



Development
Cooperation
Network

TRADE UNION FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT

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1. Editorial

2010 : SPEEDING UP THE DEBATES

"The Global Crisis and Aid Effectiveness: New Paths for Development" is the focus of the **ITUC conference in Madrid on 16 and 17 of March 2010**. The Spanish presidency of the EU and the Spanish trade unions will be hosting the meeting that will have a high level participation from international European and Spanish decision makers. Professor José Antonio Ocampo, former UN undersecretary, will be the keynote speaker. He has widely recognised experience on the crisis and development challenges.

The conference also welcomes input from UNIFEM, the women's empowerment instrument of the UN; the European Union; the African Union; the ILO, as well as from the OECD/DAC President Eckhard Deutscher, who will address the conference on the second day. The Spanish government will be represented both at the highest political level as well as by the main decision makers and leading experts on development cooperation.

2010 will also be the year of concretising some of the work that has been taken up by the CSO community, including the ITUC, on **CSO effectiveness**. The Global Facilitation Group of the Open Forum met in Mexico in January, and Anna Nitoslawski (CLC) represented us at the meeting (see her report on the meeting p. 7 of this newsletter).

The TUDCN has also taken further the reflection on the principles after Workstream 1 finalised its work following the Runö/Stockholm meeting in October. A small informal group of experts from different organisations participated in a scoping exercise on **principles, indicators and methodologies** at the end of January 26 & 27 in Elewijt (B). The conclusions of the group will inform the discussions on the work plan for 2010 and the way forward on the discussion on principles.

In 26-27 February the first **training and advocacy seminar for officers from the TUCDN member organisations** took place on the EU development instruments and policies.

With the contribution
of the Non State Actors
Programme of
the European Union



"creating an environment at the national and international levels that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work as a foundation for sustainable development"

UN Summit Heads of State 2005 Outcome document §47

In addition, meetings took place with the regional development coordinators from Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Americas in order to discuss implementation of the action programmes in the regions and to design a strategy to improve capacity development and advocacy in-country and the networking at the regional level.

March will be a very busy month, not only because of the conference in Madrid but also because the work on democratic ownership (Working Party on Aid Effectiveness) will have its first workshop in Paris on 3 and 4 March, linked to the GOVNET (OECD/DAC) meeting the day before. The ITUC will also facilitate the work for a CSO liaison officer who will be based in the TUAC as from the beginning of March.

Finally, but not lastly, the “EU Quadrilogue” or structured dialogue between the CSO Community, the Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States will officially take off at the end of March. Together with the other CSO platforms, the ITUC has engaged in preparing this dialogue exercise with an open mind and confident that the announced “consensus” building will be a genuine exercise of democratic ownership of development cooperation policies, not just through the institutional partners but also through including and respecting in the consensus building, the voice of civil society.

This is to allow the important issues that are on the agenda of the Quadrilogue to be discussed in a true spirit of “cooperation”.

The ITUC expects the Quadrilogue to be able to improve the EU instruments and to contribute to more socially sustainable strategies to combat poverty and promote social justice.

2. News from the Network

The Network has its webpage (<http://www.tudcnetwork.org>) on the [ITUC website](#). You will find the latest news on trade union positions, solidarity actions and update information on activities.

Please send any relevant information for publication in our next issues to the Network Information Officer at: luc.vermeersch@ituc-csi.org.

(Please send your contribution for the next issue before the end of March)

LO-TCO SECRETARIAT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

The LO-TCO Secretariat of International Trade Union Development Co-operation was founded more than 30 years ago by its two members: the Swedish Trade Union Confederation (Landsorganisationen – LO / blue-collar workers) and the Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees (Tjänstemännens centralorganisation – TCO / white-collar workers) in dialogue with SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign affairs).

LO and TCO represent a total of 3,2 million union members.

