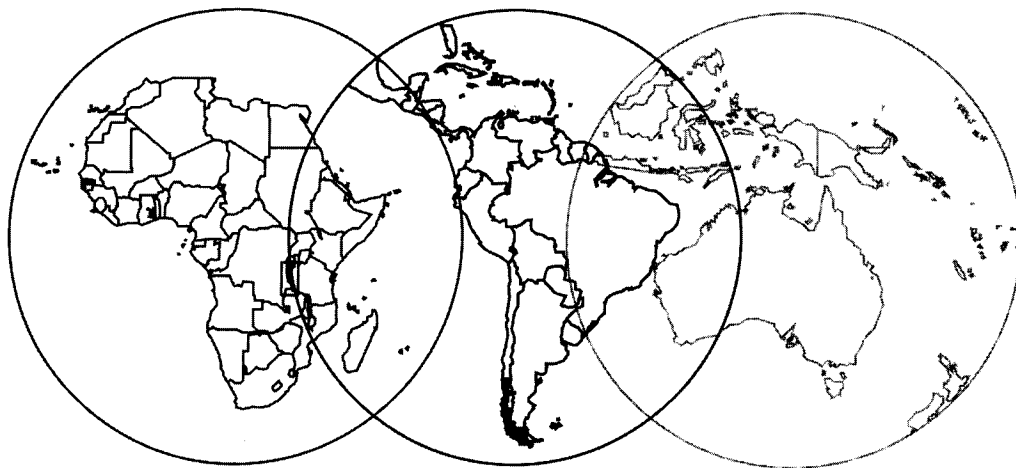


COPENHAGEN +5:

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S
RESPONSES TO THE
WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



CEE: VIII/53



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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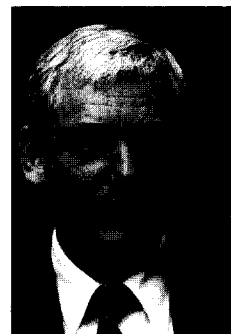
WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BRUSSELS, JUNE 2000

COSS/VII/153

FOREWORD BY COMMISSIONER NIELSON

The World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) held in Copenhagen in 1995 set an ambitious new agenda for support to employment, poverty eradication and social integration, and raised the profile of social questions at the international level. It also called for new and innovative solutions to the problem of multilateral debt introducing the elements of a HIPC initiative. What was then a minority view has now become widely embraced also by the IMF and World Bank with policies fully WSSD compatible.



The European Commission has recognised the Copenhagen objectives, strengthened by the Amsterdam Treaty which entered into force in May 1999, as priorities both at a European level and in its external policies. As regards developing countries I am pleased to report that the Copenhagen commitments are being pursued in our support for macroeconomic reform, and have served as a fundamental element for our newly declared policy orientation for development co-operation introducing poverty eradication as the central objective and calling – inter alia – for improved policy coherence. The commitments have also been strengthened in the recent ACP-EU Partnership Agreement.

Poverty reduction has become the mainstream development objective which was spearheaded at the Social Summit and is being turned into operational realities in development programmes across the world. In the EC this is evidenced by mainstreaming of poverty eradication into, inter alia, all its development co-operation. The new Partnership Agreement with ACP countries is based on the notion that combating poverty and placing human development at the centre are essential for sustainable development and for the integration of developing countries into the global economy. Promoting ownership of economic and social reforms in developing countries and integrating the private sector and civil society actors into the development process are also important aspects.

The key objectives of the Copenhagen Declaration and Action Programme – fighting poverty, promoting full employment and establishing inclusive societies – are equally relevant within the European Union. These are areas where important new initiatives have been taken at EU level since the Copenhagen Summit. The Amsterdam Treaty and the 1997 Luxembourg Jobs Summit provided the foundation for the European Employment Strategy. Together with the European Social Fund, this represents a comprehensive response to the challenge of increasing employment rates and tackling exclusion from the labour market in Europe.

The 23-24 March 2000 Lisbon European Council marked a further breakthrough in the EU's drive to strengthen employment, economic reform and social cohesion. As well as setting the EU new ambitious targets in the employment field, the European Council envisaged new initiatives to modernise social protection systems and to promote social inclusion.

Five years on from the Social Summit, the Copenhagen+5 process provides us with an opportunity to take stock and reflect upon what has been achieved so far. Progress in some areas has been encouraging but there is still much to be done on several pertinent issues that have emerged such as the negative impact of globalization.

The Copenhagen agenda is sophisticated in the sense of portraying poverty as more than just low income. Links between poverty/environment and poverty/gender were introduced expanding good development co-operation beyond the traditional notion of transfer of funds from the North to the South. These links should also address their connection with economic governance in developing countries. In this sense, good governance is poverty reduction.

Meeting the goals of the Social Summit is an on-going process. In order to demonstrate the EC 's commitment to implementing the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action these fact sheets aim at providing an overview over a selection of recent developments and future priority areas of EC support.

Poul Nielson
Commissioner Development & Humanitarian Aid

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The Commitments of the Copenhagen Social Summit:

- 1. Create an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development;**
- 2. Eradicate absolute poverty by a target date to be set by each country;**
- 3. Support full employment as a basic policy goal;**
- 4. Promote social integration based on the enhancement and protection of all human rights;**
- 5. Achieve equality and equity between women and men;**
- 6. Attain universal and equitable access to education and primary health care;**
- 7. Accelerate the development of Africa and the least developed countries;**
- 8. Ensure that structural adjustment programmes include social development goals;**
- 9. Increase resources allocated to social development;**
- 10. Strengthen co-operation for social development through the UN.**

FACT SHEET 1: TRADE AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Participants at the Social Summit committed themselves “to create an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development” (commitment 1). A fundamental pillar of an enabling environment at the international level is the rule-based **multilateral trading system**. In particular, the body of rules covered by the WTO provides predictability, stability and enhanced transparency. Moreover, through its commitment to liberalisation and openness, the WTO supports economic growth and development, both necessary for sustainable development. However, it is essential that the multilateral trading system takes account of developing country interests, needs and constraints so as to allow them to make full use of the opportunities offered for development and reap the benefits of trade liberalisation.

The development issue has been at the centre of the EC strategy for the future of the world trading system and for a new Round of multilateral negotiations. The EC has therefore identified a development agenda to help countries better integrate into, and take full advantage of, the multilateral trading system. The immediate objective has been to set out a WTO work programme for development. However, by including an initiative on coherence in global economic policymaking, the development agenda is meant to go beyond the WTO and involve other international organisations that could support trade and development in a sustainable manner. Key elements of the coherence initiative are (i) better co-ordination among donors, building on experiences of the Integrated Framework for the Least Developed Countries, so as to ensure synergy and complementarity, and (ii) assistance by international organisations in support of trade liberalisation and development.

The **EC agenda for a WTO work programme** focuses on:

- **Market access:** A commitment by all developed countries to provide duty-free and quota free access for essentially all exports originating in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The EC already meets this target, but continues to look at ways of improving and facilitating market access for LDCs. It is expected that the more advanced developing countries would also contribute in this effort. For developing countries in general, new negotiations should take account of their market access interests. Only broad-based multilateral negotiations can ensure this objective.
- **Technical assistance:** Improved export opportunities are not in themselves sufficient. Many developing countries also need assistance to enhance their capacity to make use of the trading opportunities offered by improved market access and multilateral trade liberalisation in general. The EC has therefore proposed a plan of action to revitalise and focus technical assistance for trade related capacity building. The objective is to ensure adequate, demand driven and well-targeted technical assistance, based on co-operation and synergy among donors. The programme should address developing countries’ needs in relation to implementation of WTO agreements, as well as their broader capacity building needs aimed at improving their overall ability to trade in the global marketplace.

