

Preparation of the 2007 EU Report on Policy Coherence for Development

Response of the Netherlands to the questionnaire

1. Aim and approach of the present questionnaire

The coherence of European Union (EU) policies with the development policy is an issue of major importance for the EU. The impact of EU policies on developing countries should not be underestimated, and neither should their potential to make a positive contribution to these countries' development. The EU's aim is therefore to maximise the positive effect of non-aid EU policies while minimising their negative impact on developing countries' progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The European Consensus on Development¹ devotes considerable attention to Policy Coherence for Development² (PCD) and takes a series of strong commitments in this respect. The European Consensus is a landmark document adopted in December 2005 by EU Member States, the European Parliament and the European Commission that guides EU action in the field of development. It set a common policy vision, including core values, action principles and policy objective for the development policies of both the 25 EU Member States and the European Community (EC).

PCD is a dynamic concept that illustrates the evolving nature of development policy, which is in a process of opening up towards new challenges and imperatives. In particular, the EU development policy is increasingly reflecting the growing interdependence between internal and external action, which is driven by globalisation and the emergence of global threats and challenges. In this new context, development policy can no longer be seen in isolation, or in opposition to other policies. Time is ripe to foster a positive approach whereby relevant aspects of EU policies are fully integrated into the EU development policy.

A specific framework for PCD was proposed by the April 2005 Commission Communication on "Policy Coherence for Development – Accelerating progress towards attaining the MDGs"³. It was endorsed in the May 2005 Council Conclusions on PCD⁴, whereby the Council agreed to EU PCD commitments in 12 areas: trade, environment, climate change,

¹ Joint Statement by the Council and the Representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission – 'The European Consensus on Development', December 2005 (OJ 2006/C 46/01).

² The OECD defines PCD as follows: "Policy Coherence for Development means working to ensure that the objectives and results of a government's development policies are not undermined by other policies of that same government which impact on developing countries, and that these other policies support development objectives where feasible".

³ Commission Communication on 'Policy Coherence for Development – Accelerating progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals' – COM(2005)134 final of 12 April 2005.

⁴ May 2005 General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) Conclusions on the Millennium Development Goals (Doc. 9266/05).

security, agriculture, fisheries, social dimension of globalisation, migration, research and innovation, information society, transport and energy. Against the background of the MDGs, the EU took an engagement to deliver effectively on these commitments by 2015.

An important step in this direction was the elaboration, under the impetus of the EU Presidency, of a rolling Work Programme on PCD for 2006-2007. This is based on intense work and collaboration between the Presidency, Commission services⁵ and relevant Council formations. The Council adopted conclusions⁶ covering both the Presidency's Rolling PCD Work Programme and the integration of PCD issues in the Council's decision-making processes.

Another major step concerns the follow-up to EU PCD commitments. The Council gave the Commission a mandate⁷ to monitor progress made on the PCD commitments, including through the preparation, in close cooperation with Member States and on the basis of their contributions, of a Biennial EU PCD Report. The aim of the report, the first of which is to be issued in 2007, is "to encourage the further development of PCD, taking into account feedback from developing countries, civil society and the European Parliament. The report should also serve as a public information tool⁸".

In view of the preparation of the First Biennial EU Report on PCD, the Commission has developed the present PCD Questionnaire, which aims at gathering the necessary information from involved parties: Member States, Council, the Presidency and the Commission. The report will cover a period starting from the EU's initial PCD commitments, i.e. May 2005, to the moment of the dissemination of the PCD Questionnaire, i.e. January 2007. The questionnaire is split in two parts covering respectively organisational PCD commitments and policy PCD commitments. EU commitments in relation to PCD are systematically recalled through the questionnaire as set out in the European Consensus and Council Conclusions on PCD. Detailed questions are linked to each specific commitment.

The Presidency's Rolling Work Programme for 2006-2007 is annexed to the present document as information to help answering the questionnaire. It provides a list of possible actions in relation to EU PCD commitments which may guide respondents. Furthermore, Member States who have participated in independent evaluations that have recently been carried out on PCD at EU level⁹ may use part of their answers in the present questionnaire.

⁵ See in particular the Commission Staff Working Paper on "Policy Coherence for Development – Work Programme 2006-2007" – SEC(2006)335 final of 7 March 2006.

⁶ April 2006 GAERC Conclusions on PCD Work Programme 2006-2007 (Doc. 8387/06); October 2006 GAERC Conclusions on Integrating Development Concerns in Council Decision-making (Doc. 14072/06) and on a Rolling PCD Work Programme 2006-2007 (Doc. 14075/06).

⁷ May 2005 GAERC Conclusions.

⁸ October 2006 GAERC Conclusions (Doc. 14072/06).

⁹ 'Policy Coherence for Development in the EU Council' (July 2006) and 'EU Mechanisms promoting Policy Coherence for Development' (foreseen January 2007).

Instructions for answering the Questionnaire:

For the purpose of answering the present questionnaire, please note that:

- The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect facts, data and examples in view of the preparation, by the Commission, of the European Union's (EU) 2007 Report on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD). The responses to the present questionnaire will provide the bulk of the material on which the EU PCD Report will be based.
- The questions below are directly derived from organisational EU PCD commitments agreed by Council or stated in the European Consensus on Development. The exact text of the commitments is recalled at the beginning of each section. The source of each commitment is indicated in a footnote.
- The questions refer to the period starting in May 2005 and ending in January 2007. This corresponds to the time of the initial PCD commitments to the moment of the transmission of the present questionnaire to respondents.
- It is specified at the beginning of each question whether the question is open to all respondents (Member States, Council, Commission) or limited to one particular or several respondents.
- The questionnaire is based on a mix of closed and open questions. Each closed question is complemented by an open question. Closed questions allow to collect essential data which can be tracked over time, while open questions allow to flesh out this baseline.
- The questionnaire is an active document. Closed questions are replied by ticking a box with the mouse. Open questions require respondents to type a text in the marked area.
- In so far as possible, all questions should be answered. The thoroughness and quality of the answers will determine the thoroughness and quality of the EU PCD Report.

In case of difficulties or for additional information, please contact the European Commission, Directorate General for Development, Unit A/1 "Forward-Looking Studies and Policy Coherence":

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2. Horizontal PCD Priorities

2.1. General PCD commitment

EU Commitments

Relevant to Member States, Council, the Presidency and the Commission:

The EU recognises the importance of non-development policies for assisting developing countries in achieving the MDGs. Building on the existing Treaty obligation for the Community, the EU shall take account of the objectives of development cooperation in all policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries. The EU will make a specific effort to promote and enhance Policy Coherence for Development in the context of the Global Partnership for Development under MDG 8 and in support of the partner countries' own policies and in compliance with international obligations¹⁰.

Questions related to the general PCD commitment

1. (Question to Member States) Does your country have its own national political basis for PCD? Yes
No
Foreseen

Does your country have its own national legal basis for PCD? Yes
No
Foreseen

Describe your country's political and/or legal basis for PCD. In the absence of such basis, explain your country's position.

The Netherlands' foreign policy has as one of its aims to promote policy coherence between development and relevant non-aid policies. The 2003 policy memorandum "Mutual interests, mutual responsibilities" identified policy coherence as one of the main focal points of government policy on development cooperation. This was elaborated and implemented in subsequent annual budget statements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and policy documents to parliament. A solid basis for Dutch policy on coherence in a number of priority areas was also laid in the "Memorandum on Coherence between Trade, Agricultural and Development Policy" of December 2002. In 2006 a progress report on policy coherence for development was sent to parliament, including a description of the PCD commitments undertaken at the EU level.

Has your country translated into its policy framework its PCD commitment taken at EU level? Yes
Partly
No

Specify in which domain:

Trade <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Climate change <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Security <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fisheries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social dimension <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Research-innovation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information Society <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transport <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Energy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

¹⁰ May 2005 GAERC Conclusions.

2.2. Capacity and resources, and best practices

EU Commitments

Relevant to Member States, Council and the Commission:

The EU will strengthen policy coherence for development procedures, instruments and mechanisms at all levels, and secure adequate resources and share best practice to further these aims¹¹.

The Council recognises the need for sufficient capacity, to be made available by the Commission, Council and Member States in support of PCD and invites the General Secretariat to work with Council formations and Member States in order to assess the need for capacity building measures. It also invites all Member States to consider how they might support the development of PCD through more effective coordination in their own national policy-making processes¹².

Relevant to Member States, Council, the Presidency and the Commission:

The Council invites further close working by future presidencies, Member States, Council formations and the Council Secretariat, together with the Commission, to consider and propose options for strengthening good practice at Council level to facilitate PCD within the framework of existing Council procedures¹³.

Relevant to Member States:

Member States will engage their government departments as needed in follow-up in the 12 thematic areas, respecting among others the principle of early involvement, and encouraging cross-sectoral and inter-ministerial coordination or reinforce existing mechanisms¹⁴.

Questions related to capacity and resources, and best practices

2. (Question to all) What is the overall level of commitment to the PCD agenda of non-development departments/ministries?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

Explain.

There is a growing awareness within non-development ministries that the interests of developing countries have to be taken into account when formulating and deciding on Dutch standpoints in the EU and international arenas. For that purpose ministries have developed effective "whole-of-government" methods of policy co-ordination and working together in order to better take account of development interests in many policy areas. There is however a difference between policy areas that traditionally have a close relationship with development cooperation like security, agriculture and trade and policy areas where the link is relatively new like migration.