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LO-TCO Secretariat of International Trade Union Development Cooperation has three main budget lines:

1. Programme and projects in Africa/ Latin America/Asia/ Eastern Europe
2. Information and communication programmes and projects (publications, grants for journalists of union magazines, etc.)
3. Projects for quality assurance, method development, evaluations, capacity building among partners, and networking

All programmes and project funds come from SIDA and go to Swedish unions participating in development co-operation on a multilateral basis together with GUFs or on a bilateral basis together with national or local trade union organisations. The cooperation between two partners can be on a long-term basis, with a cyclus of maximum three years. The main purpose of the co-operation is to strengthen trade unions and hence social dialogue, democracy and equality in order to improve life for working people and abolish poverty.

[Read more on the website of the LO-TCO Secretariat of International Trade Union Development Co-operation.](#)

'TRAINING AND ADVOCACY SEMINAR FOR EU TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS' OFFICIALS ON EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE INSTRUMENTS OF THE EU AND ON POLICY MAKING STRUCTURES'

The Trade Union Development Cooperation Network has included in its work plan 2010 an opportunity to bring together trade union officers from the EU-country unions, as well as ITUC regional organizations, for an update training and advocacy seminar. That should allow to facilitate the understanding of the opportunities offered by EU instruments for trade union cooperation but also in order to assess the interaction between the different levels (national, EU, global and in the south) of development policy setting and our ability as trade unions to influence these processes.

Please click [here for the relevant documents](#)

3. Development Cooperation Policies

INVESTING IN PEOPLE PROGRAMME

The ITUC-DCE has participated in the consultation organised by the European Commission (DG Development) on the 'Investing in People - IIP' programme. The IIP is part of the DCI – Development Cooperation Instrument (for developing countries), and it has an annual allocation of up to nearly 130 million euro. A relevant component of the IIP, for trade unions especially, is the objective relating to social cohesion and decent work. The European Commission (EC) is currently undertaking the mid-term review of this program in order to check and eventually revise the political priorities. The ITUC-DCE submitted a written contribution to this process. The documents in attachment are as follows: [EC text on mid- term review of IIP](#) and the [ITUC policy paper](#).

For more information please contact: paola.simonetti@ituc-csi.org

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THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE CSO COMMUNITY, THE COMMISSION, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE MEMBER STATES.

On March 23 2010, a new Structural Dialogue, will officially be launched by the EU, bringing together the EU Commission, the European Parliament, the Member States and the CSO community.

What it is:

Last year, the Commission (EuropeAid) announced that they would like to start a new “Parlermo” process, referring to the Parlermo I process that led in 2003/4, to the remodeling of the NGO-budget line into an Non State Actors (NSA) programme under the new Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI). At the time only CONCORD, the european platform of development NGO’s was representing the CSO community.

The commission proposed to re-engage in a similar dialogue, taken into consideration a number of evolutions and opportunities:

The enlargement of the actors involved (from NGO to CSO)

The emergence of the Aid Effectiveness Agenda (Accra Agenda of Action)

The preparation of a new DCI since the current instrument will end in 2013.

On the europeaid website, you’ll find some of the backgrounds and related documents and the “official” reading of the objectives et possible outcomes of the proposed dialogue. http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/who/partners/civil-society/structured-dialogue_en.htm

The ITUC took part both in the first exploratory meeting in July 22nd as well as in the scoping meeting on February 1st (ITUC/TUDCN was represented by Paola Simonetti, Advocacy Officer; Patrick Bergvall, LO-TCO and Jan Dereymaeker, TUDCN).

For the 01-02 meeting a preliminary discussion paper was proposed by the Commission/EuropeAid to define objectives and procedures.

This raised various issues with the NSA/CSO community on objectives, representation, inclusiveness and ownership of the process and the relation of the commissions initiative and other ongoing processes on aid effectiveness. The ITUC, as did other CSO platforms, submitted its proposals on this elements to the Commission/EuropeAid and its Technical Assistance Team (TA).

