

EU Policy Forum on Development (PFD)
First Meeting (01-2013)
Brussels
28/29 November 2013

INTRODUCTION

On 28th and 29th November 2013, over 100 stakeholders, including regional representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs) and of local authorities (LAs) from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, European Neighbourhood region and the EU, Member States and representatives from all European institutions –the European Commission (EC), the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Parliament (EP), the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the Committee of the Region (CoR), gathered in Brussels for the first Formal Meeting of the newly constituted EU Policy Forum on Development (PFD). During the two day meeting, the Forum focused on exchanging ideas on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020 as well as on key European development policies and initiatives, including the forthcoming Communication on the role of the private sector in development, the two new thematic programmes (TP) Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) and CSO & LAs, the Partnership Instrument (PI), the current work around EU Road maps for engaging with CSOs at country level and the tool-kit to promote a Rights-Based Approach (RBA), encompassing all Human Rights, to development in EU operations. The Forum also provided space for parallel regional and/or thematic group discussions (i.e. Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, & the Pacific, Neighbourhood and Development Education and Awareness Raising -DEAR). In total 6 sessions were organised, structured as follows ([The Final agenda](#)):

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6
28/11: morning	28/11: afternoon	28/11: afternoon	28/11: afternoon	29/11: morning	29/11: afternoon
The point of view from CSOs on the MFF 2014-2020	Information on the tool-box to promote a RBA in EU operations	Panel discussion on the TP GPGC and the Partnership Instrument	Proposed Communication on the Private Sector in Development	The CSO-LA TP: update on the CSO-LA Multi-Annual Programme (MIP)- Obj. 1 Update on the progress of Country Road Maps Update on Obj. 2 and parallel group Discussions	Parallel Group Discussions: 1. Latin America & the Caribbean 2. Africa 3. Asia & Pacific 4. European Neighbourhood (East & South) 5. DEAR.

The Agenda and all the presentations can be accessed either through the hyperlinks provided or at CISOCH ¹

¹ https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Policy_forum_on_development

Introduction

1. In his opening remarks, Angelo Baglio, Head of Unit (HoU), Civil Society, Local Authorities (DEVCO B2), welcomed participants ([list of participants](#)) to the first meeting of the of the Policy Forum on Development, stressing its importance as an arena for continuing dialogue and mutual understanding, building on the outcomes of the Structured Dialogue², and reiterated the full DEVCO management support to the initiative. Mr Baglio also underlined the special character of this meeting, as it marked the formal launch of the Policy Forum on Development, after an intense 18-month preparatory phase.
2. In his welcome speech, Charles Goerens, Member of the European Parliament (MEP) presented the legislative work of the EP and the state of play and points of tension in the Development cooperation Instrument (DCI) discussions. Policy coherence was also addressed, as there will be a report by the EP before the end of the legislature, as well as the importance of the year 2015 in development cooperation, in view of the current post 2015 debates and the new European institutional arrangements (i.e. the 2014 elections leading to a new EP and EC). He finally congratulated the EC for its sustained engagement efforts with CSOs and LAs and saluted the progress already achieved.
3. Stephan Auer, Director of the Global Issues Directorate, EEAS, was the next speaker to deliver an address of welcome. Mr. Auer centred his speech on the multiple and pressing global challenges (i.e. energy and water), which require a firm and coordinated response by all actors, from national and local governments, to donors and CSOs. Mr. Auer particularly stressed the important role played by CSOs in promoting a healthy democracy and reaching out to vulnerable populations and called them to use their networks and global alliances to continue promoting the issues that are crucial for inclusive development, governance, peace and security. He finally highlighted the importance of the PFD as a space for dialogue around these crucial issues shaping the development agenda.
4. Jorge Balbis, of the *Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción* (ALOP), congratulated the EC for the achievements since the end of the SD and reiterate the CSOs' total support to the PFD, stressing its unique character as a multi-stakeholder space for dialogue. In his address, Mr Balbis also underlined a number of principles, which CSOs believe to be important for the PFD, namely: (i) the principle of mutual responsibility and collective ownership by all the actors; (ii) CSOs' collective engagement to ensure vertical and horizontal accountability; (iii) the importance of trust among all actors to promote substantial exchanges and discussions and; (iv) the necessary political dimension of the PFD (i.e. despite not being a negotiation space, the PFD should become a space to build political consensus around development).
5. Jacqueline Moustache Belle, Mayor of Victoria, Seychelles and member of the Executive Board of United Cities and Local Governments, reiterated the importance of the PFD for LAs, notably in view of the numerous pressing challenges (i.e. urbanisation, poverty and inequality, environment, etc) which cities, local and national governments and citizens face today. Ms. Moustache Belle also made a call to transform our current patterns of organisation and production in the definition of a new development framework, considering that "business as usual" cannot be an option.
6. A number of recommendations were made to the process, namely: (i) the need to continue focusing the agendas on relevant issues in development policies; (ii) maintaining the High-Level participation from the EU side and; (iii) the need to frame discussions towards developing recommendations on important topics, so as to allow the CSO-LA participants to call upon