More broadly, while the multilateral trading system continues to offer opportunities for development, it is up to national governments and the international community to make full use of these opportunities and to turn economic growth into social development. In this context, the EC has proposed to launch a regular dialogue on trade, globalisation, development including the fight against poverty and labour issues with a view to promoting a better understanding of issues involved through a substantive dialogue among governments and relevant organisations of civil society. Participation should be open to ILO, WTO, the World Bank, UNCTAD and other relevant international organisations.

In particular, the issue of respect of core labour standards has assumed increasing relevance for social development. Efforts in this direction should be supported. An appropriate way for providing this support is to offer incentives without the threat of trade sanctions.

This policy approach has been implemented in the framework of the EC's **Generalised System of Trade Preferences** (GSP). The special incentive arrangements concerning labour rights are meant to promote observance by means of additional trade preferences that are made available, upon request, to countries actually complying with a limited number of core labour standards, i.e. those laid down in ILO Conventions No 87, 98 and 138. Thus, the EC offers to reward developing countries' efforts to improve the social conditions of workers with improved access to its market. Up to now, two countries, Moldova and the Russian Federation, applied for special incentive arrangements. These applications are currently under consideration.

Finally, in order to ensure that all countries enjoy the benefits of globalisation requires meeting complex policy challenges that arise from the growing interdependence of the various spheres of economic activity. In this context, **UNCTAD** plays a major role in helping developing countries design policies for an efficient integration into the world economy, taking into account the many issues which confronts policy-makers.

The EC supports UNCTAD in its efforts to explore how to enhance the development opportunities of developing countries at the domestic, regional and international level. In order to achieve these objectives, UNCTAD should continue to act as a forum for intergovernmental discussions and deliberations, to undertake research and analysis and data collection, and to provide technical assistance tailored to the need of developing countries and linked with its research and analysis capabilities.

FACT SHEET 2: EU EMPLOYMENT POLICIES

Much has been done, at the EU level, in the employment policy area since the 1995 Copenhagen World Summit. A first and major element of progress is due to the **Amsterdam Treaty** and to its Title VIII fully devoted to Employment. In particular, Article 127 provides that the objective of a high level of employment shall be taken into account in the formulation and implementation of all Community policies.

To implement this article, the Commission has issued several Communications that – based on Article 127 – draw attention to the scope and potential that other Community policies and initiatives have to promote employment in the EU while being consistent with the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines and the Employment Guidelines.

A second factor of progress refers to the new regulation for the **European Social Fund (ESF)** emerging from the Agenda 2000. The new Structural Funds regulations to cover the years 2000-2006 and, in particular, the ESF establish a direct financial link to the European Employment Strategy. By virtue of the new Regulation, the ESF gears its huge potential – both in terms of financial scope and policy focus – to support the accompanying National Action Plans. The programming of the next generation of ESF programmes will be based on this integrated approach.

The EU has now two powerful tools to respond to those parts of **Commitments 3, 5, 6 and 9** of the Copenhagen declaration regarding the promotion of full employment: the European Employment Strategy, and the New European Social Fund, which is the European level financial arm to develop and implement that strategy. The European Employment Strategy is consistent with the mandate for policy contained in the above Commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration and is based on the conviction that concrete action is required in four specific ways:

- (i) establish clear **quantifiable and verifiable targets** for activation and prevention;
- (ii) monitor how these targets are achieved through regular **country surveillance**;
- (iii) create **peer pressure** at European level, as we are facing the same challenges and the same problems;
- (iv) develop solutions and models through **benchmarking** and **exchange of best practice**, if necessary by using a combination of European and national financial assistance. An effort is made to benchmark the policy mix, the best combination of actions, rather than individual programmes in the quest towards the set objectives. Peer pressure through annual examination and comparative review is used to steer the policy course and enhance the effectiveness of action. This peer pressure is further strengthened by the adoption of recommendations by the Council to individual member states, to encourage progress.

The advantages of such a method have become clear since the European Council launched the so-called Luxembourg process in November 1997. A balance has been established between the co-ordination at the EU level in defining common

objectives and outcomes, and the definition of the means and conditions under which programmes and policies are implemented which is left to individual Member States, who are responsible for their employment policy.

Finally, in line with governments' agreement to foster macroeconomic co-operation and sustained economic growth (Commitment 3), the European Employment Strategy must be consistent with the framework conditions set by the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines, which call for budgetary consolidation and sound public finances.

The **European Employment Strategy** has become the key vehicle for a new paradigm of an integrated, comprehensive and more coherent response, across four pillars. The **first Pillar** on employability aims at increasing the access of the unemployed to the labour market, by ensuring that they have the right skills and the incentives and by promoting labour markets open to all.

The **second Pillar** on entrepreneurship refers to the creation of an entrepreneurial culture in Europe by making it easier to start-up and run a business and to employ people in it.

The **third Pillar** on adaptability aims at making both employed people and the organisation of work capable to face the structural change. **Pillar IV** (equal opportunities), in line with Commitment 6 on equality and equity between women and men, enables both to participate in the world of work with equal opportunity and equal responsibility. Assembled around these four Pillars, the European Commission proposes every year **Employment Guidelines (EGs)** for action. There are 21 concrete EGs for year 2000 that Member States have to reflect in their yearly National Action Plans.

These EGs pose a number of concrete challenges and clear objectives for social policy in general and social protection in particular. EGs 1 and 2 commit the Member States to shift from passive and curative policies to active and preventive action to offer a new start to young and adult, long-term unemployed job seekers before their reaching 6 and 12 month of unemployment, respectively.

EG 3 establishes a benchmark for the use of training and other employability measures to benefit at least 20% of the unemployed. EG 4 requires a review and refocusing of tax and benefit systems to provide incentives for unemployed and, in particular, ageing workers to take up work to develop lifelong learning and remain in the labour market.

EGs 6, 7 and 8 commit the Member States to easing the transition from school to work and to develop a skilled labour force capable to adapt to technological and economic changes by means of lifelong learning, particularly in the field of information and communication technologies.

EG 9 promotes a labour market open to all and in particular to those disabled and ethnic minorities and other groups and individuals in disadvantage.

EGs 10 and 11 commit the Member States to reduce red tape, and other administrative burdens as well as to eliminate obstacles in particular in tax and social security systems which may prevent people from setting up an enterprise or become self employed.

EG 12 commits the Member States to explore the possibilities offered by job creation at local level, in the social economy.

Finally, EGs 18, 19, 20 and 21 advocate a gender mainstreaming approach in implementing the guidelines and address the flanking policies of child care and family friendly policies as well as eliminating obstacles for the entry into labour force of men and women after an absence, thereby promoting equal opportunities in the labour market.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

Over the recent years, the degree of commitment of the various actors has been a major driving force for the European Employment Strategy to gain momentum and the degree of progress so far registered is encouraging. The 23-24 March Lisbon European Council marked a further breakthrough in the EU's drive to strengthen employment, economic reform and social cohesion as part of a knowledge-based economy. The strength of political commitment at EU level was underlined by the decision to hold a meeting of the European Council every Spring to review progress made in these fields.