3. (Question to all) Have you created procedures and/or launched actions to promote the PCD agenda in non-development departments/ministries (e.g. a PCD focal point, PCD contact points in relevant departments, an inter-service PCD group, etc.)?

Yes
No
Foreseen

¹¹ December 2005 European Consensus on Development.

¹² October 2006 GAERC Conclusions.

¹³ October 2006 GAERC Conclusions.

¹⁴ April 2006 GAERC Conclusions.

If yes, or if foreseen, describe the actions.

PCD is part of the regular interministerial coordination mechanisms. The PCD Unit and other divisions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs represent the Minister for Development Cooperation in these mechanisms. In addition, determined efforts have been undertaken to enhance informal exchanges and working relations with other departments. The government's overall commitment towards PCD has been broadened through government-wide policy documents and sectoral policy frameworks.

4. (Question to all) Is there a department/unit in charge of coordinating and monitoring PCD?

Yes
No

If yes describe its role.

In May 2002 a PCD Unit was set up within the MFA, reporting directly to the Director-General for International Cooperation and the Minister for Development Cooperation. It has a staff of 6 and works closely with other divisions within the MFA in project teams on specific coherence dossiers. The Unit employs three mutually reinforcing intervention strategies with a strong EU focus:

- ***Across-the-board screening of EU legislative proposals and positions on their impact on developing countries and poverty reduction and incorporation of development friendly positions into Dutch standpoints in Brussels;***
- ***Pro-active focus on specific PCD dossiers with MFA project teams that may also involve the relevant department and seeking alliances with like-minded Member States and other stakeholders;***
- ***Promoting general awareness of PCD at national, EU and international level, independent monitoring of OECD countries' efforts and stimulating research on actual impact in developing countries.***

A progress report is sent to parliament by Cabinet on an annual basis, in addition to a two-yearly report on the Dutch contributions towards realising MDG 8 and 7.

How would you evaluate its capacity to promote the PCD agenda with other relevant departments?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

If no, explain how the PCD agenda is being promoted.

5. (Question to all) Are inter-departmental meetings held ahead of EU Council meetings (whether at ministerial or working group/party level) on PCD matters or proposals falling within the scope of PCD?

Yes
No

If yes describe.

A permanent interdepartmental working group for the assessment of new Commission proposals screens all such proposals in factsheets, including a test on the potential effects for developing countries. The interdepartmental Coordinating Committee on European Affairs prepares all EU Councils and COREPER consultations. Positions and instructions are finalised in weekly Cabinet meetings which are attended by the Minister for Development Cooperation. In addition, other specific interdepartmental coordination mechanisms prepare instructions for important Committees and working groups in

Brussels (such as Committee 133 and the Comité Spécial d'Agriculture) in which the MFA plays its part to bring the interest of developing countries to the table.

Specify in which domains such inter-departmental meetings are held:

Trade <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Climate change <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Security <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fisheries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social dimension <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Research-innovation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information Society <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transport <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Energy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

6. (Question to Member States) Are inter-departmental meetings held ahead of national ministerial meetings on PCD matters or proposals falling within the scope of PCD? Yes
No

If yes describe.

Cabinet meetings on matters falling within the scope of PCD are prepared in interdepartmental committees such as the Coordinating Committee on European Affairs. In addition, national instructions for important international meetings (e.g. WTO Ministerial Conferences, annual meetings of IMF/World Bank and UN conferences) are prepared in interdepartmental coordination mechanisms and adopted by Cabinet.

Specify in which domains such inter-departmental meetings are held:

Trade <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Climate change <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Security <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fisheries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social dimension <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Research-innovation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information Society <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transport <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Energy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

7. (Question to all) What is your overall assessment of the capacity and resources available to promote the PCD agenda? Weak
Average
Good
Strong

What are the strengths and weaknesses? Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

Strengths: Strong political backing and a Minister for Development Cooperation with full Cabinet status; long tradition of interdepartmental coordination and consensus seeking, especially for EU matters; a dedicated unit providing a pro-active focus in specific PCD dossiers; systematic across-the-board screening of new Commission proposals by the relevant department and the PCD unit. Weaknesses: limited use of ex ante impact assessments; modest results in EU decision making processes and other international negotiations because of diverging interests and its complexity. Example: the case of the reform of cotton subsidies, where a lot of energy has been devoted to reducing trade-distorting EU subsidies, a development-friendly EU position in the WTO Doha round on cotton and agriculture and support of West-African partner countries in the WTO, has thus far not yielded much concrete progress for the cotton-producing African countries.

8. (Question to all) What is your overall assessment of the exchange and sharing of best practices within the EU? Weak
Average
Good
Strong

Have you shared or sought best practices on PCD? Yes
No

What could be done to improve the exchange and sharing of best practices at EU level?

Regular meetings of the informal PCD network and other dedicated groups. Discussion of progress in Member States on an annual or bi-annual basis, for instance in the context of the preparation of the EU PCD report. Active use by the Commission and Member States of the PCD site at CIRCA to disseminate impact research and (informal) position papers.

2.3. Decision making

EU Commitments

Relevant to Member States and the Commission:

Council invites the Commission and the Member States to provide for adequate mechanisms and instruments within their respective spheres of competence to ensure PCD as appropriate. In particular, integrate reference to PCD commitments into the examination and discussion of Commission proposals in each policy area where relevant¹⁵.

Relevant to Council:

Priorities for action on PCD:

- review and improve the Council's decision-making processes to ensure effective integration of development concerns in EU decisions in full compliance with existing competences and procedures Council, after preparation by Coreper;
- integrate reference to PCD commitments into the examination and discussion of Commission proposals in each policy area where relevant;
- bearing in mind that PCD is also the result of appropriate working methods, request the competent Council working parties, and in particular the Development Cooperation WP, under the authority of Coreper, to: inform each other systematically, at the earliest possible stage, in particular at the beginning of each Presidency, about current and future activities in order to highlight dossiers with relevance for PCD to be followed more closely and to formulate priorities for action; hold discussions and review progress on PCD implementation on a regular basis, for which the Council has a monitoring role; and prepare follow-up debates in Council where relevant to ensure PCD¹⁶.

Coreper will continue to be the main forum for ensuring policy coherence. Where an agenda item for Coreper is not primarily concerned with development policy, but where there is an important development dimension, the Presidency and General Secretariat should ensure that documents for Coreper fully reflect the various sectoral and horizontal considerations. The coordinating role of Coreper in this regard will be particularly important in cases where other senior committees (e.g. Article 133 Committee, EFC, SCA, PSC) have input into the policy-making process¹⁷.

Relevant to the Presidency:

The Council invites each Presidency to do its utmost to ensure that development concerns are fully reflected across the policy spectrum at all relevant stages in the decision-making process assisted by the Council Secretariat. This should start with a clear reference in the joint three-Presidency 18-month programme to those issues which are likely to have an important development dimension. An update of the PCD rolling Work Programme in light of the EU and international agenda, to be carried out with the assistance of the General Secretariat and the Commission, will serve as a check list for this exercise. Each presidency is invited, when it draws up indicative agendas with the assistance of the General Secretariat, to ensure that agendas for Council meetings identify items with a development dimension and which might therefore require a wider discussion. The Presidency should subsequently inform delegations of the preparatory process it intends to follow for these items. This could include

¹⁵ April 2006 GAERC Conclusions.

¹⁶ April 2006 GAERC Conclusions.

¹⁷ October 2006 GAERC Conclusions.

joint meetings of Council formations or highlighting on the agendas of the Council's subordinate bodies those items where the presence of development experts might be useful¹⁸.

Questions related to decision-making

9. (Question to Member States and Council) At Council level, what is your overall assessment of the review of Council internal procedures, mechanisms and instruments, the strengthening of good practice, mutual information between relevant Council working parties, follow-up debates in Council and the coordinating role of Coreper?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

What actions have been most successful? What are the main difficulties/obstacles? Illustrate through concrete examples.

Several Council conclusions have constructed a general framework for promoting policy coherence in EU decision making. PCD commitments have been formulated in general terms for the 12 chosen areas. Roles, responsibilities and tasks have been defined. The main challenges are now focus, setting priorities, implementation and adequate (human) resources within the Commission and Member States to monitor and influence the decision making process. More specific and concrete objectives have to be formulated under the existing PCD commitments. Examples of successful initiatives include the EU Africa Strategy, the Global Strategy on Migration and joint sessions of Development, Trade and Environment ministers.

10. (Question to Member States and Council) What is your overall assessment of the Presidency' action to reflect development concerns across the policy spectrum at all relevant stages in the decision-making process (including through a joint three-Presidency 18-month programme and update of the rolling PCD Work Programme)?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

What actions have been most successful? What are the main difficulties/obstacles? Illustrate through concrete examples.

The Presidency work programme on PCD needs more focus and priorities, including concrete proposals for joint action. Regular updating of the work programme and the link between the internal EU decision making process and relevant international negotiations are needed.

Examples of successful initiatives include the EU Africa Strategy, the Global Strategy on Migration and joint sessions of Development, Trade and Environment ministers..

11. (Question to Commission) What is your overall assessment of Commission mechanisms and instruments to ensure PCD within its sphere of competence?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

What actions have been most successful? What are the main difficulties/obstacles? Illustrate through concrete examples.

¹⁸ October 2006 GAERC Conclusions.