² https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Structured_dialogue

governments in partner countries to engage and build consensus. In addition, CSOs & LAs representatives welcomed the recent Communications on CSOs and LAs, as well as the EU stance on the enabling environment for CSOs and LAs.

7. Mr. Lluís Riera Figueras, recently appointed Director for Human and Society Development at DG DEVCO made an address to the participants, stressing the importance of the PFD and the current momentum of post 2015 development debates. Mr. Riera stressed once more the unique character of the PFD, which should be considered the most representative and inclusive development platform ever set at EU level. Acknowledging the non-negotiation character of the forum, Mr. Riera reiterated its importance in offering a structured space for discussions (and even fine-tuning and influence) on EU development policies and programmes to ultimately transform them into action for better development results. With these words, Mr Riera declared open the first meeting of the EU Policy Forum on Development.

Session 1 – The state of Play of the MFF 2014-2020 External Relations

8. The session, chaired by Mr. Riera, could not be held as planned considering the state-of-art of the negotiations around the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI). Mr Riera apologized for this last-minute change and took the engagement to keep all the actors informed as soon as an agreement was reached on the DCI.
9. Izabella Toth, from CONCORD, explained the organisation's firm and sustained engagement with the MFF negotiations, which should be considered as the "biggest political agenda of the Union", to be shaped every 7 years ([Session 1 CONCORD speaking points on MFF](#)), while Carles Llorens from PLATFORMA stressed the growing interest in local and regional authorities as players in the democratisation process at country-level.
10. During the Question & Answer (Q&A) session, participants asked for the EU's strategic vision, discussed the need to focus on wealth distribution in addition to poverty eradication and raised the limitations posed by a restricted enabling environment in some partner countries. Mr Riera and Mr. Baglio provided some elements of response by reiterating EU's vision, as enshrined in current key policy documents and positions (e.g. Agenda for Change, the two recently issued Communications on CSOs and LAs, EU support to Human Rights, etc.). Accordingly, it is not vision that needs to be shaped, but rather the way it should be implemented through the existing programmes and delivery mechanisms.

Session 2 – Information on a Tool-box for working towards a Rights Based Approach (RBA), encompassing all Human Rights

11. In the second session, Patrice Lenormand, Deputy Head of Unit, Governance, Democracy, Gender and Human Rights (DEVCO.B.1), informed participants of the agreement reached around the European Initiative for Human Rights and Democracy (EIDHR) in the new MFF 2014-2020, stressing in particular the 20% budget increase compared to the previous period and the instrument's main characteristics. Mr. Lenormand focused then his presentation on the EC commitment to the Rights based approach (RBA) to development, and shared with the participants the state of play of the work around the toolbox (to be published in February-March 2014), which shall support EC staff implement a RBA, and move away from a pure needs-based approach across its cooperation portfolio. The toolbox targets primarily EC staff and EC operations, but could eventually be extended to Member States (MS), if there is an interest.
12. Mr Lenormand also welcomed the participants' views on the need to address fragile states in the toolbox, and noted their concerns about its non-binding nature. Other key issues raised concerned the hierarchy of rights, the role of the private sector and the way the implementation of the RBA is to be monitored and evaluated (M&E). In this regard a couple of relevant Member

States' experiences in M&E were mentioned.