The Lisbon European Council recognised the vital importance of developing a competitive, dynamic and knowledge-based economy in the EU, particularly by exploiting the potential of the information society and promoting research and innovation. It also underlined the common challenges faced by Member States in modernising social protection systems and promoting social inclusion. These are areas where further coordinated action will be taken at EU level.

The Lisbon European Council recognised the achievements of the Luxembourg Process and set the EU new ambitious targets in the employment field. These included raising the employment rate from an average of 61% today to as close as possible to 70% by 2010 and increasing the number of women in employment from an average of 51% today to more than 60% by 2010. The European Council identified four key areas that should receive particular attention in this context over the coming years: improving employability and reducing skills gaps, particularly through improved employment services; giving higher priority to lifelong learning; increasing employment in services; furthering equal opportunities and making it easier to reconcile working life and family life.

FACT SHEET 3: SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION

Despite recent strong economic performance, approximately 18% of people in the EU live in low income¹ and social exclusion, which is unacceptable. There continues to be a need to take action within the European Union to address the root causes of both old and new forms of poverty and social exclusion, and to develop more inclusive societies. The past five years has seen a growing understanding of the central role of employment and social policy, both as a productive factor in economic performance and as a means to promote social cohesion. Across the EU, policy development in this area has shared a common foundation, based upon two important economic and social perceptions. One is that competition between companies is the engine of economic progress. The other is that solidarity which ensures inclusion and social integration of all people in society, is the basic component of the social cohesion from which society as a whole benefits.

The EC approach in the area of social development at the international level is consistent with these policy developments and experiences at the EU level. A dialogue with civil society, social partners and governments to develop more inclusive societies is the major avenue to progress. The EC proposal for such a dialogue at the international level is based on this persuasion.

Major policy developments have taken place within the EU in relation to **inclusion and social integration** since the World Summit for Social Development took place in Copenhagen in 1995.

Building on the achievements and prospects of European economic integration, the Amsterdam European Council in June 1997 gave a powerful signal to develop EU employment and social policies, underpinned by new legal bases in the Treaty of Amsterdam. The Treaty of Amsterdam, which was signed in June 1997 and came into force in May 1999, marked a major step forward not only for employment policy but also for the fight against exclusion and discrimination. The Luxembourg Summit (November 1997) launched the European Employment Strategy and a promising process of mutually reinforcing employment and economic policies.

A range of Community policies have been relevant to inclusion and social integration, either directly or indirectly. Employment creation has been crucial to combating social exclusion and promoting participation and social integration. The European Employment Strategy has been making a major contribution, by addressing labour market issues generally and more particularly by targeting long term unemployment and youth unemployment as well as the lack of equal opportunities for women and persons with disabilities in the labour market.

¹ The low-income threshold is set at 60% of the median equivalised income per person in each Member State. EUROSTAT chooses the 60% cut-off point as a main reference point among more points used in such analysis.

Active measures to reintegrate people into the labour market now include reforms to tax and benefit systems, promotion of lifelong learning to enable workers, particularly older workers and people excluded from the labour market (e.g. disabled persons, ethnic minorities) to improve skills, especially in fast-changing fields such as information and communication technologies. There has also been a reinforced commitment to promoting equal opportunities for women and a growing emphasis on the quality of jobs: providing jobs but also good jobs.

The European Social Fund (ESF) is one of the EU's most important financial instruments for promoting employment and developing human resources. Its contribution to social integration has been particularly important, as its purpose has been to improve the prospects of those who face the greatest obstacles in finding, keeping or regaining work. In the six years 1994-99 the ESF, which operates in all Member States, has invested € 47 billion (or almost 10% of the EU's total budget) in programmes that have enhanced people's integration prospects in society through work. In addition, two Community Initiatives have helped to stimulate innovative employment approaches for women, people with disabilities, young people without qualifications, and other people particularly at risk of exclusion.

The EU will sustain its commitment in this field. Promoting social inclusion and equal opportunity for all has been made one of the five policy priorities of the new ESF which will run from 2000-2006, complemented by a new Community initiative, EQUAL, which is to support new ways of addressing exclusion, discrimination and inequalities in relation to employment.

Social protection is another area that is relevant for social integration and where Member States and the EU have taken important initiatives since Copenhagen. Supported by several Communications of the Commission since 1995, Member States agreed in 1999 to a concerted strategy for modernising social protection based on four objectives one of which is to promote social inclusion. The strategy is supported by enhanced mechanisms for exchanging information and monitoring policy developments.

Other Community policies have also contributed to promoting inclusion and social integration: the framework programmes for research, the Commission's Framework for Action for Sustainable Urban Development, the education (SOCRATES), training (LEONARDO DA VINCI) and Youth (YOUTH) programmes, the "Second Chance Schools" scheme, the Commission's proposals to combat discrimination, gender equality policies and the new Community strategy on disability. In the judicial field, the Commission recently tabled first ideas how to best achieve an adequate level of legal aid in cross-border cases throughout the Union.

A number of activities relevant to social inclusion have also been carried out in the framework of enterprise policy, in particular in support of small and micro enterprises; part of these initiatives are targeted to specific groups, such as young people and women, or assisting entrepreneurs representing minorities or having disabilities.

More directly, the Community programme of distribution of agricultural products to the most deprived has continued to provide food aid to around 7 million people in Europe every year; NGOs are the main distribution agents.

The European Commission co-operates closely with NGOs active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion and has supported the activities of their European networks. It also supported activities of other civil society actors in this field such as the European Business Network to Promote Social Cohesion.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE

The March 2000 extraordinary European Council in Lisbon has broadened the scope of policy co-operation to foster further articulation between employment, economic reform and social cohesion. It has resulted, in particular, in a political commitment by the Union and Member States to make the promotion of social inclusion a priority in order to further reduce exclusion and poverty in Member States and the EU. To take this commitment forward, progress shall be reviewed in a systematic manner at the highest political level at a new annual meeting of the European Council devoted to economic and social questions.

To achieve this, the Summit affirmed its commitment to assess and mobilise all relevant policies in a comprehensive and integrated strategy, supported by a new open method of co-ordination combining national action plans and practical co-operation at Community level for promoting a better understanding, best practice, common indicators and benchmarking. The Commission has included the proposal of an action programme to support co-operation on social inclusion between MS in its working programme for the year 2000. It has invested since 1998 approximately € 30 million in actions which have helped to prepare the ground for co-operation in this field.

FACT SHEET 4: EU EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND GENDER EQUALITY POLICIES

The commitments regarding equality and equity between women and men of the Copenhagen Declaration are largely identical to the aims of the EU. The Community had already taken, before the Copenhagen summit in March 1995, important steps and policy measures to make progress in the field of gender equality.

The Community developed its gender equality policy mainly in the form of :

- **legislative actions** for equal opportunities, in particular in the fields of employment and social rights² and by gender mainstreaming a number of regulations, directives and policies in other policy areas³, and
- **specific programmes** for equal opportunities, namely the Fourth Medium-term Action Programmes for Equal Opportunities (1995-2000)⁴ and the "New Opportunities for Women" (NOW) strand of the Employment initiative (1994-1999)⁵ in the framework of the European Social Fund, and
- **positive actions** in a number of general policy areas, e.g. employment, vocational training, development co-operation, the fight against violence and trafficking of women.

