

PRESS RELEASE
November 17, 2008



**LOUIS MICHEL, EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT,
CALLS FOR MEMBER STATES TO ENSURE AID COMMITMENTS ARE
MET**

Key delegates, EU officials, mayors, and civil society representatives delivered messages in support of the MDGs at UN Millennium Campaign Voices against Poverty Box installed at the European Development Days

(Strasbourg, 17th November 2008) – Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, reminded Member States to deliver on Goal 8 commitments, particularly on increasing aid, during the 2008 European Development Days (EDD) in Strasbourg, which ended yesterday.

“One main action [Member States should take], is to deliver on the one billion Euros they have promised and they have not delivered,” said Commissioner Michel in a message delivered at the United Nations Millennium Campaign Voices Against Poverty Box installed at the EDD. “Second, they should fulfill the commitments made in 2005 when they promised an additional 20 billion Euros per year for poor countries, with half for Africa. And a third action is to accept my proposal to launch a world loan financed by the co2 emissions quota in order to tackle the problem of climate change -- otherwise we will spend the money budgeted for development to fight climate change, which would be completely unacceptable.”

Alian Joyandet, French Secretary of State for Cooperation, also delivered a powerful message and advocated for “European nations and the EU ... to attain the 0.7% target [of Gross National Income to be devoted to overseas development assistance] by 2015.” Moreover, he added that “it is necessary to get all possible additional sources, as the volume of financing available will never be sufficient to cope with all the development needs.”

Marina Ponti, Deputy Director, Europe, of the United Nations Millennium Campaign, stated: “National Governments have realised their credibility is at stake. Too many development promises were broken, and too little time is left. In a few weeks, at the UN Conference on Financing for Development at Doha, they have an opportunity which they cannot afford to miss. It is time for them to deliver. We and the 116 million people around the world who mobilized on October 17th --the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty -- under the *Stand Up and Take Action* initiative, will be watching them.”

More than one hundred participants at the EDD – including EU officials, government representatives, mayors and civil society members- delivered messages in support of the MDGs. When asked to state three key measures that global leaders should take to fight against poverty, participants insisted on the responsibility of donor countries to keep their commitments on increasing aid quantity, improving aid quality, providing debt relief, and providing trade opportunities that will help poor countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

For access to messages and the photo gallery please visit:

www.endpoverty2015.org

Other relevant Voices against Poverty:

- Mrs. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany, at <http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=1QKvebnn5eU>
- Mr. Jean Louis Schiltz, Minister of Development, Luxemburg, at <http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=j5inuf5utUc>
- Mr. Manuel Correia, President of Portuguese National Development Agency (IPAD): <http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=esxE3SYiWTE> (in Portuguese)
- Mr. Stefano Manservigi, Director General for Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, European Commission, at <http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=8GV2ihUpKrM>
- Mr. Koos Richelle, Director General, Europeaid, at <http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=LnNvTFLCBLI>
- Ms. Luisa Morgantini, Vice-President for the European Parliament – Committee on Development, at <http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=7uow27-UcKQ>
- Mr. Josep Borell, Chair of the Commission for Development of the European Parliament at, <http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=sUaof7oTcfg> (in Spanish)
- Ms. Noerine Kaleeba, Chair of the Board, Action Aid International, at <http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=U8wMN3LxDCE>
- Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General ,UCLG Africa, at <http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=q7EpIDitRd0>
- Mr. Muchadeyl Ashton Masunda, Mayor of Harare, at <http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=qqrzD9MTUc0>

Note to editors:

The UN Millennium Campaign was established by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in 2002. The Campaign supports citizens' efforts to hold their governments to account for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Millennium Development Goals were adopted by 189 world leaders from the north and south, as part of the Millennium Declaration which was signed in 2000. These leaders agreed to achieve the Goals by 2015.

The UN Millennium Campaign in Europe is focused on building accountability for Goal 8 commitments, including increasing aid quantity and quality, debt relief, and trade opportunities that will help poor people and countries to achieve the MDGs. Our premise is simple: we are the first generation that can end poverty and we refuse to miss this opportunity.