Session 3 – The Thematic Programme Global Public Goods and Challenges and the Partnership Instrument

13. Chaired by Roberto Ridolfi, Director of Sustainable Growth and Development, (DEVCO.C), the session focused on the **EC's thinking on the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) programme** ([Issue Paper on GPGC CSO LA](#)). Angelo Baglio delivered a presentation synthesising the state-of-art of the future programme, including its envisioned implementation approaches, envisaged key actors' roles and possible funding modalities ([Session 3 Global Public Goods and Challenges - GPGC](#)). Three key questions were also proposed to participants to trigger discussions: (i) how can CSOs and LAs contribute to inclusive and sustainable global development outcomes; (ii) what are the right entry points for effective collaboration and; (iii) what modalities would be better suited to support partnerships and collaborations.
14. Daniel Guyader, Head of Division, EEAS complemented the discussion by addressing the new Partnership Instrument ([Session 3 Partnership Instrument](#)), which complements current EU instruments, and offers the EU a key external policy tool with both emerging and strategic partner countries, with whom the EU has common interests.
15. Toni Tujan, from the *CSO Platform for Development Effectiveness* (CPDE), and Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, from *Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis d'Afrique* (CGLU Afrique), were then invited to react to the two presentations on behalf of the CSOs and LAs community. Drawing on their experience and role in both public policy oversight and as implementing partners, CSOs shared their interest in learning more about the programme and, more particularly, about the planned mechanisms to ensure a meaningful participation of CSOs throughout the programme cycle of GPGC, from design to implementation, monitoring and evaluation, including the definition of the planned flag ship programmes. Accountability was also a crucial issue in the eyes of the CSOs, together with policy coherence and the need to integrate a HRBA from the outset. In his address on behalf of LAs, Mr. Mbassi, stressed the local impact of global challenges and the need to bring on board LAs to contribute to inclusive development outcomes. The issue of entry points and modalities was particularly underlined. Other relevant questions and comments raised by the audience revolved around the implementation mechanisms, the issue of inclusiveness and the roles to be played by MS.
16. The session ended with the invitation extended to the participants by the EC to send their comments and observations regarding the forthcoming GPGC programmes in writing, on the basis of the questions and options outlined in the background document.

Session 4 – Proposed Communication on the Private Sector in Development

17. Philippe Loop, Head of Unit, Private Sector Development, Trade, Regional Integration and Matthias Altmann (DEVCO C4) presented the background, key questions and timeline of the forthcoming policy paper (Communication) on the future direction of EU support to private sector development and engagement with the private sector for development ([Session 4 - Roadmap on the proposed Communication on the Private Sector in Development](#)). After a quick recall of the key terms (i.e. what is meant by private sector engagement in development), the speakers focused their presentation on the objectives of the new planned Communication. These are: (i) To update the EU Private Sector Development (PSD) support strategy; (ii) To explore ways to enhance the effectiveness of EU (PSD) support; (iii) To explore the value-added of a framework for structured dialogue and coordinated EU action with the private sector on development issues; (iv) To identify opportunities and approaches for private-public collaboration in sectors

such as energy, infrastructure and agriculture; (v) To identify ways to use EU blending mechanisms to support local private sector development and mobilize private sector funding for development and; (vi) to further elaborate on role of the private sector in a post-2015 framework. The speakers also shared with the participants a number of issues already identified as requiring further discussions and invited them to add and comment on these issues, namely (i) the role of the European private sector in development; (ii) how to promote a HRBA and people-centred approach; (iii) the need to enhance dialogue with the private sector and; (iv) the use of the private sector as a delivery channel for development support. Participants were also vividly encouraged to share concrete examples.

18. Employers' organisations, Trade Unions and Cooperatives were invited to comment on the presentation. Matthias Thorns from the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) raised the issue of difficult and lengthy registration requirements in some countries, the issue of informal business, and the interrelationship between energy and infrastructure. In his address, Mr. Pierre Hubbard, representative from the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) welcomed the initiative and raised the position of the trade unions ([Session 4 - Trade Union statement](#)), by stressing in particular a number of issues: the application of a rights-based approach, a narrowing down of the definition of the private sector, and the development of the local private sector. Finally, Marc Noel, from Cooperatives Europe also welcomed the communication, considering its importance for cooperatives ([Session 4 - Joint contribution from Cooperative and Fair Trade](#)). Mr Noel underlined the importance of supporting local private sector and made a call on to the EC to engage in a frank and open dialogue prior to the drafting of the new Communication, building on the process that led to the 2012 Communication on CSO.
19. In line with the interventions from the trade unions and cooperatives' movements, participants from the audience reiterated the importance of adopting a HRBA to private sector development, including the need for enforcement mechanisms (particularly for transnational companies operating in developing countries), and noted a history of mixed results with regards to public-private-partnerships (PPP). The session ended with the commitment taken by the EC to engage in consultations at country level (consultations to be held between January and March 2014) and a second round of consultations with CSOs when the participants before the new Communication drafting process starts. According to the planned timeline, a final draft of the new Communication should be ready in March 2014 for inter service consultation with the text then planned to be submitted for adoption by end of April 2014.

