

Draft report on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Year of Development (2015) (COM(2013)0509-C7-0229/2013-2013/0238(COD))

PLATFORMA amendments

New Amendment
Explanatory memorandum
A European Year for Development - Opportunities
After paragraph 3

| <i>Text proposed by the Commission</i> | <i>Amendment of the European Parliament</i> | <i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i> |
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| | | <p><i>Local and regional authorities¹ (LRAs) from Europe and associations thereof have been recognised, in the past decade, as fundamental partners in the implementation of the European Union development policy. Through a wide network of longstanding twinning relations and ad hoc decentralised cooperations they transfer their expertise to their counterparts in partner countries and contribute to fighting poverty and to strengthening democracy. They also bring fundamental support to a wide range of civil society organisations, and play a crucial role in development education and awareness raising. To ensure that the European year of development reaches out to citizens across the European territories, the European Union and its Member States should build up on LRAs' commitments, expertise and resources.</i></p> |

¹ We use in this document, including in the extracts reproduced from the report of the European Parliament, a different terminology than the one used by the European institutions. Indeed we recommend the systematic use of the wording "local **and regional authorities**" or "**local and regional governments**".

New Amendment
Proposal for a decision
Recital 11

| <i>Text proposed by the Commission</i> | <i>Amendment of the European Parliament</i> | <i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i> |
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| (11) 2015 should be an emblematic and pivotal year, being the last year for achieving the collectively agreed Millennium Development Goals and thus offering a unique opportunity to take stock of the international commitments from 2000. 2015 will also be the year in which a major international decision should be taken on the development framework that will replace the MDG framework over the coming decades. | | (11) 2015 should be an emblematic and pivotal year, being the last year for achieving the collectively agreed Millennium Development Goals and thus offering a unique opportunity to take stock of the international commitments from 2000. 2015 will also be the year in which a major international decision should be taken on the development framework that will replace the MDG framework over the coming decades. <i>This framework will most likely incorporate the results of the process launched in Rio+20 which will lead to an agreement on a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</i> |

New amendment
Proposal for a decision
Recital 16

| <i>Text proposed by the Commission</i> | <i>Amendment of the European Parliament</i> | <i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i> |
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| (16) Efficient coordination between all partners contributing at Union, national, regional and local levels is a fundamental prerequisite for an effective European Year. Local and regional partners have a particular role to play in promoting EU development policy. | | (16) Efficient coordination between all partners contributing at Union, national, regional and local levels is a fundamental prerequisite for an effective European Year. Local and regional <i>authorities</i> have a particular role to play in promoting EU development policy <i>as the level of government closest to the citizens, with extensive experience in development education and awareness raising.</i> |

Amendment 25
Proposal for a decision
Article 4 – paragraph 2

| <i>Text proposed by the Commission</i> | <i>Amendment of the European Parliament</i> | <i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i> |
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| 2. The national coordinators shall, in close coordination with the Commission, consult and cooperate with a wide range of relevant stakeholders, including civil society, national parliaments, social partners and, where appropriate, the national agencies or contact points for the relevant Union programmes. | 2. The national coordinators shall, in close coordination with the Commission, consult and cooperate with a wide range of relevant stakeholders, including civil society, national parliaments, social partners, the private sector and, where appropriate, the national agencies or contact points for the relevant Union programmes. | 2. The national coordinators shall, in close coordination with the Commission, consult and cooperate with a wide range of relevant stakeholders, including civil society, national parliaments, social partners, local and regional authorities and their associations, the private sector and, where appropriate, the national agencies or contact points for the relevant Union programmes. |

Amendment 27
Proposal for a decision
Article 6 – paragraph 3

| <i>Text proposed by the Commission</i> | <i>Amendment of the European Parliament</i> | <i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i> |
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| 3. The Commission shall convene meetings of the national coordinators to coordinate implementation of the European Year and to exchange information on implementation at EU and national level. | 3. The Commission shall convene meetings of the national coordinators to coordinate implementation of the European Year and to exchange information on implementation at EU and national level. The Commission shall invite to those meetings, as observers, representatives of civil society and representatives of the European Parliament. | 3. The Commission shall convene meetings of the national coordinators to coordinate implementation of the European Year and to exchange information on implementation at EU and national level. The Commission shall invite to those meetings, as observers, representatives of civil society, representatives of national associations of local and regional authorities and representatives of the European Parliament. |

Justification: National associations of local and regional authorities are representative bodies that provide a wide array of services to their membership; they represent their membership towards the national authorities, facilitate exchange of experiences at the national level and have the capacity to coordinate and mobilise large networks of elected representatives in a given country. They are an instrumental link to ensure that relevant information gets down to the regional and local level and to ensure synergies between actions carried out at the different levels.