² Before 1995, Directives on equal treatment for women and men in occupational social security schemes Council Directive 86/378/EEC, on the safety and health of pregnant or breastfeeding workers Council Directive 92/85/EEC, on equal treatment and protection of self-employed women during pregnancy and motherhood Council Directive 86/613/EEC, the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions Council Directive 76/207/EEC, as well as on the approximation of the laws of the EU Member States relating to the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women Council Directive 75/117/EEC.

Since 1995 the following new Directives have been adopted:

- Council Directive 97/80/EC on the burden of proof in cases of discrimination based on sex
- Council Directive 96/34/EEC on the framework agreement on parental leave concluded by UNICE, CEEP and the ETUC
- Council Directive of 20 December 1996 amending Directive 86/378/EEC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in occupational social security schemes (96/97/EC)

³ Examples for gender mainstreamed Community acts and policies:

- Council Regulation 1260/1999 laying down general provisions on the European Structural Funds,
- Regulation 1784/1999 of the EP and the Council on the European Social Fund,
- European Employment Strategy,
- Community policy on research and development
- Community policy for development co-operation

⁴ Council Decision 95/593/CE.

⁵ Council resolution of 22 June 1994 on the promotion of equal opportunities for men and women through action by the European Structural Funds - OJ C 231, 20.8.1994

The legal basis for promoting equal opportunities for women and men has been greatly improved by the 1997 Treaty of Amsterdam, and the Treaty represents one of the most important achievements for gender equality at Community level.

In the Amsterdam Treaty equality for women and men becomes one of the explicit objectives (Article 2). Mainstreaming a gender perspective in all activities and policies was given a legal basis in Article 3. This obliges the Community, to aim to eliminate inequalities, and promote equality, between women and men in all its activities.

The scope of the earlier provision (Article 119, Treaty of Rome) on equal pay for women and men was broadened in the Amsterdam Treaty. Now, in Article 141 (which replaces Article 119), the Treaty provides for equality not only for equal work, but also for work of equal value and for equal treatment in employment and occupations more generally. For the first time, the Treaty also expressly encourages Member States to take positive actions in favour of the disadvantaged or under-represented sex.

The Commission follows a twin-track approach by combining and complementing its gender mainstreaming strategy with specific actions for women. The basic documents for the gender mainstreaming approach in the Commission are the Commission communication on incorporating equal opportunities for women and men into all Community policies ⁶ and the implementation report⁷.

To promote women's economic rights and independence means access to employment, appropriate working conditions, the elimination of occupational segregation, employment discrimination and the promotion of a harmonisation of work and family responsibilities for women and men. These objectives are central to the European Union's employment strategy in the recognition that women's full participation in the labour market is necessary for Europe's economic and social development.

The **European Employment Guidelines for 2000** and those for 1998 and 1999, include recommendations on gender equality and call on the Member States to continue their efforts to take appropriate measures to tackle the gender pay gap by initiating positive steps to promote equal pay for work of equal value and to diminish differentials in incomes between women and men. The annual exercise of adopting employment guidelines and drafting Joint Employment Reports permits continuity and annual revision and improvement.

The **European Social Fund** was the main fund to take the issue of equal opportunities into consideration, mainly through the Employment NOW initiative. The others two have become progressively involved in the promotion of equality. Over the last years, some specific initiative were launched in the framework of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) with special impact on women.

⁶ (COM(1996)67 final)

⁷ (COM(1998)122 final)

In 1999 the new Structural Funds Regulations were approved by the Council of Ministers for the period 2000-06⁸. The new Structural Funds will contribute to promoting equality between women and men through a dual strategy: mainstreaming and developing specific actions targeted at women. According to the new regulations, the gender dimension must be taken into account in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluations phases and the European Social Funds.

Reconciliation of work and family life, parental leave and child-care have become a clear challenge and objective for social policy in general and gender equality in particular. Council Directive⁹ on parental leave provides for the minimum provision of three months (unpaid) leave for both male and female employees in the case of the birth or adoption of a child. It also provides that working parents should be given paid time off work to deal with family emergencies such as the illness or accident of a child. Policy work on care is informed and complemented by a range of funding initiatives under the Fourth Action Programme and the structural Funds.

In 1998 the Commission published a report on the implementation in the Member States of the 1992 Council Recommendation on Childcare¹⁰. This complements the publication in 1996 of a guide to good practice on work and childcare (Social Europe Supplement 5/96).

The issues of **violence against and trafficking in women** were first raised in the context of the European Union in 1996 with the Communication on Trafficking in women¹¹ and the STOP Programme¹², followed by the DAPHNE Initiative launched in 1997, now succeeded by the DAPHNE programme (2000-2003)¹³. The role of the Commission in this policy field is to support actions, research and to co-ordinate policies in the EU. The main objective of the European Commission has been to assure that the issue of violence against women, including the fight against trafficking in women, is put high on the political agenda of the European Union.

INTEGRATING GENDER ISSUES IN DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

The Council Resolution 12847/95 on Integrating Gender Issues in Development Co-operation, adopted 1995 and based on a Communication by the Commission, picks up all parts of the Beijing Platform for Action (adopted in the Fourth UN World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995). The Resolution is relevant for all different types of development co-operation and calls upon the European Commission and the

⁸ EC Regulation N 1260/1999 of 21.6.1999. OJ L 161 of 26/06/1999

⁹ Council Directive 96/34/EC of 3 June 1996, OJ L145 of 19.6.1996.

¹⁰ 92/241/EEC.

¹¹ COM(96)567 final

¹² Official Journal L 322 , 12/12/1996 p.7 - 10.

¹³ European Parliament and Council Decision No. 293/2000, OJ L 34 of 9.2.2000.

European Union Member States to integrate Gender Issues in all their development co-operation policies, programmes and projects.

Preparatory work on policies to support women in development and later to address gender issues in development policies, projects and programmes has been carried out since 1988. The preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, 1995 saw a substantial involvement by the European Commission. Integration of gender aspects and equality between women and men in development co-operation is made mandatory by the Council Resolution on Integrating Gender Issues in Development Co-operation, adopted in December 1995, and the Treaty of Amsterdam, article 2 and 3. The Council Regulation (EC) 2836/98 of 22 December 1998 is the legal basis for the special gender sensitisation and gender mainstreaming budget-line.

A basic methodical requirement when integrating gender issues in development co-operation is that a gender analysis is carried out before decisions are taken on actions in any area of development. This analysis should be carried out in policy development, country strategy development and at programme and project level. Mainstreaming of gender issues could also be done at sectoral level e.g. water resource management, health, agriculture, environment, education and economy etc. The main strategy used, called mainstreaming of gender issues is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies, programmes and projects, in all areas and at all levels.

Major gender disparities can still be found in almost all countries of the world. High illiteracy rates especially among women, violence against girls and women, trafficking of children and women, unequal access to well paid occupations and unequal workload in the household shows there is still a long way to go to achieve gender equality. Among the 1.5 billion people living in poverty 70 percent are women.

A focus on gender inequalities though does not imply that all women are worse off than all men. Rather, the argument is rather that gender is an important social division characterised by inequality and changing gender inequality is a long-term, complex but important project.

