



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific States

Director-General

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**NOTE TO THE ATTENTION OF  
ALL HEADS OF DELEGATIONS IN ACP COUNTRIES**

**Subject: Involvement of CSOs and other NSAs in the MTR of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF**

At a meeting with the Stakeholders Advisory Group (SAG) in May I agreed with SAG on the modalities for the involvement of civil society in the MTR, as laid out in the guidelines for the MTR. On 29 September Directorates A and C had a follow-up meeting with CONCORD on the involvement of NSAs in the MTR of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF. It was brought to our attention that in several countries the consultation with NSAs in the MTR process is a matter of concern. Allow me to remind you that, according to Article 4 of the Cotonou Agreement, "Non State Actors and local decentralised actors shall, where appropriate be informed and involved in consultation on cooperation policies and strategies, on priorities for cooperation especially in areas that concern or directly affect them, and on the political dialogue". At the meeting the Commission re-iterated its commitment to engagement with civil society, also in the MTR process. Requirements to this effect were translated in the programming guidelines that were communicated to you earlier this year. Allow me to refer also to my letter to Delegations of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008, accompanying the note of December 2007 on engaging with NSAs.

I have noted the reluctance of NSAs in some countries to get involved in the MTR, given a lack of understanding of the MTR process. May I request you to ensure that they be informed on the ways to get involved in the process. On this issue, I would like to remind you about recommendations that were formulated after the assessment of the involvement of NSAs within the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF programming process, and underline the importance of implementing these recommendations in the framework of the MTR<sup>1</sup>. To that effect the guidelines for the MTR have –since July- been published on the EC site, and can be consulted by NSAs as well:

[http://ec.europa.eu/development/how/methodologies/programming\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/development/how/methodologies/programming_en.cfm)

In order to allow for a bit more time to consult with NSAs in countries where this has not happened yet, Annex A-I.2, together with relevant remarks related to the JAR, could be

<sup>1</sup> See [http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/Consultation-non-state-Actor-and-local-Authorities-Public%20report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/Consultation-non-state-Actor-and-local-Authorities-Public%20report_en.pdf) and the note of 21 January 2008 DEV (2008) 221

sent in before the CTM will take place, and at the latest by the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2009, i.e. after the draft versions of the JAR, MTR conclusions and assessments have been sent to HQ by the deadline of October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

I am aware that we are at an advanced stage, however we should ensure that all necessary efforts have been made to reach out to NSAs and that their inputs will be reflected in the MTR.



Stefano MANSERVISI