The main challenges:

What: according to the definition used by the Commission on the website, *the structured dialogue aims at increasing the effectiveness of stakeholders involved in development cooperation, taking into account by:*

1. *Building consensus on the main issues to be addressed concerning the role of CSOs & LRAs in development cooperation and,*
2. *Finding ways to improve the effectiveness of CSO & LRA involvement in EC cooperation and to adapt EC modalities accordingly.*

The CSO community welcomed this definition however expressed **various concerns**
- On a “consensus building exercise” that is driven and owned only by the Commission; the process in order to be truly participative should allow ***all partners in the dialogue to be owners of the process.***

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- **On the inclusiveness of the CSO community.** The commission has indeed recognised the enlargement of the NSA actors involved but has adopted so far a limited engagement with the new actors, with one notable exception: the local and regional authorities, that have benefited from a clearly preferential approach by the commission over the last year (specific communication on the LA in development, dedicated staff and earmarked funding and adapted procedures). Whilst welcoming this “actor-based” approach we do regret that other specific actors have not been identified in the same way and that the composition and recognition of the actor-base approach towards others has remained limited.

- The CSO community regrets also the **lack of enabling conditions** allowing the necessary coordination and inclusiveness given the fact that in a workable dialogue not all actors will be able to be represented to the extent they would wish. That will be need some kind of preparatory and inclusive process within the CSO Community in order to allow all views to be expressed and represented. The CSOs have identified to date at least 16 platforms or networks of CSOs* that are actively engaged in development and should constitute the basis for the CSO voice in the structured dialogue.

Together with the other CSO platforms, the ITUC has engaged in preparing this dialogue exercise with an open mind and confident that the announced “consensus”-building will be a genuine exercise of democratic ownership of development cooperation policies, not just by the institutional partners but also by including and respecting in the consensus building, the voice of civil society.

Different working groups, consultations with southern partners and support initiatives will furnish the dialogues and the TUDCN will have to organise accordingly in order to craft its positions and make them known to the different partners both at national and European level as well as with its affiliates and regions concerned in the developing countries.

Besides a better understanding of the contribution of the CSO actors and in particular the specific contribution of TU to development based on the decent work agenda and its concern for the democratic ownership of development, important **emerging issues** will be discussed **such as decentralisation of development cooperation and the role of southern civil society; the legitimacy of CSOs as actors for development out of their own right; the enabling environment for CSO in an inclusive democratic approach on development; the respect of human rights, gender, decent work and environmental sustainability**, and other challenges for today's development cooperation. But the debates should not be limited to philosophy and principles. The quadrilogue should clearly address the implementation issues of the EU instruments and make progress in a progressive, actor-based approach that respects the right of initiative in development cooperation of the civil society organisations, both at European, international and at country level.

For all relevant documents please go to <http://www.tudcnetwork.org>, log in with the username and password, click Development Cooperation and then Quadrilogue (left menu).

Over the next months, the TUDCN meetings will closely monitor the discussions and its members will have to engage also with their respective national platforms, governments and MEP in order to ensure that our viewpoints will be heard and taken on board for the future policy developments and in particular with a view of shaping the new DCI as from 2014.

* Development NGO - CONCORD; Human Rights NGO – Human Rights and Democracy Network; Peace and Security NGO - EPLO; Youth organisations – European Youth Forum; Private Foundations – European Foundations Centre; Political Foundations - ENOP; Environment NGO – GREEN 10; Trade Unions – ITUC/ETUC; Fair Trade Movement – Fair Trade Advocacy EU offices; Vulnerable Groups - IDDC; Women and Development – WIDE; Anti-poverty Movements – European Anti Poverty Network & Emmaus; Geographic based networks – EURAC & CIFCA; Cooperatives - COOPSEUROPE; Humanitarian Aid and Relief - Red Cross

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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM (UNDCF): RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

It may be recalled that the first DCF held in July 2008 established the DCF as the focal point within the UN system and as a principal forum for global dialogue and policy review on the effectiveness and coherence of international development cooperation.