Many important achievements have been made since 1988, like the production and use of tools and instruments for integrating gender issues in development co-operation and gender mainstreaming of development policies, programmes and projects has been achieved but only to a certain degree. Gender training has been given on regular bases, which has led to an increased awareness and knowledge about gender issues among EC staff. The nomination of Gender Focal Points in different services and the gender perspective becoming more and more visible in development co-operation are also important achievements that need to be mentioned.

Specific support has been given to projects focusing on gender equality, gender statistics, gender advocacy and positive actions for women in developing countries. Violence and trafficking of women have been especially dealt with through both the special budget-line on gender integration and the Reproductive Health and Population budget-line.

The promotion of **women in decision-making** in all fields of society is a core objective of Community policy. In December 1996, the Council of Ministers adopted a Council Recommendation on the balanced participation of women and men in the decision-making process¹⁴, which was addressed, to Member States and the European Institutions. A report of the implementation of the Council Recommendation on the basis of information provided by Member States and the European Institutions was adopted on 7 March 2000 (COM (2000) 120 final).

A high level European conference "Women and Men in Power: a caring society, a dynamic economy a vision for Europe" was held in Paris in 1999. The Ministers, who committed themselves to undertake action in favour of a gender balance in decision-making, signed an important declaration.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE

The Commission will propose during 2000 an "Equality Package" that will contain a new Action Programme on gender equality for the period 2001-2005. The programme will be more ambitious than the previous ones and it would mark an important change as it will be more strategic and comprehensive and will embrace all Community policies in the effort to achieve gender equality. A strong political support from the European Parliament and the Council, as well as the opportunities offered by the new Treaty, in particular Articles 141 and 3 (mainstreaming) provides the basis for this new approach.

To improve even further and to achieve the goal of equality between women and men in relation to development co-operation an action plan titled " Gender Equality, Action Plan for "Mainstreaming Gender Issues in Community Development Co-operation" (2000-2003) will soon be launched by the Commission. This as step towards measurable and result oriented actions, thus identified as essential in the implementation of commitments made in relation to the Beijing Platform for Action and the World Summit for Social Development.

The "Equality Package" will also contain a new legal proposal on the basis of article 141 of the new Treaty. This would amend the 1976 Directive on equal treatment by specifying better some of the existing provisions, and by including new provisions not covered by the old proposal on important issues, including sexual harassment in the workplace.

2000 marks the fifth anniversary of the UN World Conference on Women in Beijing, with the Beijing+5 in June. The European Community is involved in the process, which aims to assess actions taken to implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action. A European Conference on the Follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action was held in February 2000 as part of the preparations for the special UN General Assembly session and in order to co-ordinate the EU positions.

¹⁴ 96/694/CE in OJ L 319 of 10.12.96.

FACT SHEET 5: THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL DIALOGUE

Representatives of employers and trade unions play a central role in the development of employment and social policy in the European Union, and this role has been reinforced since the 1995 Copenhagen Summit. Their involvement has taken the form of participation in a number of bodies with a consultative role, such as the cross-industry advisory committees and the joint committees. It was subsequently consolidated by the 'Val Duchesse' process, which involved social partners at European level in a series of bilateral exchanges and reciprocal agreements.

It has since been given a further boost by the introduction into the Treaty of specific provisions involving the European social partners in agreeing on joint agreements negotiated at European level.

Today, the social partners have several avenues for influencing Community developments. They are consulted by the Commission at both cross-industry and sectoral level, providing input on social policy, and in particular on the European employment strategy, on vocational training, commercial policy and specific topics relating to a particular sector or matters within their particular field of competence (such as the fight against racism, or the integration of people with disabilities). They can also express their views to the Council during the meetings of the Standing Committee on Employment, those of the Informal Labour and Social Affairs Council and the periodical meetings with the troika of the Heads of State and Government.

Since its creation, the European Central Bank has had several meetings with the social partners. These exchanges should take on a more structured form in line with the decisions taken at the Cologne European Council on the development of a macro-economic dialogue.

Although the influence of the social partners can be measured by their ability to affect Community-level decision-making, their primary role is to seek to improve working conditions by negotiating agreements. At European level, collective bargaining is slowly emerging as a force under the aegis of Articles 138 and 139 of the Treaty of Amsterdam and as a result of the determination of the social players to make use of their contractual prerogatives.

In line with the new Treaty's provisions, the social partners have been consulted in six instances on general Community legislative proposals. As a result of this, they have embarked on three sets of negotiations, resulting in three framework agreements: one on parental leave signed in December 1995, one on part-time work signed in May 1997, and another on fixed-term work signed in March 1999. These three agreements were submitted to the Council for legislative implementation at the joint request of the signatories. In May 2000, the social partners decided to embark on negotiations on temporary agency work.

In line with Directive 94/45/EC on the establishment of a European Works Council or a procedure in Community-scale undertakings and groups of undertakings for

the purposes of informing and consulting employees, more than 600 voluntary agreements have been signed.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

As far as the future is concerned, there is a need to examine the pace at which European level industrial relations should be expanded. The Commission has called on the social partners to deepen their involvement and develop their own initiatives. It has also invited the social partners to draw up a work programme identifying the key issues covered by their contribution to the European employment strategy.

Sectoral Social Dialogue is also playing a major part. In July 1997, for the first time in the history of Social Dialogue, the social partners of the agriculture **sector** have signed a joint agreement on employment and conditions of work. In 1998, the social partners in the **Sea transport** and **Railways** have signed two important agreements on working rules, contributing to the modernisation of work organisation, including working time arrangements. The social partners in the **Civil aviation** sector signed an agreement on working-time in March 2000.

The extraordinary European Council on *Employment, Economic Reform and Social Cohesion – towards a Europe of innovation and knowledge* in Lisbon on 23-24 March 2000 marked a decisive step in the construction of a knowledge-based economy and an inclusive society in Europe. The European social partners were invited to make a significant contribution on the modernisation of work organisation, the balance between flexibility and security, anticipating industrial change, training, social protection and enlargement.

FACT SHEET 6: HEALTH, AIDS AND POPULATION (HAP)

The objective of Community development co-operation policy encompasses many aspects of the Copenhagen agenda. Its aim is to foster sustainable development designed to eradicate poverty in developing countries and to integrate them into the world economy. This can only be achieved by pursuing policies that promote the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law, good governance and the respect for human rights. Putting equity at the centre of its policies, the European Commission gives priority to defending the interests of the most disadvantaged developing countries and the poorest sections of the population in economically more advanced developing countries.

During the 90's, the Commission's Official Development Aid (ODA) grew at an average annual rate of 5.3 % in real terms when compared to a 0.8 % overall fall within the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members of OECD. In 1995, a 7.1 billion dollars contribution made the Commission the second ranking multilateral donor, after the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank and before UN agencies¹⁵. In 1999, the annual report of the Commission to the European Parliaments shows that 7.5 billion euros have been committed for development co-operation aid.

A MARKED INCREASE IN INVESTMENT IN THE HEALTH AIDS AND POPULATION (HAP) SECTOR

In line with the trend observed in other agencies, the past decade has seen a shift in the Commission's aid allocation among sectors. The social sector has gained in importance relative to infrastructures, rural development and food aid.

The Commission commitments to the health sector have grown steadily and rapidly in volume from 175 million Euro (1986-1990) to 867 million Euro (1991-1995) making the Commission the second largest donor after the World Bank in the sector, and supporting health related programmes in more than 70 countries. By comparison, 1996-1998 World Bank commitments for Health Nutrition and Population amounted to 877 million dollars¹⁶ while the Commission commitments for the same period amounted approximately to 650 million Euro¹⁷. The trend is expected to be maintained for 2000-2005 as the health sector remains a high-level priority in the EU dialogue with developing countries.

