

Third meeting of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Development (IDCD)

27th November 2007, Conference Room 1, Irish Aid

Summary Minutes

Welcome speech from Minister of State, Michael Kitt T.D.

The Minister welcomed participants from the other Government Departments and highlighted that this was the last Committee meeting for 2007. The Minister expressed a warm welcome to Professor Alan Matthews, Head of European Agricultural Policy at the Department of Economics, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy in the Institute for International Integration Studies (IIS) in Trinity College Dublin. The Minister informed the Committee that Mr. Matthews is leading the four year research programme on the coherence of various aspects of Irish Government Policy with the objectives of Irish Aid.

(1) Presentation by Professor Alan Matthews- Policy Coherence for Development and the IIS Framework Agreement with the Advisory Board for Irish Aid (ABIA).

Professor Matthews gave an outline of the four year research program (Framework Agreement with ABIA). This includes a scoping report of all areas of work of Government Departments. This scoping report is intended to identify policy areas/initiatives where there is a development dimension and where synergies with Ireland's development policy could be further explored. Professor Matthews informed the Committee that a draft report of the scoping study should be available by March/April 2008. The Chair inquired about the involvement of NGO's in the preparation phase of the scoping study questionnaire to be put to Departments. Professor Matthews said that Dòchas had been given an opportunity to comment on the questionnaire (the results of which will form the main database of the scoping study).

On policy coherence Professor Matthews gave examples of policy enhancement for development (e.g. social welfare codes facilitating the release of pension contributions when migrants return home) and policy mitigation (e.g. providing sanitary and phytosanitary assistance when exports are restricted). Professor Matthews's presentation is circulated to Members and also available on the Irish Aid website.

(2) Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the second IDCD meeting were agreed by the Committee.

(3) Work Programme, Possible Sub-Groups and Synthesis Report

The Members were circulated with a Draft Work Programme to review and to revert to the IDCD Secretariat with their comments before the fourth meeting. Members were also circulated a Draft Paper on Proposed Sub-Groups and initial reactions to the

paper were positive. It was agreed that the Secretariat would write to Departments to get a nomination for relevant personnel to sit on a Skills Sets sub-group. It was decided that the proposed sub-group on Representation of Irish Personnel in Multilateral Organisations would be changed to a general Multilateral Organisations sub-group so that issues such as Irish Representation on Boards would also be addressed. The Department of Finance recommended that sub-groups, when formed, should feedback to the main Committee with research findings and/or to report on work undertaken.

Ms. Barrett, Irish Aid, asked members to revert to the Secretariat if any issues they had highlighted were missing from the Synthesis Report Follow Up table which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

(4) Inter-Departmental Co-operation within the UN Context

Mr. McLaughlin, Multilateral UN Section Irish Aid, briefed on Irish Aid activities within the UN Context as well as inter-departmental co-operation and funding towards UN bodies. The One UN initiative should be reflected in a One Ireland approach. It was agreed that a joint approach to UN activities by relevant Departments and Irish Aid, e.g. Health, could be looked at in the Multilateral Organisations sub-group.

(5) Up-date on the EU Report on Policy Coherence for Development and Council Conclusions.

Ms. Leslie, Irish Aid, gave the Committee a brief up-date on the report and members were provided with a copy of the main findings in each of the 12 PCD areas. Members were also briefed on the main coherence for development issues discussed at the November GAERC (General Affairs and External Relations Council).

(6) Next Meeting

The next meeting of the IDCD will be held on Tuesday 26th February 2008.

List of Attendees

Minister of State Michael Kitt T.D.

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| 1 | Ronan Murphy, Director General | Irish Aid |
| 2 | John Murphy | Dept. Transport |
| 3 | Philip Doran | Dept. Defence |
| 4 | Tom O'Mahony, Catherine Bannon | Dept. Environment (x 2) |
| 5 | Roger O'Connor | Dept. Communications |
| 6 | Deirdre Hanlon | Dept. Finance |
| 7 | Seamus Mcloughlin | Dept. Education |
| 8 | Kevin Smyth | Dept. Agriculture |
| 9 | Brendan Ingoldsby | Dept Health |
| 10 | Brian Millane | Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs |
| 11 | Francis Rochford | Arts, Sport & Tourism |
| 12 | Aileen Shanahan | Dept. Taoiseach |
| 13 | Ciaran O'Cuinn | DFA |
| 14 | Michael King | IIS, Trinity College Dublin |
| 15 | Professor Alan Matthews | IIS, Trinity College Dublin |
| 16 | Mary Barrett | Irish Aid |
| 17 | Austin Gormley | Irish Aid |
| 18 | Mary Sutton | Advisory Board on Irish Aid |
| 19 | Tom Sneyd | Irish Aid |
| 20 | Feilim McLaughlin | Irish Aid |
| 21 | Kathryn Leslie | Irish Aid |
| 22 | Amal Kaoua | Irish Aid |

Kathryn Leslie
IDCD Secretariat