Session 5 – The Civil Society and Local Authority Thematic Programme

20. The session, which revolved around the **orientations of the future CSO-LA Thematic Programme**, was opened by the Lithuanian Presidency, Ms Aiste Bertulyte-Zikeviciene, Chair of Working Party on Development Cooperation (CODEV). In her address, Ms Aiste Bertulyte-Zikeviciene recalled the Council conclusions to the two Communications on CSOs and LAs, stressing the importance of continuous and substantial CS and LA engagement in EU development cooperation. She also referred to the future Communication on the private sector, and wished the participants the best of success in their deliberations.
21. Building on the outcomes of previous external consultations, Erika Pasquini and Elena Asciutti (DEVCO.B.2), shared the state of play of programming, stressing in particular the on-going process of concept note drafting at country level and the forthcoming fine-tuning exercise of key programming documents, namely the Multi Indicative Programme (MIP) and Annual Action Plan - AAP ([Session 5 CSO - LA thematic programme 2014-2020](#)).
22. Thomas Hansen (DECO.B.2) addressed the **current work towards the development of "EU country roadmaps"** ([Session 5 EU CSO country roadmaps](#)), as envisioned in the 2012

Communication on CSOs. The process is well engaged, with guidance and support measures being currently defined to bring adequate support to the Delegations in this strategic effort to activate and ensure structured dialogue and cooperation with CSOs at country level. Mr Hansen also stressed how road maps are meant to improve the impact, predictability and visibility of EU actions, and to ensure consistency and synergy in the support to CSOs across the EU portfolio. What's more, road maps are also intended to progressively trigger better coordination with MS and other relevant donors.

23. All the participants welcomed the initiative, and raised a number of issues and questions. These included the importance of integrating a HRBA into the process, of duly addressing the question of the enabling environment, the need for better coordination (particularly between EUDs-CSOs at country level, as well as between donors), and the need to ensure quality consultations at country-level. Other questions revolved around the public or private nature of the documents and their process of updating.
24. The session moved to **Objective 2 of the new Thematic Programme**, which focuses on **strengthening regional and global CSO and LA networks**. Two regional experiences were shared with the participants: (i) the stakeholder meeting organised in Bali in October 2014 by the Asia and Pacific PFD regional group and; (ii) the experience of *la Mesa de Articulación*, supported by the EC throughout its NSA & LA thematic programme (Current objective 1.b). Maria Theresa Nera-Lauron, from the *Asia-Pacific Resource Network* (APRN) briefly shared with the participants the rationale of the meeting in Bali, which was initiated at the request of the regional PFD members, its proceedings, content and process-wise, and the key outcomes ([Session 5 Report Asia-Pacific stakeholders' meeting](#)). Mr. Miguel Santibañez, from la MESA, addressed the issue of engagement with relevant regional institutions and the role played by the project co-funded by the EU, in this regard ([Session 5 La Mesa: Latin America network](#)).
25. Their presentations were followed by a **quick update of the state of play of Objective 2 of the new Thematic Programme** by Karina Chircu (DEVCO.B.2) ([Session 5 Objective 2: Reinforcing networks](#)). This objective relates to the support to Regional and Global networks. Participants were then invited to break into 2 groups, one for CSOs and a second one for LAs, to continue discussing on the actor-based support to be provided at regional and global levels. The table below provides a synthesis of the key issues raised during the discussions. They were shared in plenary with the group, thanks to the work of the appointed *rapporteurs*.