The ITUC is engaged with the DCF process as a member of a multi-stakeholder consultative group that functions in an informal consultative capacity to the DCF Secretariat. The other members of this consultative group are ActionAid, CIVICUS, the Women's Working Group (WWG) on Financing for Development, the North-South Institute (participating as an observer), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA) and United Cities and Local Government (UCLG).

Current activities involve preparing for the second forum through a series of high-level symposia that will focus on inter-related issues to promote national development and the achievement of the MDGs in three areas: (i) mutual accountability and aid transparency; (ii) South-South and triangular cooperation; and (iii) aid policy coherence with a view to moving from aid to more long-term sources of development financing. A special focus will be given to issues of quality and impact of aid in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The first of these high-level symposia took place in Vienna, Austria, on 12 and 13 November 2009. The meeting reaffirmed the recommendations of the 2008 DCF and the Doha Review Conference and "underscored the need to move towards more transparent and accountable development cooperation. [It] recommended that the 2010 DCF should play a key role to in enhancing mutual accountability and aid transparency. The DCF would thereby support stakeholders in building stronger partnerships, achieving more effective development results and working towards the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals."

Another key conclusion of the meeting was that "the Forum should conduct biennial comprehensive and accurate reviews of progress made in (i) mutual accountability and (ii) aid transparency, at international and national level." (For more information on the Vienna Symposium and relevant documents visit: <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunc/dcfvienna10.shtml>).

There are two more high-level symposia planned in the coming months in preparation for the forum which is set to take place at UN Headquarters in New York from 28 June 2010 to 2 July 2010. The date for the second symposium is still pending, but the third high-level symposium will take place in Helsinki on 3 and 4 June 2010. This symposium will focus on: (i) policy coherence; (ii) effectiveness of aid in the area of gender equality; and (iii) mutual accountability.

The ITUC will continue to advocate for policy coherence and coordination between the DCF and the other major development cooperation initiatives, notably the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness charged with the follow-up of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action.

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A BETTER AID ISSUES PAPER

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: NOT JUST AID - KEY ISSUES: ACCRA, SEOUL AND BEYOND

In this issues paper, BetterAid argues that developed and developing countries are failing to live up to internationally agreed development goals (IADGs) and commitments made in Paris (2005) and Accra (2008). As a result of these two last agreements, countries have collectively committed to reform the ways in which aid is delivered and managed in order to increase its impact in reducing poverty and inequality, increasing growth, building capacity and accelerating achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Yet their performance is falling short.

To achieve sustainable advancements for the poor, the BetterAid Platform is calling for fundamental reforms in current aid priorities and practices, guided by principles and approaches to ensure development effectiveness drives international development cooperation. The current document was prepared for the WP Eff meeting in December 2009.

[Read the whole document](#)

MEETING OF THE OPEN FORUM GLOBAL FACILITATION GROUP (OF-GFG)

The Global Facilitation Group (GFG) of the Open Forum met in Mexico City on 19-20 January 2010. The GFG is composed of 25 representatives of civil society organizations from developed and developing countries and aims to carry forward the planning and implementation of the Open Forum (OF) on Civil Society Development Effectiveness. For background information, visit the OF web site at www.cso-effectiveness.org

This was a meeting to assess progress on the implementation of the work plan adopted at the last GFG meeting in June 2009, to review the budget, and to firm up plans for the next phase of work leading up to the First Global Assembly which will take place in Montreal at the end of August 2010.

The Open Forum has initiated a process of regional preparatory meetings (one each in Asia, Latin America, Africa) to lay the groundwork for approximately 50 national consultations in coming months. The national consultations will bring together civil society organizations to discuss and identify a set of key principles for CSO development effectiveness, proposals for implementation guidelines and to reflect on enabling conditions, both as regards internal CSO relationships and external standards to support CSO development roles. The outcomes, advice and recommendations stemming from the national consultations will be brought for approval to the Global Assembly. The complete report of the meeting is attached.

