

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL POLICIES OF THE UNION

DIRECTORATE B

POLICY DEPARTMENT

STANDARD BRIEFING

**AN INVENTORY OF EXISTING MECHANISMS TO COMPLY
WITH AID COMMITMENTS BY MEMBER STATES**

Abstract

This study assesses the commitments made by EU Member States to achieve the 0.7% Official Development Assistance (ODA) / GNI target by 2015. The paper analyses the mechanisms that countries have established and their effectiveness to reach ODA targets. In sum, Sweden and Denmark have reaffirmed their commitment to provide more than 0.7% of their GNI as ODA. The Netherlands and Spain have announced aid cuts. Belgium is currently the only country which has enacted legislation to make the 0.7% target a binding commitment. In its recent Spending Review the UK has committed itself to spend 0.7% from 2013 onwards and to enshrine this commitment in law by 2011. Germany and France have reaffirmed their commitments to achieve 0.7% by 2015 but will not implement measures, such as annual action plans, to outline annual increases. To ensure that the 2015 0.7% target can still be met, renewed political will and the introduction of multi-annual action plans are needed at the national level. The EU has no mandate to introduce binding mechanisms at EU level since budgeting falls within the competence of Member States. To meet the 0.7% target by 2015, the EU, and in particular the European Parliament, should continue to urge Member States to stick to their commitments. Considering the need to speed up their allocations, innovative financing instruments will play a key role for Member States to meet their ODA pledges. At the same time, the study argues that ODA definition criteria should not be broadened further to include specific climate-change related funding or military expenditure as part of ODA.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1 EU COMMITMENTS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE 0.7% ODA/GNI TARGET	4
1.1 The EU Twelve-point Action Plan and the annual progress report 2010	4
1.2 EU Council position on the Millennium Development Goals	5
2 COMMITMENTS BY EU MEMBER STATES	7
2.1 Commitments and mechanisms of EU Member States to achieve ODA targets	8
2.1.1 United Kingdom	8
2.1.2 Belgium	9
2.1.3 Sweden	10
2.1.4 Denmark	11
2.1.5 The Netherlands	11
2.1.6 Spain	12
2.1.7 Germany	12
2.1.8 France	13
2.1.9 Summary of EU Member State's commitments	14
2.2 How effective are these mechanisms?	14
2.3 Existing monitoring mechanisms	15
3 BINDING MECHANISMS: THE WAY AHEAD	16
4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	17
5 RECOMMENDATIONS	19
6 ANNEXES	20
ANNEX 1: BIBLIOGRAPHY	20
ANNEX 2: OVERVIEW OF COMMITMENTS AND PERFORMANCE OF SELECTED MEMBER STATES	21
ANNEX 3: LIST OF INTERVIEWED PERSONS	22
ANNEX 4: QUESTIONNAIRE	23