The HAP sector's share of the Commission's aid has grown continuously over the years: it has increased from barely 1% to nearly 3% in ten years (1986-1995)¹⁸. EC HAP support presently represents now more than 10% of total EC aid and is expected to increase, given the new EC focus on poverty reduction through an integrated social development strategy. The combined EU (Commission and

¹⁵ Source : OECD – 1998

¹⁶ Source : The World Bank - IDA social sector lending

¹⁷ Source : Overseas Development Institute - 1999

¹⁸ Source : Overseas Development Institute - 1997

Member States) support for HAP in developing countries represents more than 50% of overall development assistance to these areas.

AN INCREASED INVESTMENT LINKED TO THE EVOLUTION OF HAP POLICY

Support has developed from an initial focus on health infrastructure development to support for HIV/AIDS programmes and basic health services. Broad-based support has included essential drug procurement, urban health, rehabilitation and health financing. More recently the EC is gaining experience with additional instruments, such as sector wide approaches and basket funding with other donors.

A specific HAP related policy action was initiated on HIV/AIDS in 1987. Wider health service support started in 1991 and in 1994 the EU Council approved specific policies for Health, AIDS and Population which have defined the EC agenda. At the same time, poverty reduction and social development policies have been formulated and agreed.

Evolving EC HAP policies 1988-99

Health:

From infrastructure to health systems reform and sectoral approaches.

- Support for:
- policy formulation and strategies;
 - institutional capacity building, democratisation and civil society initiatives;
 - improving financing capacities and rational use of resources;
 - access to essential medicines and basic services;
 - human resources development and training;
 - urban health, decentralisation, rehabilitation and contractualisation.

Family planning, Reproductive Health and Population:

From population through a focus on sexual and reproductive health to multi-sectoral action.

Support for implementation of ICPD recommendations:

- children by choice;
- information and education;
- development of sexual and reproductive health services.

HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases:

From a discrete programme to an integrated multi-sectoral development approach.

- minimise the spread of epidemics;
- strengthen and mainstream actions in social sectors to face the epidemics' consequences;
- increase knowledge and information sharing;
- prevent discrimination against people with HIV and AIDS.

Assistance to ACP countries in the HAP sector has used the whole range of financing instruments from project and programme support to structural adjustment facilities. Although focused primarily to support macro-economic reform, the budgetary assistance to ACP countries has largely contributed to protect social

sector budget. While Asia and the Mediterranean region have received significant investment for reproductive health, this has seldom been a specific priority within most ACP countries. Work is underway to develop an EC sexual and reproductive health strategy in addition to the existing AIDS policy and strategy and this should be placed in the overall HAP and poverty policy framework outlined above.

A new comprehensive HAP policy and strategy, situated in the overall framework of poverty reduction and pro-poor policies, should shortly be presented.

HAP AND COPENHAGEN + 5 : THE MOST PROMISING TRENDS

EC investment in the generation and dissemination of global knowledge on HAP issues has **catalysed changes at country level** over and above the financial investment made. It has improved the quality of intervention and raised the policy profile of the EC in international, regional and national fora.

The evolution from discrete project to sectoral support has increased **the potential for greater ownership by countries** and the improved effectiveness of aid, but only when adequate policies are in place or being developed. Greater participation of all stakeholders at country level could be further improved.

This new development is based on greater horizontal integration of cross-sectoral themes and the emphasis on outcomes. A strong case for improved coherence and support for environmental and social development areas, such as education, HIV/AIDS, population, water, sanitation and food security, which have a major role in improving health and well-being and which go far beyond health systems *per se*.

EC population strategy focused, until recently, on family planning and demography. The proposed new policy will build on the commitments of the international development community following the UN Cairo+5 and Beijing Conferences and will also move beyond family planning to wider population issues, including those outside the health and education sectors.

EC HIV/AIDS policy is both comprehensive and cross-sectoral. The EC has, from the outset, pursued a developmental approach, recognising that HIV/AIDS is a societal and economic issue and should be addressed more comprehensively during country strategy analyses and within country programmes.

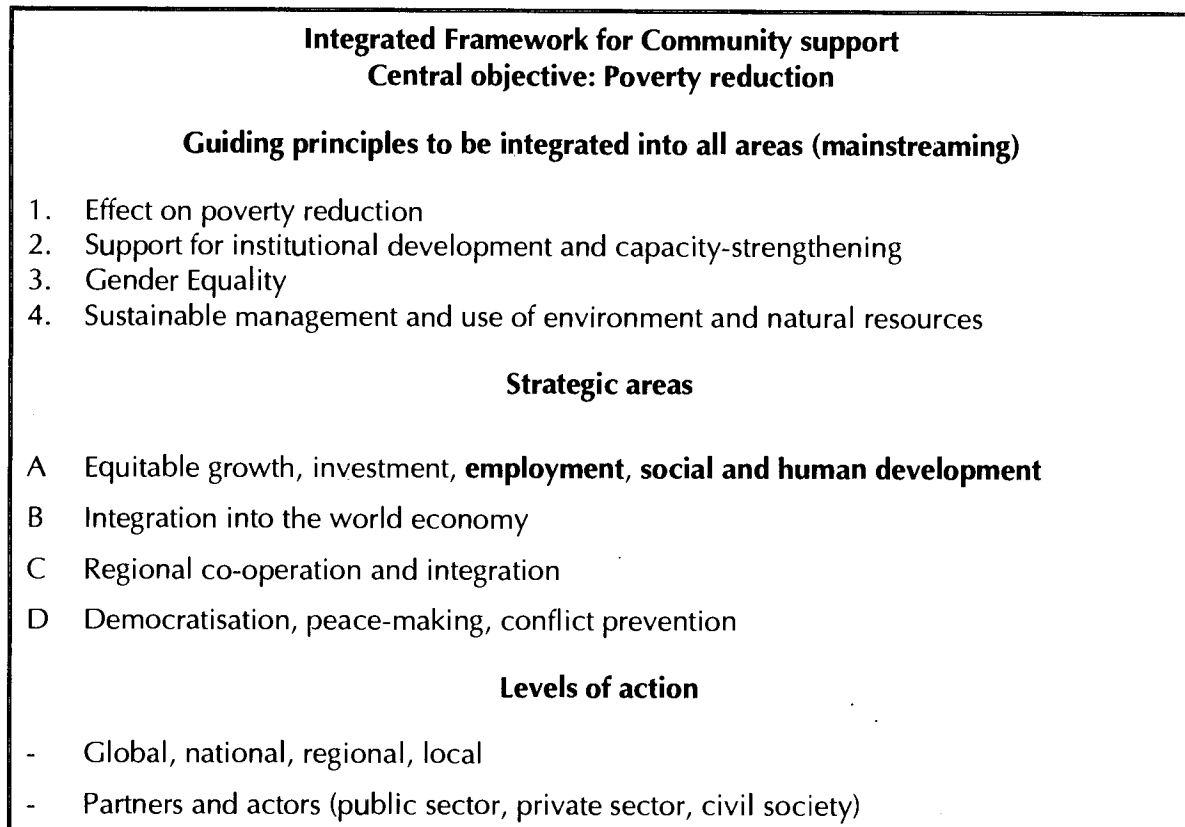
The EC's structural adjustment work at macro-level is increasingly linked to other sectors and to conditions related to outcomes.