Amendment 33
Proposal for a decision
Annex – paragraph 1

| <i>Text proposed by the Commission</i> | <i>Amendment of the European Parliament</i> | <i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i> |
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| Implementation of the European Year will centre on a broad | Implementation of the European Year will centre on a broad | Implementation of the European Year will centre on a broad |

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| Union-wide information and communication campaign complemented by action taken by the Member States. Both Union and national action can also involve civil society, social partners and other stakeholders with a view to creating a sense of ownership among key actors. | Union-wide information and communication campaign complemented by action taken by the Member States. Both Union and national action should involve development cooperation stakeholders such as civil society, youth organisations , social partners, parliaments, bilateral development agencies and other stakeholders with a view to creating a sense of ownership among key actors. | Union-wide information and communication campaign complemented by action taken by the Member States. Both Union and national action should involve development cooperation stakeholders such as civil society, local and regional authorities and their associations, youth organisations , social partners, parliaments, bilateral development agencies and other stakeholders with a view to creating a sense of ownership among key actors. |
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Amendment 36
Proposal for a decision
Annex – point B

| <i>Text proposed by the Commission</i> | <i>Amendment of the European Parliament</i> | <i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i> |
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| High-visibility events on a European scale that aim to raise awareness of the objectives of the European Year, possibly organised in cooperation with the Member States holding the Council Presidency in 2015, may receive a Union grant of up to 80 % of the final costs of the activities. | High-visibility events on a <i>Union</i> scale that aim to raise awareness of the objectives of the European Year, proposed by international networks and platforms of non-governmental development organisations or by Member States holding the Council Presidency in 2015, may receive a Union grant of up to 80 % of the final costs of the activities. | High-visibility events on a <i>Union</i> scale that aim to raise awareness of the objectives of the European Year, proposed by international networks and platforms of local and regional authorities, non-governmental development organisations or by Member States holding the Council Presidency in 2015, may receive a Union grant of up to 80 % of the final costs of the activities. |

Amendment 37
Proposal for a decision
Annex – point C

| <i>Text proposed by the Commission</i> | <i>Amendment of the European Parliament</i> | <i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i> |
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| Each national coordinating body may submit a work programme for Union co-financing to promote the European Year. The work programme shall describe the national coordinating body's specific actions, to be funded. The application shall be accompanied by a detailed prospective budget setting out the total costs of the initiatives or work programme proposed | Additional funding shall be allocated to activities falling within the scope of the European Year for Development, as was the case for previous European Years. Each national coordinating body may submit a work programme for Union co-financing to promote the European Year. The work programme shall describe the national coordinating body's | Additional funding shall be allocated to activities falling within the scope of the European Year for Development, as was the case for previous European Years. Each national coordinating body may submit a work programme for Union co-financing to promote the European Year. The work programme shall describe the national coordinating body's |

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| <p>and the amount and sources of possible co-funding. The EU final co-financing may cover up to 80% of the final costs of the activities. The Commission shall determine indicative amounts to be made available for co-financing to each national coordinating body and the deadline for submission of the applications. The criteria should take into account the population, the cost of living and a fixed amount per Member State to guarantee a minimum level of activities.</p> | <p>specific actions, to be funded. The application shall be accompanied by a detailed prospective budget setting out the total costs of the initiatives or work programme proposed and the amount and sources of possible co-funding. The EU final co-financing shall cover in principle no more than 65 % of activity costs related to the European Year. In duly justified cases, and only for those type of actions which were not recurrently organised by the Member State in previous years, co-financing may cover up to 80% of the final costs of the activities if there is sufficient proof that the activities could not be organised without that level of Union funding. The Commission shall determine indicative amounts to be made available for co-financing to each national coordinating body and the deadline for submission of the applications. The criteria should take into account the population, the cost of living and a fixed amount per Member State to guarantee a minimum level of activities, and the specific need to raise awareness on development issues in a given Member State as well as the capacity of the Member State to finance activities from national resources.</p> | <p>specific actions, to be funded. The application shall be accompanied by a detailed prospective budget setting out the total costs of the initiatives or work programme proposed and the amount and sources of possible co-funding. The EU final co-financing shall cover in principle no more than 65 % of activity costs related to the European Year. In duly justified cases, and only for those type of actions which were not recurrently organised by the Member State in previous years, co-financing may cover up to 80% of the final costs of the activities if there is sufficient proof that the activities could not be organised without that level of Union funding. The Commission shall determine indicative amounts to be made available for co-financing to each national coordinating body and the deadline for submission of the applications. The criteria should take into account the population, the cost of living and a fixed amount per Member State to guarantee a minimum level of activities, and the specific need to raise awareness on development issues in a given Member State as well as the capacity of the Member State to finance activities from national resources.</p> |
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Justification: The European year for development will be a unique opportunity to shed light on development issues, and on the actions carried in the field of development cooperation by the EU, in the broadest sense - European Commission, the Member States and local and regional governments. It is a great opportunity to demonstrate the relevance of our common commitments and efforts and to foster citizens' support of international solidarity. The economic crisis and public spending cuts resulting in lower development cooperation budgets, at the national, regional and local level, could jeopardize this opportunity. To ensure the success of this landmark year, the European Union should make sure that substantive funds will be made available.

New amendment
Explanatory statement
Paragraph 4

| Text proposed by the Commission | Text proposed by the European Parliament | Amendment of PLATFORMA |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| | This in no way lessens the need | This in no way lessens the need |



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| | <p>to tackle the major challenges of development cooperation policy: achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the post-2015 agenda, development policy coherence, the role of the Commission and the European External Action Service, the work of non-State actors, in particular NGOs, coordination of action in this field by the 28 Member States and the positive effects of development programmes on donor countries.</p> | <p>to tackle the major challenges of development cooperation policy: achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the post-2015 agenda, development policy coherence, the role of the Commission and the European External Action Service, the work of non-State actors, in particular NGOs, and of local and regional authorities and their associations, coordination of action in this field by the 28 Member States and the positive effects of development programmes on donor countries.</p> |
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