



CIDSE, APRODEV, Caritas Europa press release 10 May 2010 – for immediate release

European Council: Resources and oversight needed to make new food security commitments work, say faith-based development networks

The faith-based development networks CIDSE, CARITAS Europa and APRODEV have welcomed the adoption by the Council today of conclusions on a new policy framework for the European Commission and EU Member States to assist developing countries in dealing with food security challenges. The networks say that increased efforts on global food security are urgently needed as the gap between Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1 and the current reality is increasing, given that more than one billion people in the world are suffering from hunger. With the global MDG review Summit coming up in September, the networks call on the EU to back up their words with firm financial commitments and measures to ensure the framework will be put into practice.

“These conclusions mark an important step forward in food security policy for the EU. The endorsement of the Right to Food approach and the focus on small producers and sustainable agricultural value chains provide a strong basis for tackling hunger in developing countries in a meaningful and lasting way,” said **Marc Somers** from Caritas Europa.

The Council has asked the Commission to prepare a plan to put the framework into practice by the end of 2010. With this in mind the networks point to two important gaps in the proposed EU strategy to tackle global hunger.

“Since June 2008, EU ministers have committed to an increase in financial support to agriculture, food security and nutrition in developing countries - but not yet to the level required to tackle the food crisis. We want the EU to commit to increasing its share to ensure that at least 10% of their Official Development Assistance goes to agriculture and rural development within the next five years,” said **Bob van Dillen** from CIDSE.

“If the framework is to have any teeth the implementation plan must include an effective review mechanism to assess how the Commission and Member States are fulfilling their commitments. In addition, it needs to assess how other EU policies, such as trade and agricultural policies, are impacting on the objectives this new framework sets out,” said **Karin Ulmer** from APRODEV.

ENDS

Contact

Bob van Dillen (CIDSE/Cordaid) Bob.van.Dillen@cordaid.nl, +31622568975 (Dutch, English, French)
Karin Ulmer (APRODEV), k.ulmer@aprodev.net, +32-22345664/60 (English, French, German)
Ambroise Mazal (CIDSE/CCFD-Terre Solidaire), a.mazal@ccfd.asso.fr, +33-6-79443381 (French, Spanish)

Notes to the editors

- **APRODEV** was founded in 1990 in order to strengthen the cooperation between the European development organisations that work closely together with the World Council of Churches (WCC). At present, 17 development and humanitarian aid organisations, based in 15 European countries, cooperate through APRODEV. www.aprodev.net
- **Caritas Europa** is the European network of 48 Caritas organisations, working in 44 European countries. Its activities focus on poverty and social inequality, migration and asylum within all countries of Europe, humanitarian assistance and international development throughout the world. www.caritas-europa.org/
- **CIDSE** is an international alliance of Catholic development agencies. Its 16 members from Europe and North America share a common strategy in their efforts to eradicate poverty and establish global justice. CIDSE's advocacy work covers resources for development; climate justice; food, agriculture and sustainable trade; and business & human rights. The issue of global governance is addressed in all our advocacy work. www.cidse.org