Synthesis of CSO discussions	Synthesis of LA discussions
Discussions revolved around three core issues: (i) the actors; (ii) the mechanisms and; (iii) the activities. The following recommendations were formulated to the EC. About the actors to be supported: - Selected actors need to be legitimate and representative platforms, networks, umbrella organisations and/or alliances. Yet, it is important to acknowledge diversity (also with regard to the families of CS actors) and realise that there are manifold forms of collective action amongst CSOs. Therefore a “one-size fits all approach” is to be avoided and flexibility needs to be ensured in the selection of the actors and the activities to be supported. - The programme needs to “build on what	Discussions revolved around two core issues: (i) the actors; (ii) the activities to be supported. The following recommendations were formulated to the EC. About the actors to be supported: - A consensus emerged around the recognition of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), including its regional sections, as well as other key organisations of national LA associations active in the field, as the primary targets of the EC support. - With regards to thematic networks, and considering the limitation of resources, participants concurred that there is a need to remain cautious and prioritize the regional level, before supporting thematic and issue-

already exists” and avoid creating new actors. It is also important to acknowledge and support the linkages between national, sub-regional, regional and global levels. - Another relevant recommendation was that of actively promoting the principle of inclusiveness, so as to ensure that excluded and marginalised groups are represented and their voices heard. - All in all selection is to be done on the basis of a sound understanding of the CS networks, platforms and alliances arena at sub regional, regional and global levels. EUDs need to be involved in the selection process and adequate assessment and mapping tools should be used. About the activities to be supported: - Several suggestions were made regarding the activities to be supported, from institutional strengthening, innovative forms of capacity development (i.e. moving beyond the traditional training) and tailored research to strategic partnerships or CSOs involvement in relevant sub-regional, regional and global policy making processes, including their monitoring. - Participants concurred on the importance of supporting actions conceived in the frame of processes (and not just the actors and their projects) as well as on the limitations of external Technical assistance. - Finally, specific actors had individual recommendations (e.g. cooperatives about the need to promote their visibility; trade unions about the relevance of linkages; etc). About the mechanisms to be used: - In what concerns aid modalities, predictability and flexibility were the key recommendations. According to participants, it is important to ensure long-term flexible forms of funding, which can support the actors and the processes of change they are promoting. To this end trust needs to be created between the grantee and the donor. - The group also put forward the proposal to move beyond the project-based funding and use other aid modalities, better suited to support networks and other collective forms of CS action (e.g. core funding, programme funding, etc). - Finally, capacity-development support was also required, particularly for the actors less well acquainted with the EU procedures and requirements. While CSOs realised the	based LA organisations. - Finally, participants also stressed the importance of ensuring a long-term engagement (i.e. at last 7 years), and recommended a phased approach, (i.e. several support phases are considered and regularly assessed on the basis of sound monitoring and evaluation mechanisms). About the activities to be supported: - According to the participants, Objective II is about “soft actions” (i.e. institutional strengthening, capacity development, exchanges, etc.) and targets global and regional organisations of LAs. Yet capacity development needs to have a clear purpose and framework. - Another important recommendation was that of focusing on the actors, and not on the services delivered by the actors. As stressed by LAs, service delivery occurs at country level. - LAs strongly recommended the EC to build it support on the rich practice of LA cooperation (i.e. peer-to-peer support, South-South and triangular cooperation). - Another important point was that of complementarity, which should be ensured between the regional and the national levels. - Finally, participants invited the EC to seek and exploit synergies with other programmes (i.e. GPGC, Partnership Instrument, etc) to ensure that the strengthened voice of the global and regional platforms and networks of LAs is heard.
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importance of being accountable and fulfil the requirements set by the donors, they also highlighted that a number of actors would need extra support to be able to comply with such requirements and ensure accountability.	
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Session 6 - Regional and Thematic group discussions

