

**Council Resolution**  
**on development education and raising European public awareness**  
**of development cooperation**

1. Welcoming the Presidency's discussion paper on development education.
2. Whereas, given the global interdependence of our society, the raising of awareness by development education and by information contributes to strengthening the feeling of international solidarity, and also helps to create an environment which fosters the establishment of an intercultural society in Europe. Heightening awareness also contributes towards the changing of lifestyles in favour of a model of sustainable development for all. Lastly, raising awareness increases citizens' support for further efforts in the public funding of development cooperation.
3. Recalling the basic criteria for operations to raise awareness of development issues, which include development education, as mentioned in the Regulation on co-financing with NGOs (Council Regulation No 1658/98).
4. Recalling point 44 of the joint statement by the Council and the Commission on EU development policy (Development Council, 10 November 2000).
5. Recognising the vital role of the Member States in development education, towards which some Member States are already making considerable efforts, and the role played by the Commission.

The Council

6. Wishes to encourage increased support for development education, and for the corresponding communication policy, by the Commission and the Member States through the establishment of closer links between the various sectors which may help promote development education in areas such as NGOs, schools, universities, adult education, training for trainers, audio-visual media, the press, collective organisations and youth movements.
7. Encourages the European Commission and the Member States to sustain their support for NGO development education initiatives and for initiatives taken by the national coordination centres of development NGOs.

8. Underscores the importance of the "fair trade" factor which is effective in development education. The Council considers that it would be worth studying, in consultation with the bodies concerned, the possibilities of promoting further the idea of fair trade.
9. Wishes to encourage the exchange of information and experience on development education between governments and civil society actors, as well as within those entities.
10. Encourages the initiatives of the NGOs and European and national institutions aimed at raising awareness amongst the population of the candidate countries for accession to the EU of the importance of supporting international solidarity in the fight against world poverty, as well as promoting development education in general.
11. Calls on the Commission to reinforce its information and communication activities in order better to heighten the awareness of the public in the Member States, and in the candidate countries for accession, of European development cooperation policy.
12. Welcomes, on the one hand, the Council of Europe's development education work carried out by its North-South Centre which enables all Council of Europe Member States to be involved, including candidate countries for accession to the EU, and, on the other, welcomes the development education work conducted by the OECD.
13. Calls for an evaluation
  - (a) firstly of development education and the raising of European public awareness of development issues with regard to the implementation of the budget heading for NGO co-financing (B76000),
  - (b) secondly, with regard to the means of information on cooperation with the developing countries implemented by the Commission where heightening public awareness is concerned.

Such an evaluation should enable a further increase in the efficiency of these information and awarenessraising policies in the future.

14. Underlines the importance of conducting regular opinion polls among the citizens of the EU and of the candidate countries so as to gauge their understanding and support of development cooperation. Such a poll will allow the targeting of development education towards population groups in which the need is felt most, involving, if necessary, a review of the methodology and the defining of new synergies.

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