Setting up an institutional framework has been the most successful activity. Main obstacles have been the relatively low weight that development carries in the internal balance of power and the limited administrative capacity for PCD within the Commission.

12. (Question to Member States) What is your overall assessment of your country's mechanisms and instruments to ensure PCD within its sphere of competence? Weak
Average
Good
Strong

What actions have been most successful? What are the main difficulties/obstacles? Illustrate through concrete examples.

Mechanisms and instruments in the Netherlands are relatively well developed but can only be effective if similar institutions exist in other Member States to influence domestic positions. Limited capacity for PCD in Member States could be used more effectively by working together and sharing information and division of labour with lead countries on specific coherence dossiers.

13. (Question to all) What is your overall assessment of other (i.e. not mentioned above) EU mechanisms and instruments to ensure PCD within its sphere of competence? Weak
Average
Good
Strong

What actions have been most successful? What are the main difficulties/obstacles? Illustrate through concrete examples.

What is needed is wider and more systematic use of mechanisms for consultation and impact assessment and procedures to screen all relevant policies for their impact on developing countries. The informal PCD network should develop proposals on shared priorities, identify "lead rapporteurs" for topical dossiers and divide the work as required.

2.4. Rolling PCD Work Programme

EU commitments

Relevant to Member States, Council, the Presidency and the Commission:

The Commission and Member States will prepare a rolling Work Programme on the implementation of the May 2005 Council conclusions on PCD. This Work Programme will propose priorities for action; define roles and responsibilities of Council, Member States and Commission and set out sequencing and timetables, with the aim of ensuring that non-aid policies can assist developing countries in achieving the MDGs¹⁹.

Questions related to the rolling PCD Work Programme

14. (Question to all) Do you intend to make use of the rolling PCD Work Programme? Yes
No

If yes, describe how. If no, explain. What aspects of the rolling PCD Work Programme are the

¹⁹ December 2005 European Consensus on Development.

most useful?

We use the rolling PCD work programme to set our own priorities for PCD activities and to monitor the work of the Commission in this field. Most useful is the fact that this is a shared document that represents a commitment of all Member States and the Commission.

2.5. Impact assessments

EU Commitments

Relevant to Member States, Council, the Presidency and the Commission:

Particular attention needs to be paid to assessing the direct and indirect effects of proposals within the broader area of external relations, but any area which might have an impact on development policy should be covered²⁰.

Relevant to the Presidency:

Future presidencies are invited to ensure that the Council, assisted by its General Secretariat, takes fully into consideration these assessments when examining proposals²¹.

Relevant to the Commission:

The Commission will evaluate its impact assessment system and will reinforce existing instruments, notably its Impact Assessment Tool or other related instruments, to ensure that forthcoming policies and legislative proposals are adequately screened for their impact on developing countries, and where necessary consider new ones, in support of a strengthened PCD²².

The Council invites the Commission to examine how to improve the quality and timing of its Trade Sustainability Impact Assessments so that they can be taken into account in the Council's decision-making process and their results properly integrated into the development dimension of Community trade agreements²³.

Questions related to impact assessments

15. (Question to all) Explain how the Commission's integrated Impact Assessment approach can effectively screen its forthcoming policies and legislative proposals for their impact on developing countries.

The impact assessment approach creates in principle the opportunity to screen all proposals on the impact for developing countries and to carry out in depth assessment studies if needed. In reality, however, the development impact is seldom taken into account in impact assessments produced for EU proposals. Screening on development impact should be made a standard procedure for all proposals.

16. (Question to all) Does the Commission's Trade Sustainability Impact Assessments ensure that their results are taken into account in the Council's decision-making process and integrated into the development dimension of EC trade agreements?

Yes
No

²⁰ October 2006 GAERC Conclusions.

²¹ October 2006 GAERC Conclusions.

²² April 2006 GAERC Conclusions.

²³ October 2006 GAERC Conclusions.

Explain.

Trade Sustainability Impact Assessments constitute an important tool in informing the decision-making process for trade agreements. However, the impact on the Council's deliberations has been too limited and translation into negotiating positions or concrete measures can be improved. Important elements in improving the effectiveness of this tool are proper timing (ex ante and not as an afterthought) and full engagement of potentially affected developing countries. Often not enough in-depth information about the effects in developing countries is provided or the analysis is provided too late for influencing decision-making.

17. (Question to all) Are impact assessments realised by the Commission taken into consideration during deliberation in Council? Yes No

Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

18. (Question to all) Do you take into consideration impact assessments realised by the Commission? Yes No

Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

Impact assessments realised by the Commission are used in our own process of screening of Commission proposals.

19. (Question to Member States) Does your country evaluate the impact on developing countries of major national proposals, and more generally the impact of its non-aid policies? Yes Partly No

Does your country evaluate the impact on developing countries of major EC legislative proposals, and more generally the impact of EU non-aid policies? Yes Partly No

If yes, describe how. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

All new proposals are routinely screened on their impact on developing countries, however this screening is only in exceptional cases based on in-depth impact assessments in view of the lack of time in the decisionmaking process.

20. (Question to all) Do you rely on other sources of information regarding impact assessment? Yes No

If yes, specify.

Studies by international research institutions like ODI, World Bank, Centre for Global Development, ECDPM, the OECD Development Centre, etc. In a few selected cases such as for example the REACH dossier specific research was commissioned by the MFA.

21. (Question to all) What is your overall assessment of the Commission's Impact Assessment tools with regard to PCD? Weak Average Good Strong

What are the main strengths and weaknesses? Illustrate through concrete examples of

successes and/or difficulties.

If some areas are better covered than others, please specify which ones:

Trade <input type="checkbox"/>	Environment <input type="checkbox"/>	Climate change <input type="checkbox"/>	Security <input type="checkbox"/>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Fisheries <input type="checkbox"/>	Social dimension <input type="checkbox"/>	Migration <input type="checkbox"/>
Research-innovation <input type="checkbox"/>	Information Society <input type="checkbox"/>	Transport <input type="checkbox"/>	Energy <input type="checkbox"/>

2.6. Partner countries' perspective

EU Commitments:

Relevant to the Commission and the Member States

Promote PCD in the context of programming at country, regional and thematic levels, particularly by incorporating it in the revised framework for the country, regional and thematic Strategy Papers²⁴. The Commission will reinforce its existing instruments, notably (...) consultations with developing countries during policy formulation and implementation²⁵.

Questions related to the partner countries' perspective

22. (Question to Commission) Has the Commission addressed PCD in its new programming process as foreseen in the revised format for Country Strategy Papers? Yes
Partly
No

What are the main conclusions to be drawn? Illustrate through concrete examples.

23. (Question to Member States) Does your country integrate PCD considerations into the programming of its own geographical aid? Yes
Partly
No

If yes or partly, describe. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

The programming of Dutch bilateral aid is based on multi-annual strategic plans drawn up by the embassy in the country concerned. In these strategic analyses the broader context of the aid programme is explicitly taken into consideration. This includes policies in the fields of security, governance, environment and trade. Consultations with partner countries on these issues take place on an ad hoc basis.

2.7. Accountability, transparency, public information

EU Commitments:

Relevant to Council:

In the context of the overall policy on transparency agreed by the European Council in June 2006, the Council should ensure that the integration of development concerns into the overall decision-making process is carried out in as transparent a manner as possible. This will also serve to emphasise the accountability of the Council for the impact on development policy of its decisions. The Council underlines the importance of improving and extending existing consultative processes on the

²⁴ April 2006 GAERC Conclusions.

²⁵ December 2005 European Consensus on Development.

development dimension of non-development policies. A broad range of relevant stakeholders, including developing countries and civil society, should be involved²⁶.

Questions related to accountability, transparency and public information

24. (Question to Member States and Council) What is your overall assessment of the effectiveness of the Council's accountability for the impact of its decisions on PCD?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

What is your overall assessment of the Council's efforts to improve and extend existing consultative processes on PCD?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

In your opinion, what actions have been most successful? What are the main difficulties/obstacles? Illustrate through concrete examples.

25. (Question to Member States) What is your overall assessment of accountability, transparency and public information regarding PCD in your country?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

A progress report on an annual basis is sent to parliament. In addition, the national MDG 8 reports in 2004 and 2006 have been used to enhance awareness of PCD and to report on policy efforts in that regard.

2.8. Overall assessment of horizontal PCD commitments

Questions related to the overall assessment of horizontal PCD commitments

26. (Question to all) What is your overall assessment of your own progress towards promoting and improving PCD?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

What is your overall assessment of EU progress towards promoting and improving PCD?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

What are the main difficulties/obstacles to promoting and improving PCD? Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

Limited political commitment and lack of capacity in a large number of EU member states, although the progress made by several member states in the last few years has been promising.

²⁶ October 2006 GAERC Conclusions.

3. Thematic PCD Priorities

3.1 Trade

EU Commitments:

The EU is strongly committed to ensuring a development-friendly and sustainable outcome of the Doha Development Agenda and EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)²⁷. The EU will continue to promote the adoption by all developed countries of quota free and tariff free access for LDCs before the end of the Doha round, or more generally. In line with development needs, the EU supports the objectives of asymmetry and flexibility for the implementation of the EPAs²⁸.

The EU will address the issue of special and differential treatment and preference erosion with a view to promote trade between developed countries and developing countries, as well as among developing countries. The EU will maintain its work for properly sequenced market opening, especially on products of export interest for developing countries, underpinned by an open, fair, equitable, rules-based multilateral trading system that takes into account the interests and concerns of the weaker nations²⁹.

