



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

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

Director-General

Brussels, **31 07 2009**  
Director General/SM D(2009)

**RE: Your letter: Mid Term Reviews of ACP Programmes, dated 20 July 2009**

Dear Mr Consolo,

I take note of your letter mentioned above and the events summarised and issues raised in it. I would like to propose hereby several opportunities to strengthen our alliances with CSOs, in the context of the mid-term review of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF Strategy Papers.

Indeed, the agreement was that the CSO community, coordinated by CONCORD, would propose an initial list of 10 pilot countries for more in-depth cooperation during this MTR. I note that follow-up actions planned with DG DEV during the month of June have been cancelled, upon the request of CONCORD, because of a lack of agreement among CSOs on the selection criteria and initial composition of the country list.

As you rightly point out, there has also been unfortunately a two-week delay in sending out the final MTR guidelines to CONCORD. However, CONCORD had been informed by DG DEV of upcoming delays in finalising the guidelines. Apart from having been kept informed on the MTR process since 5<sup>th</sup> May, it also benefitted from a presentation of the content of the guidelines at the 30<sup>th</sup> June meeting, with the final guidelines issued on 7<sup>th</sup> July and sent out simultaneously to all the actors concerned.

There is indeed a large potential left for building up an effective cooperation during the in-county stakeholder consultation phase of the MTR (going on till October 2009). I suggest that we prepare jointly true concrete initiatives. To that effect, I have asked Mr Klaus Rudischhauser, Director Directorate C: ACP I - General Affairs, to meet you to provide guidance and operational follow-up information and to identify with you concrete courses of action on the objective of holding dialogue and consultations with CSOs in effective and concrete terms. I am convinced that the opportunity offered by the MTR should not be missed.

Trusting that we can further this constructive collaboration, I remain sincerely yours.

Stefano Manservisi

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