Past practice of the EC has been primarily to concentrate efforts on the **strengthening of the health system** rather than a disease-oriented approach. But both are increasingly integrated. The future challenge will be to support policies that produce the best health outcomes while seeking to make services and systems more responsive to health problems and their underlying causes (such as violence, unsafe water, lack of access to food and sanitation and education, infectious diseases and maternal mortality) which disproportionately affect the poorest populations.

Regional co-operation and regional programmes have been supported for some specific areas. This approach has proven beneficial. There has been capacity building or investment in regional public goods. Examples include support for disease control (malaria, river blindness), support for improving accessibility to essential drugs or support for training, policy-oriented research and capacity building for HIV/AIDS and reproductive health.

Two other features of EC assistance in the social sector have to be mentioned: the importance given to the co-operation with civil society and the effort to address the problem of impact assessment and the development of social indicators with partners and other donors

EU Communications and Resolutions on Poverty, Gender and Social Development endorse the importance of strengthening the generation of knowledge and increasing research and capacity building as vital instruments for development to achieve the goals of Copenhagen +5. The following framework for Community support translates the main concerns of the social development agenda.



FACT SHEET 7: THE EC'S DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Commission recently prepared a Communication on the European Community's Development Policy. In elaborating this statement, the Commission has benefited from comments and suggestions made by stakeholders in civil society, multilateral development agencies, NGOs, private sector, during a preliminary consultation process.

This initiative takes place in the context of the Commission's reform. It aims at identifying policy priorities and ways to improve accountability and efficiency. This Communication will make it possible to fill a gap highlighted in most of the internal and external evaluations, and by the Council. It will form an integral part of the Community's overall sustainable development strategy to be presented at the European Council in 2001.

Community development policy is part of an international strategy where a comprehensive view is currently emerging. The strategy adopted by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD¹⁹, in which the Community takes part, has a key role in international co-ordination efforts. Other initiatives go in the same direction – such as the World Bank Comprehensive Development Framework²⁰, or the IMF/World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers²¹. The guiding principles behind these initiatives are ownership in the developing countries of their own development process and increased attention to the social dimension of growth and development.

Community development policy is already to a large degree fully consistent with these strategic lines, in particular in the new Agreement concluded with the ACP States²². Some adjustments are however to be considered.

A REFOCUSING OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

More coherent action between various organisations and donors working in the field of development is essential to increase the impact of co-operation. The quest for efficiency and effectiveness presupposes a consensus on the fundamental objectives of development co-operation. The international community has been actively debating these issues over recent years and several initiatives have sought to refocus co-operation on shared objectives.

The strategy adopted by the OECD's Development Aid Committee has pinpointed, amongst the key undertakings made at UN conferences, a handful of quantified

¹⁹ Shaping the 21st Century: the contribution of Development Co-operation, May 1996.

²⁰ James D. Wolfensohn, *A Proposal for a Comprehensive Development Framework*, The World Bank, Washington D.C., January 1999

²¹ The World Bank, *Building Poverty Reduction Strategies in Developing Countries*, Washington D.C., September 1999

²² Partnership Agreement between the ACP States and the EC and its Member States, to be signed in June 2000.

objectives for poverty alleviation, better education and health provision, narrowing the disparities between men and women and sustainable management of the environment and natural resources. The G7 has adopted guidelines for easing the developing countries' integration into the global economy and reducing the external debt burden.²³ The international (IMF, World Bank, UNDP) and regional bodies (development banks, etc.) recently began revamping their strategies in order to focus their efforts on the fight against poverty.

Efforts to devise consistent frameworks for effective co-ordination between the different external operators, among them the international financial institutions, are gradually emerging. Work in progress at the European level to formulate strategy papers with a view notably to fostering better complementarity between EU Member States and the Community is designed to further these ends.

²³ G8 Communiqué Köln 1999, Deepening the Development Partnership, and Launching the Köln Debt Initiative.

FACT SHEET 8: **HEAVILY INDEBTED POOR COUNTRIES (HIPC) AND POVERTY REDUCTION**

In December 1999 the General Affairs Council and the joint EU-ACP Council decided on the Community's contribution to the enhanced HIPC initiative for ACP countries. The Community has strongly backed the HIPC Initiative ever since its inception. It strongly supported the calls of the Heads of State at the Cologne summit, who envisaged making the HIPC Initiative and the provision of debt relief faster, deeper and broader.

The Community will contribute € 1 billion for debt relief to ACP countries (320 M€ as a creditor, 680 M€ as a donor to the HIPC Trust Fund) and an estimated 54 M€ for Latin American and Asian countries in the context of the HIPC initiative. In order for countries to qualify for the enhanced HIPC they will have to demonstrate clear progress in developing Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP).

In addition to this specific Initiative for the enhanced HIPC Initiative, the Community has decided to reinforce its Structural Adjustment Facility by 250 M€, which will partly be used to provide interim relief to eligible HIPC countries belonging to the ACP group.

The Commission strongly supports the enhanced HIPC initiative because for the first time it explicitly establishes the link between the fight against poverty and the reduction of the debt burden. The social dimension has clearly become a significant element. The agreed *faster, deeper and broader debt relief* is considered an effective way of giving highly indebted countries fiscal space for direct spending on poverty reduction measures. Improving the effectiveness of public spending will be a crucial element in this process.

The Commission through Commissioner Nielson expressed its strong support for the PRSP concept recognising the importance of the Commission responding in the design and content of its own development assistance programmes. In this context, the Commission recently adopted a new Communication to the Council on "Community support for economic reform programmes and structural adjustment".

EC RESPONSES TO THE COPENHAGEN COMMITMENTS

PRSP is a new concept and the **enhanced HIPC initiative** has just been launched. Therefore, an assessment of related progress is not possible at this stage. The relevance of PRSP and HIPC with respect to the Copenhagen Commitments is orientated towards future policy and initiatives. Both concepts are based on experience and lessons learnt in the past and reflect that :

- existing debt reduction and rescheduling mechanisms were in most cases not sufficient to reduce the debt burden of poor countries to a sustainable level.
- traditional economic reform and adjustment programmes (ESAF/SAF) were often successful in stabilising the countries' macroeconomic situation but failed to address the problem of widespread and deep-rooted poverty.

- the different elements of debt reduction, sustainable economic growth and fight against poverty need to be integrated into one consistent concept.

THE CONCEPT OF POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY PAPERS (PRSPs)

In the discussions, which led last year to the agreement on enhancing the HIPC initiative there was a strong consensus in the donor community that poverty reduction needs to be re-emphasised as a main focus of development efforts. The concept of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) was launched to provide a framework for mainstreaming poverty reduction in Government and donor policies. It will require a country specific approach assessing a country's position in development poverty strategies and institutional capacity. The macro-economic framework remains a central part of the Government's policy position and it is intended to set it firmly in the context of poverty reduction. The impact of the fiscal and monetary policies on poverty reduction should be monitored and assessed more closely than in the past.

On the donor side the World Bank and the IMF are in the lead in developing the concept. The Commission has expressed its strong support for the PRSP concept, for which country ownership is paramount and Governments will have responsibility for both the design process and the final product. The Commission attaches particular importance to an open participatory process, involving civil society and all relevant international institutions and donors, which will lead to the design of the strategies.