The EU will further improve its Generalised System of Preferences, with a view to effectively enhancing developing countries' exports to the EU. In addition it will work towards simplification and relaxation of the rules of origin applied to preferential regimes to better take account of the needs and constraints of developing countries³⁰.

The EU will continue to work towards integrating trade into development strategies and will assist developing countries in carrying out domestic reforms where necessary³¹. The EU will provide additional assistance to help poor countries build the capacity to trade. Particular attention will be paid to the least advanced and most vulnerable countries³².

Questions related to trade and development

27. *(Question to Commission)* To what extent did you support a development-friendly and sustainable outcome of the Doha Development Agenda?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

To what extent did you promote the adoption by all developed countries of quota free and tariff free access for LDCs in the Doha round, or more generally?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

²⁷ May 2005 GAERC Conclusions.

²⁸ December 2005 European Consensus on Development.

²⁹ December 2005 European Consensus on Development.

³⁰ May 2005 GAERC Conclusions.

³¹ May 2005 GAERC Conclusions.

³² December 2005 European Consensus on Development.

<p>28. (Question to Commission) To what extent did you support the completion of development-friendly EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)?</p>	<p>None <input type="checkbox"/> Some <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial <input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>To what extent did you support the objectives of asymmetry and flexibility for the implementation of the EPAs?</p>	<p>None <input type="checkbox"/> Some <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial <input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.</p>	
<p>29. (Question to Commission) To what extent did you address the issue of special and differential treatment and preference erosion with a view to promoting trade between developed countries and developing countries, as well as among developing countries?</p>	<p>None <input type="checkbox"/> Some <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial <input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>To what extent did you maintain your work for properly sequenced market opening, especially on products of export interest for developing countries?</p>	<p>None <input type="checkbox"/> Some <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial <input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.</p>	
<p>30. (Question to Commission) To what extent did you further improve the Generalised System of Preferences?</p>	<p>None <input type="checkbox"/> Some <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial <input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.</p>	
<p>31. (Question to Commission) To what extent did you work towards simplification and relaxation of the rules of origin applied to preferential regimes.</p>	<p>None <input type="checkbox"/> Some <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial <input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.</p>	
<p>32. (Question to all) To what extent did you work towards integrating trade into development strategies and assist developing countries in carrying out domestic reforms where necessary?</p>	<p>None <input type="checkbox"/> Some <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial <input type="checkbox"/> Full <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>In this regard, to what extent did you take into account the results of the Commission's Trade Sustainability Impact Assessments?</p>	<p>None <input type="checkbox"/> Some <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substantial <input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>To what extent did you provide additional assistance to help poor countries build the capacity to trade?</p>	<p>None <input type="checkbox"/> Some <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial <input type="checkbox"/> Full <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

To what extent did you pay particular attention to the least advanced and most vulnerable countries?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

The Netherlands' finances bilateral, multi-donor and multilateral private sector development programs in a large number of developing countries. The programs focus on legal reform, infrastructure development, capacity building in SPS, business support organisations, technical assistance to SMEs, micro-credit, public-private partnership (e.g. in relation to HIV/Aids), etc. The Netherlands also supports the building of trade policy capacity, through multilateral channels (WTO Global Trust Fund, WTO Trainee Programme, ACWL, AITIC, UNCTAD, World Bank,) and NGOs (for example IDEAS to support West-African cotton countries, ICTSD, UN Quakers, etc).

33. (Question to all) What is your overall assessment of EU progress regarding its PCD commitments in the area of trade?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

Explain.

The two most important trade dossiers, the Doha Development Round and the EPAs, are not progressing very well. In both cases the EU is a major player and has to take its responsibilities and show leadership though other negotiating partners also need to move and show flexibility to allow progress in the negotiations.

Unfortunately, the unilateral reform of the EU preferential rules of origin, which could enhance the use of current trade preferences by beneficiary countries, has not been forthcoming yet.

What actions have been most successful? What further actions are needed? Illustrate through concrete examples.

In the Doha round, the EU should, together with the US, take the lead in securing a breakthrough in the key dossiers (agriculture, NAMA and services) starting in agriculture. Most successful have been the drive of the EU in the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference towards duty and quota free trade for least developed countries in all OECD countries and other countries in a position to do so and the leadership of the EU in the Aid for Trade discussion. In the EPA negotiations, the EU has to be more transparent and offer full duty-free quota-free market access to all ACP countries and regions willing to engage in reciprocal free trade agreements, with asymmetry in trade coverage, phasing and special safeguard mechanisms.

How did you contribute to realising the EU PCD commitments in the area of trade?

Active development friendly Netherlands' positions in the GAERC and Committee 133, Netherlands' non-papers on the issues in joint meetings of trade and development experts, focussing on an ambitious and balanced outcome that takes adequate account of the development dimension and the interests of poorer countries.

What are the main difficulties/obstacles? To what extent do PCD commitments in the area of trade entail economic, social and political consequences for your country/the EU?

The agricultural sector is said to be the most vulnerable and the most protected sector. However, the Dutch agricultural sector is ready to deal with the consequences of multilateral trade liberalisation, including increasing competition from non-EU suppliers as a result of improved market access. Because of its port facilities and the competitiveness of non-subsidised sectors, such as for example the horticultural sector, the Netherlands will benefit from the increase in international (agricultural) trade.

If any, describe actions taken to build on synergies with other PCD areas.

Through (bilateral) Aid for Trade and partnerships (see Q32) we build synergies between trade, agriculture and development policies.

3.2. Environment

EU Commitments:

The EU will lead global efforts to curb unsustainable consumption and production patterns. The EU will assist developing countries in implementing the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and will work to ensure that the capacities of developing countries are taken into account during MEA negotiations. The EU will continue to promote pro-poor environment-related initiatives and policies, and will strengthen the integration of environmental and climate change concerns into its own policies³³.

Questions related to the environment and development

34. (Question to all) To what extent did you contribute to the EU leading global efforts to curb unsustainable consumption and production patterns?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

Environment is a key theme within the development cooperation policies of the Netherlands: from the total of 0.8% GNP budgetted for ODA 0.1% is reserved for environmental activities. In our bilateral cooperation in 20 of the 36 partner countries programmes/activities are being undertaken in the area of environment and/or water. In

³³ May 2005 GAERC Conclusions.

other countries environment and sustainable development is an issue that is mainstreamed in the overall cooperation programme. In line with the outcome of the WSSD in Johannesburg special programmes were established targeting access to energy and access to water/sanitation for the poor. These programmes operate through existing channels such as multilateral institutions, bilateral aid and partnerships with the private sector. Efforts towards sustainable development (such as implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Action) are being coordinated with the ministries of Environment, Economic Affairs and Agriculture in a interdepartmental Task Force. In 2006, the MFA and the ministry of Enviroment elaborated a common vision on 'energy for all', combining pro poor growth with efforts to realise a less carbon intensive energy use. Within the EU The Netherlands is leading a group of interested Member States to track the environmental quality of CSPs for EDF 10.

35. (Question to all) To what extend did you assist developing countries in implementing the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and in building their capacities to negotiate in MEA discussions?

- None
 Some
 Substantial
 Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

The Netherlands is an important donor to the Global Environmental Facility (€20 million p.a.) and to UNEP. A study programme is being implemented in 13 countries on adaptation to climate change.

36. (Question to all) To what extend did you promote pro-poor environment-related initiatives and policies?

- None
 Some
 Substantial
 Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

In 2006, the Netherlands presented the above mentioned vision on 'energy for all' at the CSD14/15 meetings and the WB spring meeting. Within the OECD/DAC Network on environment and poverty, the Netherlands is leading a working group on pro poor growth and natural resources with the ultimate objective to harmonise and coordinate practises and lessons learned.

37. (Question to all) What is your overall assessment of EU progress regarding its PCD commitments in relation to the environment?

- Weak
 Average
 Good
 Strong

Explain.

Though good progress is being made in terms of higher quality of environmental activities in the field and concrete contributions of environment to poverty eradication, many problems remain: 1. a low share of environmental activities; 2. too little harmonisation among bilateral donors and multilateral actors, such as GEF and UN. 3. no consistent use of available instruments to assess environmental impacts of different activities. 4. lack of country ownership. Often environmental stakeholders are not represented at the negotiating tables where PRSPs, CSPs or bilateral aid programmes are being discussed.

What actions have been most successful? What further actions are needed? Illustrate through

concrete examples.

see above

What are the main difficulties/obstacles? To what extent do PCD commitments in relation to the environment entail economic, social and political consequences for your country/the EU?

see above

If any, describe actions taken to build on synergies with other PCD areas.

