejected migration-related conditionality, and urge Member States to reconsider their insistence on this.

Conditioning development cooperation on the implementation of migration controls and numbers of returns and readmissions undermines the commitments made by the EU in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, particularly the principle of ownership of development priorities by developing countries. It also negates the primary objective of development assistance, namely the eradication of poverty, as set out in the Treaty of the EU. The EU cannot condition its support to human rights and vital health, education and social services in partner countries on the basis of their migration management.

The potential damage of proceeding with this approach goes beyond reputational risk to the EU and the erosion of human rights and development commitments. It may incentivise third country governments to restrict mobility, which would affect livelihoods and civic space. It could also encourage countries to strengthen border management systems at the expense of human rights and international law, including the right to seek asylum and the principle of non-refoulement. In less extreme cases, putting migration cooperation at the centre of decisions on funding allocations will lead to ineffective spending, as EU funds will not be used to eradicate poverty, where they have the most impact. In the coming years, additional funding efforts will be needed to support the global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.



We urge you to learn from the lessons of the past. The EU's own evaluation of the European Neighbourhood Instrument could not demonstrate the effectiveness of the conditionality approach applied in its Neighbourhood policy¹, particularly as the interest of third countries in increasing (regular) mobility far outweighs what the EU can offer in compensation.

Yours sincerely,

Annelies Vilim
Director
Global Responsibility

This letter has also been signed by the following organisations:

Wadiah Al-Asmar
President EuroMed Rights

Ana Rosa Alcalde González-Torres
CEO
Alianza por la Solidaridad/ActionAid
Spain

P.P.
Floris Faber
EU Representative
ACT Alliance

Marion Galissard
On behalf of
Action Against Hunger

Eylah Kadjar
Secretary General ad interim
Terre des Hommes International
Federation (TDHIF)

Andrew Lane
Director
Quaker Council for European
Affairs (QCEA)

¹ See Commission Staff Working Document (2017). SWD(2017) 602 final: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/swd_2017_602_eval_eni_assistance.pdf. See also CEPS (Center for European Policy Studies), 'Assessing European Neighbourhood Policy: Perspectives from the Literature' (ed. Kostanyan H., 2017).



Neelanjana Mukhia
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Mette Petersen
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Red Cross EU Office

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International Rescue Committee/IRC

Chema Maria Vera Execu-
tive Director (Interim)
Oxfam International

Catherine Woollard
Director
European Council on Refugees
and Exiles (ECRE)

and with the support of Concord.