What does all of this mean for the ITUC, its regional organizations, affiliates and the Global Unions? Building on the work done so far by the TUDCN, the ITUC has developed a proposal to hold a series of regional information and consultations sessions with a view to building consensus on labour's input into the OF process. Opportunities for trade union participation in the national consultations will also be explored. As development actors and partners, it is vital that trade unions' views be heard and that labour participate because we can contribute a unique and specific perspective to the OF process. Ultimately, its expected outcome in terms of an international Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness is likely to have a significant impact on our work and organizational practices since both donor and developing country governments may be looking to it as a reference point in the global aid architecture.

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EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECISION ON SRI LANKA

The European Council decided today to remove the **GSP+ tariff benefits that Sri Lanka** receives for its exports to the EU on the grounds of its non-compliance with three UN human rights conventions required for obtaining benefits under the scheme. The EU press release [is available here](#) and is pasted below for easy reference; the [implementation regulation can be found clicking here](#).

Sri Lanka's loss of benefits is due to human rights' issues that are not labour-related. Nonetheless, the trade commissioner last November, Catherine Ashton, stated at that time that during the EU's subsequent dialogue with the Sri Lanka government, the Commission would "raise the importance of respecting core labour standards and emphasise the need to implement fully all GSP+ conventions."

The actual loss of trade benefits will come into effect six months from now, i.e., on 15 August 2010, if the government of Sri Lanka does nothing in the meantime to remedy the situation.

ANDRIS PIEBALGS CONFIRMED AS NEW EU COMMISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT.

Andris Piebalgs, formerly Commissioner for Energy, was confirmed as new EU Commissioner for Development after the approval by the EP of the Barroso II Commission.

Following a meeting with European NGO's on his second day in office, headed by CONCORD, Solidar reports that *"the new Commissioner expressed his desire to work with civil society to ensure that the most immediate challenges facing EU development policies are met, namely the delivery of the 0.7% ODA, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the reconstruction of Haiti. He dismissed the ODA+ concept as something that would simply confuse the issue of reaching aid targets and expressed support for the Financial Transaction Tax and other sources of innovative financing for development.*

In responding to concerns expressed by civil society about the role of development in the new post-Lisbon architecture, he expressed his confidence that development would not be sidelined in favour of other foreign policy concerns and that he intended to keep the funding for development focused squarely on poverty-reduction..."

The ITUC/TUDCN also sent Mr. Piebalgs its congratulations and invited the new Commissioner for Development to address the March conference.

4. Miscellaneous

PROPOSALS FOR THE SPANISH PRESIDENCY OF THE EU EUROPEAN MDG RESCUE PACKAGE (OXFAM International)

The promotion of a global sustainable development based on the 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to eradicate extreme poverty around the world by 2015 must become a priority now more than ever since the economic crisis affects the poorest communities severely. We have reached a turning point. Today, every day 100 people join the poverty line and more than 1000 million others go hungry. It is urgent that we protect the progress that has been achieved since 2000 and include the MDGs in the

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road map to global recovery.

The crisis has allowed new opportunities for ambitious changes. The G8, the G20 but also the United Nations, have failed to embody a much-needed concrete leadership to mitigate the impacts of the crisis on the most affected countries. **The EU has no excuse not to take on the promotion and implementation of a rescue package for the Millennium Development Goals.**

[Read more](#)

EUROPEAN MDG RESCUE PACKAGE – ESSENTIAL SERVICES WORKING DOCUMENT (OXFAM International)

In 2000 at the UN Millennium Summit, 189 countries signed up to the Millennium Development Goals, an agreed set of 8 goals with measurable targets, for example reducing by two thirds child mortality by 2015, or halving the number of those living in poverty by 2015. These goals were deliberately set as being achievable and realistic within the timeframe. In fact they were criticised at the time by many for not going far enough. In recent years there has been significant progress towards some of the goals, notably reducing child mortality.