3.3. Climate change

EU Commitments:

The EU recognises that one of the greatest environmental and development challenges in the twenty-first century is that of mitigation and adapting to climate change, and that lasting progress in achieving the MDG's will be enhanced by the success of the international community in implementing the Kyoto Protocol and reinvigorating the international negotiations to ensure a post 2012 arrangement in the context of the UN climate change process. In this context the EU reconfirms its commitment to the Kyoto Protocol and its determination to develop a medium and long-term EU-strategy to combat climate change, consistent with meeting the 2 degree objective as outlined in the European Council's conclusions of the 23rd of March 2005.³⁴

Questions related to climate change and development

38. (Question to all) To what extent did you take concrete measures in relation to the EU's commitment to the Kyoto Protocol and its determination to develop a medium and long-term strategy to combat climate change?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

In the area of mitigation, the Netherlands is implementing a comprehensive programme to meet its obligations under the Kyoto Protocol. In relation to developing countries the Netherlands is building capacity in 22 countries to enhance their access to carbon markets. Programmes and activities are being supported to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address poverty alleviation at the same time, such as the "energy for all" initiative, preventing deforestation, developing markets for clean products and coherent policies on bio-fuels. In the area of adaptation, the Netherlands supports activities in three areas: policy influencing activities in both the Netherlands and developing countries; capacity building in about 20 countries to formulate and implement climate change policies and research. Through the Red Cross Climate Centre some 20 countries are assisted to integrate climate risks in disaster preparedness activities. In 3 partner countries the Netherlands has made a quick scan on the climate risks of various aid modalities.

³⁴

May 2005 GAERC Conclusions.

39. (Question to all) What is your overall assessment of EU progress regarding its PCD commitments in relation to climate change?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

Explain.

There is little information sharing within the EU on this issue. The EU hardly participates in an annual co-ordination meeting (VARG) where bilateral and multilateral donors share their knowledge and experiences.

What actions have been most successful? What further actions are needed? Illustrate through concrete examples.

The EU is presently evaluating the its action plan on climate and development. The Netherlands eagerly awaits the conclusions of the evaluation of the Commission's work on climate and development.

What are the main difficulties/obstacles? To what extent do PCD commitments in relation to climate change entail economic, social and political consequences for your country/the EU?

If any, describe actions taken to build on synergies with other PCD areas.

3.4. Security

EU Commitments:

The EU will treat security and development as complementary agendas, with the common aim of creating a secure environment and of breaking the vicious circle of poverty, war, environmental degradation and failing economic, social and political structures. The EU will enhance its policies in support of good and effective governance and the prevention of state fragility and conflict, including by strengthening its response to difficult partnerships/failing states³⁵. The EU, within the respective competences of the Community and the Member States, will strengthen the control of its arms exports, with the aim of avoiding that EU-manufactured weaponry be used against civilian populations or aggravate existing tensions or conflicts in developing countries, and take concrete steps to limit the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons, in line with the European strategy against the illicit traffic of small arms and light weapons and their ammunitions³⁶. The EU will promote cooperation in fighting corruption, organised crime and terrorism³⁷.

Questions related to security and development

40. (Question to all) To what extend did you treat security and development as complementary agendas?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

³⁵ May 2005 GAERC Conclusions.

³⁶ December 2005 European Consensus on Development.

³⁷ May 2005 GAERC Conclusions.

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

The Netherlands regards development and security policies as complementary instruments of a broader foreign policy agenda. Security is a precondition for development. In recent years, this has led to a clear commitment to interdepartmental cooperation and policy coherence laid out in various policy memoranda. Increasingly ministries consult on a regular basis and engage in joint analysis and planning exercises. In this regard, particular progress has been achieved in specific post-conflict countries, such as Afghanistan, Sudan and Burundi. The Netherlands has been actively engaged in the international discourse and successfully advocated a more comprehensive approach to tackle the development-security nexus. The Netherlands will continue to work on improved policies at all levels in the following ways:

- *Strengthen cooperation between the different departmental actors (at national level). This includes more flexible financial instruments, joint planning from the start and a change of attitude and culture in order to facilitate mutual understanding.*
- *Stimulate public reform programmes in post-conflict environments for security-related services (police, judiciary, armed forces), to safeguard security as a precondition for development.*
- *Support efforts towards an international consensus over ‘Security Sector Reform’, building on OECD/DAC work and stimulating international (UN) guidelines.*
- *Contribute to EU missions (e.g. Kosovo), by providing judicial and police experts (Rule of Law Mission), as well as military (KFOR) if adequate.*
- *Consult more closely with the private sector in order to facilitate investment in post-conflict countries and other ‘difficult’ environments.*

Examples of successes and difficulties:

- *Close cooperation with other EU donors in joint assessments, information sharing, joint lessons learned.*
- *The creation of a specific ‘Stability Fund’ within the budget in 2004 has simplified financing of various projects for security sector reform and related objectives.*
- *Seminar “Joint Forces: Integrating Defence, Diplomacy and Development” and subsequent publication of the ‘10 Rotterdam Recommendations’ in January 2007.*
- *Joint drafting of a white paper on Security Sector Reform by Defense, Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation ministries.*
- *At the EU level: contribution to CRT pool as first experience, but need for better standards regarding selection, preparation, reimbursements, etc.*
- *Strengthening the integration of policies from the start, involving joint assessments and joint fact-finding missions, joint planning, joint implementation and (where possible) joint evaluations.*
- *At the field level it remains a challenge to find a balance between strategic ambitions and policy objectives on the one hand and implementation capacity on the other hand.*

41. (Question to all) To what extent did you enhance your policies in support of good and effective governance and the prevention of state fragility and conflict, including by strengthening your response to difficult partnerships/failing states?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete

examples of successes and/or difficulties.

The Netherlands is committed to support its 36 partner countries in safeguarding security for their citizens through an inclusive political process. At the policy-making level, the Netherlands has made substantial progress regarding joined-up governance strategies in partner countries based on more in-depth understanding of the reasons behind failing governance. It will take some time before field offices have implemented the new policies, in particular because analysis, strategy and implementation all have to originate at country-level. As part of this effort, intensive consultations with other donors are considered crucial for improved country strategies; this notion reflects the Netherlands' active support for the 'Paris Declaration'.

Regarding 'difficult partnerships', a strict classification of partner countries in stable, fragile or failing states seldom helps in finding an adequate strategy. Tailor-made donor assistance is difficult under politically fragile circumstances and often driven by ad-hoc rather than long-term perspectives. The Netherlands prefers a pragmatic approach as donor representatives engage more actively in political dialogue and push for better governance, including sensitive issues. More than in the past, the European Union and the European Commission's delegations have a key role to play here.

Foreseen are:

- *Improved assessments, integrating other donors' assessments.*
- *Corruption as integral part of all Dutch governance assessments.*
- *Improved strategic planning (based on assessments in all partner countries in 2007 and 2008).*
- *Creating an overall framework for fragile states through the OECD FSG forum.*

Examples of successes and difficulties are:

- *Development of a new governance assessment framework (based on the work of DFID's drivers of change methodology).*
- *Problem of various approaches by different donors; diverging messages from different EU member states; fragmented donor landscape; often information cannot be shared.*
- *Funding 'donor orphans' remains a challenge, in particular when these countries do not have a direct impact on existing partner countries or priority regions.*

42. (Question to all) To what extent did you strengthen the control of arms exports and take concrete steps to limit the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

All requests for exports of military equipment are assessed on the basis of eight arms exports control criteria; license requests are submitted to the ministry of Economic Affairs; all requests for non-NATO/EU countries are submitted to Foreign Affairs for advice. Requests for exports to developing nations require the advice of Development Co-operation with respect to criterion eight of the arms export control criteria. To our regret, the 'Common Position defining common rules governing the control of exports of military technology and equipment' has not yet been adopted by the EU. This Common Position enhances the effectiveness of export controls, as it entails a needed widening of the scope

for licence controls and its applications regarding i.e. the purpose of licensed production of military equipment in third countries; applications for brokering licences; etc.

The Netherlands contributes to outreach activities to non-EU Member States, and is actively involved in other regional and multilateral organisations, including the Wassenaar Arrangement. Together with Norway, the Netherlands advocated the need for national regulations on arms brokering and an international legally binding instrument on brokering. In 2006, a UN Expert group on illicit brokering in small arms/light weapons commenced its work, chaired by The Netherlands. Regarding uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons, the Netherlands practically always destroys its stock piles of phased-out superfluous government owned small arms; any government-owned small arms that are offered for sale will need an export licence.

The Netherlands contributes more than € 3 million each year to various projects and programmes that focus on further integration of small arms policies at the national level in national poverty reduction strategies and programmes (esp. in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, both through regional and bilateral activities). In 2005, the Netherlands submitted in the UNGA a resolution on Small Arms and Development, advocating the need for a stronger link between arms and poverty reduction policies, and inclusion of small arms policies within SSR and DDR programmes. The Netherlands is a member of the taskgroup on Armed Violence and Poverty of the CPDC-network in the OECD/DAC since 2006. This year a set of guidelines on the practical implementation of policy, programmes and projects to reduce armed violence will be developed. Since 2006 the Netherlands is a member of the core group of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development promoting a further integration of small arms and armed violence policies and programmes with development. In Afghanistan for example, the collection and destruction of small arms/light weapons and ammunition must go hand in hand with aid and development programming. In addition, the Netherlands supports multilateral activities (EU, OSCE, NAMSA, UNDP) in Eastern European and Asian countries for the destruction and secure stockpiling of large quantities of illegal or surplus or randomly kept unsave (stock) piles of small arms/light weapons and conventional ammunition.

43. (Question to all) To what extend did you promote cooperation in fighting corruption, organised crime and terrorism.

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

The Netherlands considers international cooperation in the fight against terrorism an essential element of its security policy. Only by promoting international cooperation, the fight against terrorism stands any chance of success in the long run. In combating terrorism, the Netherlands adopts a comprehensive approach: the repression of terrorism should be complemented by preventive actions addressing underlying factors. In this context, the Netherlands does not subscribe to the contention that poverty as such is one of the major factors contributing to terrorism.

