



North-South civil society cooperation: How will the European Commission provide an enabling environment?

CIDSE & Caritas Europa Conference in the European Parliament

PRESS INVITATION

Date: Thursday, 4 March 2010 (13.00-14:30)

Venue: European Parliament, Brussels (Meeting Room József Antall Building 4Q2)

Hosts: MEPs Thijs Berman, Bart Staes & Anna Záborská

Interpretation: English, French and Spanish

Key note address on behalf of Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner for Development: Koos Richelle, Director-General EuropeAid Cooperation Office

CIDSE, Caritas Europa and 23 Southern Partners from around the globe will address challenges they encounter in their cooperation with the European Commission and present key recommendations

Followed by a panel debate ([see programme for details](#))

Abstract

The conference is part of a three day North-South forum organised by the two networks of Catholic development agencies.

In an environment where EU Member States fail to meet their aid commitments while the poor are suffering most from the global food, climate and financial crises and where the Millennium Development Goals Review 2010 will discover our failure to fight extreme poverty, the role of civil society and private donors is of increasing importance.

This holds true also for the European Commission, since aid is more and more delivered via multilateral channels.

The rationale of this event is to ensure that the added value of civil society organisations in the North and South is fully appreciated by the European Commission and EU Member States. Future modalities of cooperation should respond effectively to the needs of the poor and allow for strengthened and more effective collaboration between the European Commission and civil society, and between developing country governments and civil society, but also among civil society actors themselves.

Journalists are invited to attend the conference and the following press point

CIDSE and Caritas Europa representatives as well as their partner organisations from the South will be available for interviews.

About us

CIDSE is an international alliance of Catholic development agencies working together for global justice.

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.

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