

Brussels, London, Rome
29 June 2010

Dear all

Invitation to a European Commission – Civil Society dialogue on the EU and Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, Brussels, 16 September 2010

We would like to invite you to a dialogue jointly organised by the European Commission/DG Development and European CSOs to discuss relations between European (development, agriculture) policies and African agriculture and food security (see attached programme). The discussion will be based on the report of a second monitoring exercise, for 2009-2010, that has been prepared and endorsed by a number of European civil society organisations, including the Concord European Food Security Group (EFSG), in close consultation with African farmers' regional platforms. This documentation can be found at <http://www.europafrika.info/en/documenti/advancing-african-agriculture>. The dialogue is highly topical as it will be held in the context of the newly adopted EC Food Security Communication ("An EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges" - [COM\(2010\)127 final](#)). The lessons learned could be very relevant to the implementation of the new Communication in a coherent manner.

The first civil society monitoring exercise covered a deliberately broad range of issues in order to highlight overall issues of policy coherence. The findings were presented at a dialogue in the Commission on 2 February 2009 attended by representatives of several directorates and departments, members of the Council and civil society organizations (CSOs) from Europe and Africa.¹ The assessment was welcomed and CSOs were encouraged to follow up with further, more focused work.

For the 2009-2010 monitoring exercise, three priority policy areas that impact African agriculture and food security directly or indirectly were selected, in consultation with the African farmers' regional platforms:

- The 1 billion Euro 'Food Facility' - with a country case studies in on Burkina Faso, Burundi and Mali,
- The Common Agriculture Policy -with special emphasis on the milk sector and impacts in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Kenya,
- European involvement in 'land grabbing' - with a particular look at Uganda, Mozambique and Ethiopia.

¹ For details, see <http://www.europafrika.info/en/documenti/advancing-african-agriculture-2>

The conclusions of the exercises are a sharp reminder that policies that may be formulated in Europe for quite different sets of reasons can have various effects on African farmers' livelihoods - farmers who are struggling to feed their communities in increasingly harsh environments.

The dialogue on 16 September will aim at highlighting major issues that need to be addressed as the European Commission rolls out its new Communication and suggesting concrete action that could be taken by civil society actors and the EC.

Representatives of the African farmers' regional platforms, European civil society organisations, Members of the European Parliament, the Council and Directorates are being invited.

French/English interpretation will be available.

It would be appreciated if you could confirm your participation by email to annelies.houpline@vredeseilanden.be

With best regards,

Gert Engelen – Vredeseilanden (VECO)

Nora McKeon – Terra Nuova

Patrick Mulvany – Practical Action

The EU and Agriculture and Food Security in Africa: a European Commission-Civil Society Dialogue

Co-organised by DG development and European civil society organisations
16 September 2010, 10:00 – 15:45, Brussels (Venue to be confirmed)

1. Introductory Session (10:00-11.00)

- **Official welcome** - Belgian Presidency (tbc)
- **Purpose of meeting** – European CSOs
- **European support for African Agriculture and Food Security:** update – DG Development
- **The European Civil Society monitoring exercise:** objectives and context

2. Presentation and discussion of the findings of the 2009-2010 Civil Society monitoring exercise

- **The 1 billion Euro ‘Food Facility’** (11.00-12.00)
 - Presentation by author of key findings and recommendations with integrations by African FOs.
 - Questions for clarification
 - Reflections by the public (MEPs, Council members, CSOs...)
 - European Commission DG response
 - Reactions and recommendations for follow-up
- **The milk sector of the European Common Agriculture Policy** (12.00-13.00)
 - Presentation by author of key findings and recommendations with integrations by African FOs
 - Questions for clarification
 - Reflections by the public
 - European Commission DG response
 - Reactions and recommendations for follow-up

13:00 – 14.30 Lunch break and informal talks about next steps for the CSO work

- **European involvement in ‘land grabbing’** (14.30-15.30)
 - Presentation by author of key findings and recommendations with integrations by African FOs
 - Questions for clarification
 - Reflections by the public.
 - European Commission DG response
 - Reactions and recommendations for follow-up

3. Concluding session (15:30-16:30)

Discussion of impacts of Europe on African Agriculture and Food Security- Issues and proposals emerging from the discussion

- Summary of recommendations and next steps emerging from the discussion (including reference to the implementation of the new food security Communication) – European CSOs
 - Overall response - DG development
 - Future directions for the monitoring of Europe’s impact on African agriculture and food security – European CSOs + African FOs
 - Chair’s summary/conclusions
- Final words
- DG Development
 - European CSOs