A considerable proportion of the world's population lives in conditions of poverty yet does not resort to terrorism. In some specific cases, however, the social and economic situation does create opportunities for radical organisations, particularly in countries with weak governments or failing states. Finally, the Netherlands underlines the importance of respect for human rights in the fight against terrorism.

Actions foreseen are:

- *Cooperate at the UN-level: contributing to the implementation of the UN's Counter Terrorism Strategy, continued implementation of UNSC resolutions 1267, 1373 and 1624 and working towards agreement on Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism.*
- *Cooperate at the EU-level: implementation of the strategies and action plans on terrorism and radicalisation and recruitment; including anti-terrorist clauses in third country agreements; providing technical assistance to the priority countries identified in COTER.*
- *Combat financing of terrorism, and by implementing FATF-recommendations*
- *Prevent radicalisation and recruitment, stimulate dialogue with Islamic countries and communities.*
- *Engage in bilateral CT-cooperation with states as part of EU technical Assistance initiative.*
- *Provide financial assistance to CT-institutions: i.e. the African Union's CAERT in Algeria and JCLEC in Indonesia*
- *Provide financial assistance for capacity building in CT-measures (UNODC, NGOs).*

Examples of successes and difficulties:

- *In 2006, the Netherlands ratified the 2003 UN Convention against Corruption (Merida).*
- *In 2006, the Netherlands organised an international conference to assist international organisations in the implementing UN resolution 1373.*
- *Freezing of assets/sanctions regime: only relatively small amounts of money have been frozen. Legal constraints in EU-context: verdict in the MKO-case; legal provisions in CP 931/2001*

44. (Question to all) What is your overall assessment of EU progress regarding its PCD commitments in the area of security?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

Explain.

The Netherlands has been an active supporter of the Union's CSFP and ESDP agendas over the last decade, and encourages further progress in this regard. Due to the fast expansion of second pillar policies, it is more important than ever to link these developments with the external policies of the member states. Therefore the Netherlands encourages the European Union to step up its efforts to streamline its various security-related policies. In the medium-term, there may be a need to discuss whether coherence alone will be sufficient or whether a more fundamental change in the EU structures may be warranted. Regarding crisis management, there is need for more refined strategies. EU operations are still driven by political considerations and there is limited conceptual agreement on how to start a planning process. In addition, there is no guiding principle on what actors to involve from day one.

What actions have been most successful? What further actions are needed? Illustrate through concrete examples.

In retrospect, the EU has proved most successful when breaking its own rules. For example when the EU found a flexible way to finance the non ODA-ble DDR process in

Burundi. Similar experiences point towards the EUSEC operation, ARTEMIS, the stability instrument or the African Peace Facility (EDF funding). This emphasises the need to come to a different, more adequate structure and corresponding (financial) instruments.

What are the main difficulties/obstacles? To what extent do PCD commitments in the area of security entail economic, social and political consequences for your country/the EU?

One of the main problems lies in the pillar structure of the EU. It prohibits joined-up coordination and makes it hard to realise joint action at the level of decision-making, planning, implementation and funding. In order to play a meaningful role in conflict prevention, civilian/military crisis management and sustainable development, the EU will have to change the way it distinguishes between foreign relations, development cooperation and security related policies.

If any, describe actions taken to build on synergies with other PCD areas.

There are few direct interlinkages of security policies with other PCD areas. One of the most relevant links regarding security and conflict lies in the EUs trade relations and their role in encouraging fair trade and preventing illegal trade by the EU private sector.

3.5. Agriculture

EU Commitments:

Within the framework of the reformed Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), the EU will substantially reduce the level of trade distortion related to its support measures to the agricultural sector, and facilitate developing countries' agricultural development³⁸.

Questions related to agriculture and development

45. (Question to Commission) To what extent did you reduce the level of trade distortion related to support measures to the agricultural sector?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

46. (Question to all) To what extent did you contribute to facilitating developing countries' agricultural development?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

The share of bilateral ODA of the Netherlands allocated specifically to agricultural development has decreased over the past 20 years, similar to the trend in other OECD

³⁸

December 2005 European Consensus on Development.

countries. The Netherlands focusses increasingly on private sector development which includes rural and agricultural development. Examples are our private sector development programmes mentioned in the section on trade (Q32), and support for developing countries' negotiating capacity on global agricultural trade issues (for instance through IDEAS' cotton support programme for the 4 West-African countries behind the Cotton Initiative in the Doha Round).

The Netherlands has also specific public-private partnership programmes in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures to facilitate food and agriculture exports from developing countries to the EU. In this area, the Netherlands' Centre for Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries (CBI) is also a major supplier of technical assistance.

47. (Question to all) In your area of competence (as laid down in the Treaties), what is your overall assessment of EU progress regarding its PCD commitments in the area of agriculture?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

Explain.

Significant progress has been made over the past decade because the EU has substantially reduced trade-distorting domestic subsidies to agriculture by decoupling its subsidies from production. The same is true for actual improvements in agricultural imports from developing countries and the reduction of provided export subsidies. This has happened even without a new WTO agreement on agriculture. The EU process is continuing despite the lack of results in the Doha negotiations. A breakthrough is eluding WTO Members because of different views on the level of ambition in new market access, the extent of the reduction and the methods to discipline domestic support and the abolishment of all forms of export support.

In the EPA negotiations progress is weak due to a variety of reasons. The main reason is the difference in views among parties about the scope of negotiated topics; the trade coverage, the extent of asymmetry and the length of the transition periods of the Free Trade Areas; and parallel issues such as the level of additionality of aid for trade and financial compensation. In the area of trade, the Netherlands fully supports the recent Commission offer for duty & quota free market access for all ACP countries. Once the EPAs have been agreed, the main challenge will be how to enhance the ACP countries' capacity to benefit from increased market access opportunities.

What actions have been most successful? What further actions are needed? Illustrate through concrete examples.

Decoupling of support to agriculture has reduced the trade distortiveness of the Common Agricultural Policy. (Partial) decoupling has also taken place for products of particular interest to developing countries (grains, beef, cotton, tobacco, sugar, bananas). As regards sugar for example, the EU will transform itself from a net exporter to a net importer of sugar. Developing countries will be the prime beneficiaries. In sugar-producing ACP countries attention has to be given to (the financing of) flanking adjustment measures. Partial decoupling (65%) of EU cotton subsidies was a modest success, but problems have arisen because of the ruling of the European Court of Justice.

How did you contribute to realising the EU PCD commitments in the area of agriculture?

Active participation in the EU discussions and decision making on reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy and individual common market organisations, e.g. by submitting discussion papers, either nationally or jointly with other Member States.

What are the main difficulties/obstacles? To what extent do PCD commitments in relation to agriculture entail economic, social and political consequences for your country/the EU?

The main obstacle is the opposition of vested and perceived interests in both the EU and developing countries that face preference erosion. This has, however, not always impeded decisions to increase market access in sensitive sectors and reduction of export subsidies. Because of the overall benefits of trade for all parties concerned (including poorer countries), and the crucial role of agriculture in the single undertaking of the Doha round, an ambitious and balanced outcome is generally seen in the Netherlands as more important than just defending existing partial national or EU interests.

If any, describe actions taken to build on synergies with other PCD areas.

Synergy with the trade agenda, especially in the EPA negotiations, and with the development cooperation agenda, especially on private sector development.

3.6. Fisheries

EU Commitments:

The EU will continue to pay particular attention to the development objectives of the countries with which the Community will engage into bilateral fisheries agreements. Within the context of the new EU policy on fisheries partnership agreements with third countries which is being implemented since 2003, the EU will continue to encourage the conclusion of fisheries agreements in order to contribute towards rational and sustainable exploitation of the surplus of coastal States' marine resources to the mutual benefit of both parties³⁹.

Questions related to fisheries and development

48. (Question to Commission) To what extent did you pay attention to the development objectives of the countries with which the Community will engage into bilateral fisheries agreements?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

49. (Question to Commission) To what extent did you encourage the conclusion of fisheries agreements in order to contribute towards rational and

None
Some
Substantial

³⁹ May 2005 GAERC Conclusions.

sustainable exploitation of the surplus of coastal States' marine resources to the mutual benefit of both parties?

Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

50. (Question to Commission) To what extent did you encourage regional cooperation on fishing?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

51. (Question to all) What is your overall assessment of EU progress regarding its PCD commitments in the area of fisheries (i.e. through bilateral fisheries agreements and enhancing regional cooperation)?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

Explain.

The EU intentions in this area are positive but in practice EU still finds it difficult (because of internal but also external factors) to transform their fisheries access agreements into comprehensive partnership agreements. The agreements still tend to be mainly economic agreements in which the EU pursues as many licenses as possible (within ecological limits) for an acceptable price for its own fleet. The co-operation and sustainability elements of the agreements (especially joint projects and programming) need to be further developed. The Council Conclusions on Fisheries Partnership Agreements (2004) are not always fully implemented in practice. There is also a lack of proper instruments and marine management tools and a lack of coordination between national and EU programmes.

What actions have been most successful? What further actions are needed? Illustrate through concrete examples.

Working together with a group of Member States to guide and advice DG Fish during bilateral negotiations to reach agreements that take better account of sustainability of fish stocks and the ecosystem and the interest of the local fishery sector. In such a setting both countries with and without an economic interest should participate.

How did you contribute to realising the EU PCD commitments in the area of fisheries?