Policies that address issues of social justice are as central as economic policy to growth and poverty reduction. Four key aspects of social policy that are relevant to PRSPs have been proposed :

- (i) achieving universal access to basic social services;
- (ii) enabling all men and women to achieve sustainable livelihoods;
- (iii) promoting systems of social protection against adverse shocks, targeted towards the most vulnerable sections of society and
- (iv) fostering social integration.

The Commission is of the opinion that PRSPs need to explicitly address the issues of equity, including patterns of public expenditures and access to social services.

STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Commission is convinced that the elaboration of country driven, comprehensive poverty reduction strategies requires the full co-operation of all development partners, including the international financial institutions. It is essential that enough time and room is given to engage in the discussions at an early stage. More generally, a continued consultation process will need to be put in place and we attach particular importance to sector specific discussions with relevant stakeholders.

In the past Community support has enabled several countries to maintain or increase their education and health budgets and favoured vital reforms in healthcare and primary education systems, pharmaceutical policy and drug supply, national road maintenance provisions, administrative decentralisation and other priority areas.

The Community maintains and intensifies its commitment to support macroeconomic reforms, the social sectors, regional integration and sound economic management. The Community will therefore seek to support governments in such a way that reform programmes are placed in a medium-term perspective enabling anticipated results to be carefully monitored and any necessary revisions to be made in case of less than satisfactory outcomes. In doing this, attention will be paid to any significant political, economic and social development affecting the reforms.

Under this new focus, a limited number of **impact indicators** (consistent with those of the DAC (OECD)) will be identified and monitored and appropriate arrangements will be made for revising, when necessary, the adopted policies.

The discussion on the introduction of indicators is a relatively recent one. The new Communication on "Community support for economic reform programmes and structural adjustment", highlights the need to introduce short or medium-term, explicit and concrete objectives and asks for the monitoring of results.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE

Following the reduction of debt to sustainable levels, many developing countries will for the first time have the opportunity to allocate their own resources to poverty related activities. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, once fully developed, can provide a coherent framework for this approach. The introduction of result orientated indicators will allow all development partners to soon compare objectives and achievements and a new form of dialogue could be anticipated.

FACT SHEET 9: THE NEW ACP-EU PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

In the recently concluded Agreement which will succeed to the Lomé Convention, the ACP States and the European Community and its Member States explicitly refer to the development targets and principles agreed in United Nations Conferences and the target, set by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, to reduce by one half the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by the year 2015. They consider that they provide a clear vision and must underpin ACP-EU co-operation within the Agreement.

These objectives and the Parties' international commitments shall inform all development strategies and shall be tackled through an integrated approach taking account at the same time of the political, economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of development. The partnership shall provide a coherent support framework for the development strategies adopted by each ACP State.

Sustained economic growth, developing the private sector, increasing employment and improving access to productive resources shall all be part of this framework. Support shall be given to the respect of the rights of the individual and meeting basic needs, the promotion of social development and the conditions for an equitable distribution of the fruits of growth. Regional and sub-regional integration processes which foster the integration of the ACP countries into the world economy in terms of trade and private investment shall be encouraged and supported. Building the capacity of the actors in development and improving the institutional framework necessary for social cohesion, for the functioning of a democratic society and market economy, and for the emergence of an active and organised civil society shall be integral to the approach. Systematic account shall be taken of the situation of women and gender issues in all areas - political, economic and social. The principles of sustainable management of natural resources and the environment shall be applied and integrated at every level of the partnership.

More specifically as regards development policies, the new ACP-EC Partnership Agreement states that :

1. The central objective of ACP-EU co-operation is poverty reduction and ultimately its eradication; sustainable development; and progressive integration of the ACP countries into the world economy. In this context, co-operation framework and orientations shall be tailored to the individual circumstances of each ACP country, shall promote local ownership of economic and social reforms and the integration of the private sector and civil society actors into the development process.
2. Co-operation shall refer to the conclusions of United Nations Conferences and to the objectives, targets and action programmes agreed at international level and to their follow up as a basis for development principles. Co-operation shall also refer to the international development co-operation targets and shall pay particular attention to putting in place qualitative and quantitative indicators of progress.

3. Governments and non-state actors in each ACP country, shall initiate consultations on country development strategies and community support thereto.

SOCIAL AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

As regards social and human development, the Agreement contains a number of provisions which are in line with the Copenhagen Programme of Action. The following aspects can in particular be mentioned :

- 1 EC co-operation shall support ACP States' efforts at developing general and sectoral policies and reforms which improve the coverage, quality of and access to basic social infrastructure and services and take account of local needs and specific demands of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, thus reducing the inequalities of access to these services. Special attention shall be paid to ensuring adequate levels of public spending in the social sectors. In this context, co-operation shall aim at :
 - (a) improving education and training, and building technical capacity and skills;
 - (b) improving health systems and nutrition, eliminating hunger and malnutrition, ensuring adequate food supply and security;
 - (c) integrating population issues into development strategies in order to improve reproductive health, primary health care, family planning; and prevention of female genital mutilation;
 - (d) promoting the fight against HIV/AIDS;
 - (e) increasing the security of household water and improving access to safe water and adequate sanitation;
 - (f) improving the availability of affordable and adequate shelter for all through supporting low-cost and low-income housing programs and improving urban development; and
 - (g) encouraging the promotion of participatory methods of social dialogue as well as respect for basic social rights.
- 2 Co-operation shall also support capacity-building in social areas such as programmes for training in the design of social policies and modern methods for managing social projects and programmes; policies conducive to technological innovation and research; building local expertise and promoting partnerships; and round-table discussions at national and/or regional level.
- 3 Co-operation shall promote and support the development and implementation of policies and of systems of social protection and security in order to enhance social cohesion and to promote self-help and community solidarity. The focus of the support shall, inter-alia, be on developing initiatives based on economic solidarity, particularly by setting-up social development funds adapted to local needs and actors.

YOUTH ISSUES

EC co-operation shall also support the establishment of a coherent and comprehensive policy for realising the potential of youth so that they are better integrated into society to achieve their full potential. In this context, co-operation shall support policies, measures and operations aimed at :

- (a) protecting the rights of children and youth, especially the girl child;
- (b) promoting the skills, energy, innovation and potential of youth in order to enhance their economic, social and cultural opportunities and enlarge their employment opportunities in the productive sector;
- (c) helping community-based institutions to give children the opportunity to develop their physical, psychological, social and economic potential;
- (d) reintegrating into society children in post-conflicts situations through rehabilitation programmes.

GENDER ISSUES

The ACP-EU Partnership Agreement contains substantial provisions aiming at integrating gender issues in all areas of co-operation.

In this regard, EC co-operation shall help strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the equal participation of men and women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life. Co-operation shall help improve the access of women to all resources required for the full exercise of their fundamental rights. More specifically, co-operation shall create the appropriate framework to:

- (a) integrate a gender-sensitive approach and concerns at every level of development Co-operation including macroeconomic policies, strategies and operations; and
- (b) encourage the adoption of specific positive measures in favour of women such as:
 - i. participation in national and local politics;
 - ii. support for women's organisations;
 - iii. access to basic social services, especially to education and training, health care and family planning;
 - iv. access to productive resources, especially to land and credit and to labour market; and
 - v. taking specific account of women in emergency aid and rehabilitation operations.