Around four million fewer children die each year than when the goals were set, which is an amazing achievement. However, overall progress has been unacceptably slow and some of the goals have not even begun to be met. Global progress has been highly uneven and mainly driven by the rapid growth and improvements in the giant countries of Asia, including China, India, Indonesia and Vietnam. Other regions in the world have performed poorly, especially Sub Saharan Africa, which still lags behind. Maternal mortality reduction is amongst the most unsuccessful goals: in 2007, more than 500.000 women died in pregnancy childbirth- the same number as in 1990, a shocking failure.

[Read more](#)

5. Project Opportunities

EU PROJECT FUNDING:

Open calls for proposals:

Human rights

- [Enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in countries and regions where they are most at risk](#)

Social and Human Development

- [Support for social inclusion and social protection of workers in the informal economy and of vulnerable groups at community level](#) (deadline 06/04/2010)

Please also consult the [page concerning the country-based calls for proposals](#)

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6. Resources

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ACCRA AGENDA FOR ACTION FROM A CIVIL SOCIETY PERSPECTIVE

In advance of the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, a broad coalition of over 380 civil society organizations (CSOs) from 80 countries put forward 16 recommendations. The intent was to voice CSO critiques and concerns about the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and its implementation and to call for a more inclusive and sustainable development cooperation framework. The purpose of this paper is to assess the extent to which these 16 recommendations were reflected in the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA), as well as to begin to look at the challenges ahead. The intention is for this assessment to serve as a point of reference for CSOs and other development actors committed to engagement and continued efforts to promote development effectiveness.

[Read more](#)

DECENT WORK AND POVERTY ERADICATION: LITERATURE REVIEW AND TWO-COUNTRY STUDY

Ergon (an independent network of labour rights, human rights and governance experts, committed to working with leading-edge organisations that are serious about addressing their responsibilities) made a study that has been commissioned by the UK-based Decent Work and Labour Standards Forum with the overarching intention of investigating what the Decent Work Agenda can contribute to the elimination of poverty, particularly in the context of the food, fuel and financial crises. Given the breadth of this task, a two-country case study approach has been adopted to provide a practical focus. The two countries, Bangladesh and Zambia, were chosen to provide examples of contrasting labour markets and potentially, of the impact of decent work themes within development planning.

This report contains analysis of decent work at two levels: a general overview of the global debate around decent work and development; and a national analysis in relation to the two country studies and a sectoral analysis in each case.

[Read the summary of the document](#)

[Read the whole document](#)

SOCIAL WATCH GENDER EQUITY INDEX 2009

Social Watch is an international network of citizens' organizations in the struggle to eradicate poverty and the causes of poverty, to end all forms of discrimination and racism, to ensure an equitable distribution of wealth and the realization of human rights. The network is committed to peace, social, economic, environment and gender justice, and emphasizes the right of all people not to be poor.

[Go to the webpage on the gender equity index 2009](#)

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6. Agenda 2010

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18 March

Network meeting (Madrid - following the international conference)

24-26 March

High Level Event on South-South Co-operation and Capacity Development (HLE Colombia), Bogotá, Colombia

May

TUDCN Capacity building seminar in Africa

Network meeting (Helsinki 10-11-12 May)

June

ITUC Congress (Vancouver 21-25 June)

UNDCF (New York 28 June)

24-26 August

Open Forum GA

September

TUDCN Capacity building seminar in Latin America

October

Network Meeting (Brussels)

TUDCN Capacity building seminar (Singapore)

November

Seminar for the new EU Member States on advocacy/capacity building

December

Meeting Experts Group Regional Consultations (Brussels)

European Development Days (Brussels 9-10 December)



The TUDCN team:

Jaap Wienen (ITUC Deputy General Secretary), Jan Dereymaeker (Network Coordinator), Mamadou Diallo (Program Officer), Paola Simonetti (Policy and Advocacy Officer), Luc Vermeersch (Information Officer) and Peggy De Clercq (Assistant).