The Netherlands encouraged the conclusion of fisheries agreements that promote sustainable exploitation of surplus, in line with the Council Conclusions on Fisheries Partnership Agreements of July 2004. The Netherlands has consistently demanded that adequate attention be paid to the surplus question. The Netherlands has put a lot of effort, together with Member States, to insist on production and timely release of evaluations of these agreements and to share these with all parties concerned, before negotiations about renewal started. It is still difficult to implement agreed procedures, especially sharing the evaluations with third countries. In the case of Mauritania, the Netherlands financed a research and capacity building project of the national institute (IMROP) to get stock data of certain species to monitor the impact of fishing efforts and provide scientific input for renewal negotiations. Local fishermen were concerned about possible overexploitation of octopus stocks and the fact that the EU were issued too many licenses for this segment. In the negotiations on a new EU - Mauritania fisheries agreement (2006) the stock data on

octopus induced the Commission to demand fewer licenses than previously and it helped the fishermen associations to pressure their government not to sell as many licenses as before. Furthermore, the Netherlands supported the creation of a new category for pelagic fishing in which the local industry (landing/ processing) gets a fuller share. Finally the Netherlands has asked the Commission to encourage Mauritania, as a major fishing nation in West Africa, to ratify the UNFSA (United Nations Fish Stock Agreement)

The difficulties in operating scientific committees also received attention. This concerned their composition, the restricted timeframe and the way their scientific advice on sustainability is being taken into account by negotiating parties. The Netherlands financed the FAO regional working group (CECAF) and also supports the Commission Sousrégionale de Pêche. The Netherlands is currently in the process of setting up a Public-Private Partnership in West Africa with a focus on improving market access of fishery products from African countries into the EU and enhancing sustainable fishing (including monitoring, control and surveillance).

What are the main difficulties/obstacles? To what extent do PCD commitments in the area of fisheries entail economic, social and political consequences for your country/the EU?

More progress would be possible if DG Development and those representatives from Member States who work in the area of development, get involved much more. The responsibility for the fisheries agreements should be jointly shared by DG Fish and DG Development. Moreover, the national fisheries sector should be better covered in the Country Strategy Papers and bilateral country programmes, and be more closely linked to EU fishing activities in these countries.

If any, describe actions taken to build on synergies with other PCD areas.

Related to trade is the WTO discussion on Fisheries Subsidies. The Netherlands presented a proposal on a possible way to discipline the subsidies taking into account the interests of developing countries. A link has also been made with the actions taken on SPS barriers.

3.7. Social dimension of globalisation, employment and decent work

EU Commitments:

The EU will contribute to strengthening the Social Dimension of Globalisation with a view to ensure maximum benefits for all, both men and women. The EU will promote employment and decent work for all as a global goal⁴⁰.

Questions related to the social dimension of globalisation, employment and decent work, and development⁴¹

⁴⁰ May 2005 GAERC Conclusions.

⁴¹ This includes in particular: the fight against social exclusion and discrimination, the promotion of social dialogue and protection; support for employment, pro-poor growth, social security reforms and corporate social responsibility; the promotion of investments that generate employment and that support human resources development; as well as the promotion of gender equality and gender mainstreaming of all aspects of development cooperation.

52. (Question to all) To what extent did you contribute to strengthening the social dimension of globalisation with a view to ensure maximum benefits for all, both women and men?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

The Social dimension of globalisation is a broad policy framework and runs parallel with the concept of Decent Work. Therefore the two questions will be treated at the same time under Q53.

53. (Question to all) To what extent did you promote employment and decent work for all as a global goal?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

In 2006, the Netherlands renewed its Cooperation Programme with the ILO, within the framework of the Decent Work Country Programmes for a period of four years. With a contribution of € 32 million, the Netherlands is a prominent and active member of this ILO programme. To raise awareness about Decent Work, the Netherlands tables the subject in various international fora such as the ILO, the UN and the EU and points out the link between employment and Decent Work. Furthermore, the Netherlands advocates cooperation between the ILO, UN and EU to promote Decent Work as a global goal. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment organised an expert meeting on the Social Dimension of Globalisation/ Decent Work in 2006. Decent Work is also promoted within the context of Corporate Social Responsibility. In addition to the environmental dimension, the social dimension gets more attention. In November 2005 for example, an expert and stakeholders meeting was organised by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on trade and investment relations with Burma. Currently, a public procurement programme of the Dutch government is developing social criteria which will be used to achieve sustainable public procurement. Decent Work and especially the Fundamental Labour Standards of the ILO will be part of these criteria.

54. (Question to all) What is your overall assessment of EU progress regarding its PCD commitments in relation to the social dimension of globalisation, employment and decent work?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

Explain.

Interpreting the social dimension as the Decent Work agenda the Netherlands welcomes the growing attention at EU level. The Commission Communication of 2006, followed by the conference organised by the Finnish presidency, further raised awareness about Decent Work. The Netherlands supports the focus of the current German Presidency which attaches great importance to Decent Work.

What actions have been most successful? What further actions are needed? Illustrate through concrete examples.

What are the main difficulties/obstacles? To what extent do PCD commitments in relation to

the social dimension of globalisation, employment and decent work entail economic, social and political consequences for your country/the EU?

If any, describe actions taken to build on synergies with other PCD areas.

3.8. Migration

EU Commitments:

The EU will promote the synergies between migration and development, to make migration a positive factor for development⁴². It will promote concrete measures aimed at reinforcing their contribution to poverty reduction, including facilitating remittances and limiting the brain drain of qualified people. It will support developing countries in their policies of management of migratory flows, as well as in their efforts to combat human trafficking, in order to make sure that the human rights of the migrants are respected⁴³.

Questions related to migration and development

55. (Question to all) Did you take concrete measures to promote the synergies between migration and development?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

In July 2004, the Netherlands adopted a policy document on 'Development and Migration'. This joint policy of both the Minister for Development Cooperation and the Minister for Integration was supported by Parliament in December 2004. Every six months both Ministers report on progress being made in its implementation. The policy is anchored in a coherent approach treating migration and development as related issues where policies should strengthen each other, or as a minimum not be in conflict. It involves close cooperation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Labour. For example, the Minister for Development Cooperation and the Minister for Integration have jointly implemented various migration projects run by IOM and UNHCR in West, East and North Africa. During a joint visit of both Ministers to Kenya issues such as refugee protection, return of refugees and human trafficking were addressed. This resulted in the funding of a follow-up project to help refugees from Northern Kenya return to Southern Sudan and assist in the reconstruction of their country of origin.

Within the MFA a special unit for Migration and Development has been set up supporting a broad range of migration and development activities in cooperation with international partners.

56. (Question to all) Did you take concrete measures to facilitate remittances and/or to involve diasporas in the development of their countries of origin?

None
Some
Substantial

⁴² May 2005 GAERC Conclusions.

⁴³ December 2005 European Consensus on Development.

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

Remittances: some

In the area of remittances, the Ministry of Finance carried out a study on the transfer costs of remittances in the Netherlands. The study concludes that no active government intervention is necessary but there are possibilities for additional measures to enhance transparency and competition. In the area of capacity building in developing countries the study points out the importance of strengthening the financial sector. The NFX platform (Netherlands Financial Sector Development Exchange) also produced a review of the remittances corridor between the Netherlands and Morocco. The Ministry of Finance published another study on remittances from the Netherlands to Surinam. Though considered private money, the Netherlands is looking for ways to collaborate with other donors on this issue to lower transaction cost for migrants.

Diaspora: substantial

Regular consultations take place with migrant organisations. Topics have included the Darfur conflict, public-private partnerships in Ghana, Burkina Faso and Mali, and, more recently, preparation for the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in 2006. Intensification of this dialogue is foreseen through an annual meeting with migrant organisations working on migration and development issues, involving them even stronger in policy implementation. Migrants are regularly invited to discuss country strategies.

The Netherlands is financing several projects with the objective to strengthen the capacity of migrant organisations on issues like project formulation and execution. The MFA is financing a Cross Over Programme that stimulates migrants to become development workers and also supports a World Bank project on a Development Marketplace for African Diaspora in Europe' (D-MADE) in which diaspora organisations will compete with each other to execute a project either in the social sector or how to run a business. Finally, the Netherlands MFA is supporting projects with the objective of reconstruction through temporary deployment of diaspora groups.

57. (Question to all) Did you take concrete measures to address the brain drain of qualified people and to promote circular migration?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

In addressing the problem of brain drain the Netherlands is supporting a programme in Zambia that supplements the salaries of doctors working in remote districts. This approach has been effective. More than 70 Zambian doctors, who might otherwise have gone abroad, have accepted jobs in their own country as part of this programme. The programme will be continued by the Zambian government as a part of their regular policy.

The NVZ Dutch Hospitals Association is developing a quality mark for intermediary companies that recruit health care personnel from abroad. The minister for Health, Welfare and Sport has invited branche organisations in health care to develop a code of conduct for recruitment of medical personnel from abroad.

The Netherlands is financing an IOM project for temporary return of qualified nationals (TRQN). Its objective is to contribute to the national post-war reconstruction and development plans of selected countries in line with the integrated approach of the Dutch Government towards migration and development. The project supports the establishment of sustainable bilateral relations with countries whose nationals reside in large numbers in the Netherlands as migrants of the first and second generation. Initial results are promising, especially in Sudan, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan. Another example is a MIDA project executed by IOM in Ghana aimed at the temporary return of Ghanaian health workers to Ghana and traineeships of Ghanaian nurses in the Netherlands.

58. (Question to all) To what extent did you support developing countries in strengthening their policies and capacities to manage migratory flows, and their efforts to combat human trafficking?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

The Netherlands is co-financing Aeneas-projects in Ghana, Mauretania and Tanzania. In Ghana, the main goal is strengthening the capacity of the Ghanaian Immigration Service to reduce illegal migration by preventing and combating document fraud. In Mauretania, the objectives are strengthening the national asylum system, procedures and access including improving the application of immigration and asylum laws, strengthening the protection capacity of UNHCR in Mauretania and improving engagement of national NGO's towards refugees. In Tanzania, the goals of an Aeneas project by UNHCR - within the context of the EU pilot Regional Protection Programme - are strengthening refugee protection and access to durable solutions in Tanzania.

59. (Question to all) What is your overall assessment of EU progress regarding its PCD commitments in the area of migration?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

Explain.

Good progress has been made in promoting coherence between the different disciplines. It is important that this policy coherence will not remain lip service but will be operationalised in concrete activities.

What actions have been most successful? What further actions are needed? Illustrate through concrete examples.

In 2006 an increased political commitment for a coherent approach of development and migration was evident. The EU-AU conference in Tripoli was a success and implementation of its conclusions is necessary. The recent EC Communication "A European Programme for Action to tackle the critical shortage of health workers in developing countries (2007–2013)" should be supported by Council conclusions calling for significant EU action.

What are the main difficulties/obstacles? To what extent do PCD commitments in the area of migration entail economic, social and political consequences for your country/the EU?

Main difficulties are the complexity of the subject, its sensitivity, the current procedures and the implementation of all good intentions. Poverty reduction is sometimes hard to combine with migration objectives. Partner countries of development cooperation are not always similar to the main countries of origin of migration. Legal or temporary migration is a promising field, but many questions remain how to implement this within the present political and legal state of affairs.

If any, describe actions taken to build on synergies with other PCD areas.

3.9. Research and Innovation

EU Commitments:

The EU will promote the integration of development objectives, where appropriate, into its RTD and innovation policies, and will continue to assist developing countries in enhancing their domestic capacities in this area. The EU supports global, regional and national efforts in research for development to address the special needs of the poor in the areas of health, including prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, agriculture, natural resource and environmental management, energy, in particular renewable energy and energy efficiency, and climate⁴⁴.

Questions related to research and innovation, and development

60. (Question to all) To what extent did you promote the integration of development objectives, where appropriate, into your RTD and innovation policies? None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties. .

The Netherlands RTD and innovation policy is primarily focused on promoting the Dutch/European knowledge economy (Lisbon Agenda). Co-operation with third countries is promoted from that perspective, but also relates to transboundary issues, including MDG-related issues, like climate change, infectious diseases, migration and security.

61. (Question to all) To what extent did you continue to assist developing countries in enhancing their domestic capacities in the area of RTD and innovation? None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

⁴⁴ May 2005 GAERC Conclusions.

Research and innovation capacity development are an integral aspect within the different themes of Dutch development co-operation. In addition, a separate programme exists that focusses on science, technology and innovation (STI) systems and enabling STI policies, including Intellectual Property, Biosafety and ethics.

62. (Question to all) To what extent did you support global, regional and national efforts in research for development to address the special needs of the poor in the areas of health, including prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, agriculture, natural resource and environmental management, energy, in particular renewable energy and energy efficiency, and climate?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

All issues mentioned in the question correspond to Dutch development co-operation priorities. A large number of networks are being supported in these areas, including knowledge/research networks, on national, regional and global levels.

In the area of health for the period of 2006-2009 a total amount of € 80.5 million has been committed in R&D of new drugs, vaccines and diagnostics for AIDS, TB and malaria through subsidies to public private partnerships such as IAVI, IPM, EMVI, MMV, FIND, DNDi, AERAS and GATBD. For the development of clinical trials capacity for AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa a contribution of € 20 million has been made to EDCTP/NACCAP for the period 2004-2010. The Netherlands is a Board member of the WHO/WB/UNDP/UNICEF special programme for Tropical Disease Research and Training (TDR) and contributes yearly € 1 million to the programme.

63. (Question to all) What is your overall assessment of EU progress regarding its PCD commitments in the area of research and innovation?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

Explain.

The EU Framework Programme (European Research Area) is not easily accessible for LDCs, in terms of conditions (selection on excellence), content (little attention to poverty issues), procedures (too difficult) and actual participation from LDC researchers. Results of integration of third countries in FP7 still to be seen.

What actions have been most successful? What further actions are needed? Illustrate through concrete examples.

Actions that are driven by developing countries' research agendas. This is the case in bilateral research co-operation. The new instrument INCO-NET could bring this at a higher level.

What are the main difficulties/obstacles? To what extent do PCD commitments in the area of research and innovation entail economic, social and political consequences for your country/the EU?

Main difficulty is the absence of an endogenously driven knowledge economy and policy in developing countries, resulting in an asymmetry in global RTD cooperation.

If any, describe actions taken to build on synergies with other PCD areas.

3.10. Information Society

EU Commitments:

The EU will address the digital divide by exploiting the potential of Information and Communication Technologies as a development tool and as a significant resource for attaining the MDGs⁴⁵.

Questions related to information society and development

64. (*Question to all*) Did you take concrete measures to contribute to addressing the digital divide by exploiting the potential of Information and Communication Technologies as a development tool and as a significant resource for attaining the MDGs?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

Support is given to NGOs to develop innovative applications of ICT4D. The focus has been on harnessing ICT for development and poverty reduction rather than closing the digital divide.

65. (*Question to all*) What is your overall assessment of EU progress regarding its PCD commitments in relation to the information society?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

Explain.

Cooperation and harmonisation efforts are rather limited and have an ad hoc character.

What actions have been most successful? What further actions are needed? Illustrate through concrete examples.

Harmonisation in the context of preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society (I and II) has been effective. The EU spoke with one voice.

What are the main difficulties/obstacles? To what extent do PCD commitments in relation to the information society entail economic, social and political consequences for your country/the EU?

There are no commitments in terms of funding or taking initiatives to bridge the digital divide. The main emphasis has been on human rights and promoting effective policies on privatisation and regulation. There is a clear coherence with agendas concerning governance and private sector development.

⁴⁵ May 2005 GAERC Conclusions.

If any, describe actions taken to build on synergies with other PCD areas.

3.11. Transport

EU Commitments:

The EU will address the special needs of both land-locked and coastal developing countries by promoting the intermodality issues for achieving network interconnectivity as well as security and safety issues⁴⁶.

Questions related to transport and development

66. (Question to all) To what extent did you address the special needs of both land-locked and coastal developing countries by promoting the intermodality issues for achieving network interconnectivity as well as security and safety issues?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

The Netherlands supports a number of multilateral initiatives in the field of transport.

67. (Question to all) What is your overall assessment of EU progress regarding its PCD commitments in the area of transport?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

Explain.

The Netherlands welcomes the EU-AU Partnership on Infrastructure.

What actions have been most successful? What further actions are needed? Illustrate through concrete examples.

What are the main difficulties/obstacles? To what extent do PCD commitments in the area of transport entail economic, social and political consequences for your country/the EU?

If any, describe actions taken to build on synergies with other PCD areas.

⁴⁶ May 2005 GAERC Conclusions.

3.12. Energy

EU Commitments:

The EU is strongly committed to contribute to the special needs of developing countries by promoting access to sustainable energy sources and by supporting establishing interconnection of energy infrastructures and networks⁴⁷

Questions related to energy and development

68. (*Question to all*) To what extend did you take concrete measures to promoting access to sustainable energy sources and support establishing interconnection of energy infrastructures and networks?

None
Some
Substantial
Full

Describe and explain. Indicate what actions are being foreseen. Illustrate through concrete examples of successes and/or difficulties.

Energy Access has gained priority in the policy of the MFA. Actions are being undertaken at different levels:

1. National

An output target has been set to supply sustainable access to modern energy services to 10 million (energy poor) people in developing countries with a focus on Sub Sahara Africa, before 2015. Results: 2007 supply for 6.2 million people contracted, the remaining 3.8 million programmed to be contracted in 2007/2008.

2 International

Active support and participation in the World Bank's Investment Framework and African action plan for energy access. Results: pro poor access priority setting.

Active support and participation in the European Union Energy Initiative, the Energy development fund and the Partnership Dialogue Facility. Results: streamlining EU policy and focus on access.

African Biogas Initiative, an international partnership to supply 2 million households with biogas digesters for cooking and energy facilities. Results: Regional feasibility studies and the launching of the initiative in May 2007 in Nairobi Kenya.

The new cabinet has decided to make an additional 200 mln euro available for sustainable energy development (on top of the 0.8% ODA).

⁴⁷

May 2005 GAERC Conclusions.

69. (*Question to all*) What is your overall assessment of EU progress regarding its PCD commitments in the area of energy?

Weak
Average
Good
Strong

Explain.

A number of promising European initiatives in the area of energy have recently been taken but it is too early to assess their implementation.

What actions have been most successful? What further actions are needed? Illustrate through concrete examples.

What are the main difficulties/obstacles? To what extent do PCD commitments in the area of energy entail economic, social and political consequences for your country/the EU?

If any, describe actions taken to build on synergies with other PCD areas.