26. In the Africa group, the **Pan African Programme** ([Session 6 Pan African Programme](#)), which will support the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), was presented by Françoise Moreau, Head of Unit, Africa,-EU Partnership, Peace Facility (DEVCO D.4). Following her presentation, which stressed the multi-stakeholder and complementary character of the programme, numerous questions were raised on its scope and implementation mechanisms. In particular, concerns were raised regarding the absence of LA representatives in the process (for example at the JAES Business Forum planned for spring 2014) as well as with regards to the representativeness of CSOs that participated in the Africa-EU Civil Society Forum (which took place in Brussels October 2013). The Commission clarified that these were selected by the CSO steering committee itself. Other issues raised during the intense debate included the EU policy towards migration, the support to women CSOs, peace and security challenges in the African States, the integration of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and informal sector in the EU understanding of private sector, visibility of the Pan African Programme and the importance of culture. The meeting ended with the invitation extended to PFD members by Ms. Moreau to continue contributing to the formulation of the new programme in the coming weeks.
27. The exchange of information with colleagues from the Neighbourhood Directorate on the future **European Neighbourhood Instrument** offered an opportunity for PFD participants to be updated on the ongoing regional and bilateral multiannual programming and learn about the Sustainable Urban Demonstration Projects (SUDeP). Conceived as a follow up of the Covent of Mayors project, the programme aims to enable local authorities in the ENP partner countries to implement measures incorporated in their Sustainable Energy Action Plans. The presentation about regional programming stressed the focus areas, which shall include (but not be limited to) support to democratic transition processes, knowledge (higher education), and inclusive growth, with civil society playing an important role. A decision is yet to be taken on the continuation and focus of the Civil Society Facility. Specifically for the South, specific actions may be fielded to follow-up aspects of the December 2012 Joint EC/EEAS Maghreb Communication (JOIN(2012) 36 final). With regards to bilateral programming, priority sectors will include justice, rule of law, inclusive growth and private sector development. Additionally a specific focus on regional and rural development is expected in a number of countries, thus providing the entry points for LAs, while support to CS will be mainstreamed into the bilateral cooperation programmes. Participants were also informed about the forthcoming SUDeP Calls for Proposals in the Eastern Neighbourhood (April 2014) and Southern Neighbourhood. The ensuing debate focused mainly on whether and how LAs (including through decentralised cooperation) and social dialogue partners would feature in the programming. It was clarified that these actors would be considered where relevant in the chosen sectors as exemplified by the role of LAs in the rural development programmes. CS representatives also called for a more focussed, structured dialogue between CS in the Southern Neighbourhood and the EU.
28. **Participants from Asia** and Pacific gathered to discuss about their future participation in the PFD and the needs of the members at regional level, as a follow-up of the regional stakeholders' meeting held in Bali in October 2013. In terms of issues to be addressed within the region, some members called on the PFD to be more context specific, as different sub-regions in Asia and Pacific are confronted with different problems, and also stressed the need to engage with other relevant institutions including the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and

the Association of South East Asian nations (ASEAN) and to work with the BRICS. Participants also discussed research priorities in the region and agreed on the need to undertake a research on the enabling environment (EE), building on the outcomes of the current work of the Working group on an EE at the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE). Other potential themes for research included the role of voluntary organisations in nation building (i.e. what contributions they have brought to improve vulnerable groups), the role of the private sector in developing SMEs capacities, gender equality and entrepreneurship development. The meeting ended with the recommendation to include the research agenda in the first Task team meeting in 2014.

29. The **Latin America group** session revolved around **the new 2014-2020 regional programmes**. The session started with a presentation by J.P. Joulia, Head of Unit, Regional Programme Latin America and Caribbean (DEVCO G.2), and J. Hatwell, Head of Division, EEAS V, of the state of play of the future regional programmes. The two speakers emphasised how the new regional programmes will be identified in close consultation with the relevant regional stakeholders (both State and non-state actors), will build on the lessons learnt from past EU programmes and will address the regional priorities already identified in line with the new political orientations of the EU and the two pillars of Agenda for change (i.e. inclusive growth and governance). Priorities identified so far include the following: sustainable growth, security (i.e. gender violence, human rights, migration, etc.), climate change and higher education. After the speakers' presentation, the floor was open to the participants. Several of the interventions focused on the contents of the new programming phase, considering that several regional programmes come to an end (e.g. URBAL III, EUrosociAL, etc.) while others addressed the programming process, placing a particular emphasis on the timeline and the consultation leading to the definition of the new programmes. Participants were also interested in learning more about the treatment given to the graduated countries and the role that both CSOs and LAs should play in the implementation of the new programmes. The session ended with the suggestion to further consult CSOs and LAs along state actors.
30. The session on DEAR was dedicated to discuss the new programme for the new period 2014-2020 ([Session 6 DEAR in the new thematic programme 2014-2020](#)) and share the feedback from the consultations around the new MIP ([Session 6 Objective 3: DEAR feedback consultation](#)). A technical session on the new online application, PROSPECT, was also held, with representatives from the Finance and Contracts Unit (DEVCO B.6) ([Session 6 DEAR: Call for proposals 2013](#)).

Closing Session

31. The meeting was closed with the **announcement of the Task Team members** including the agreement reached for the inclusion of 3 observers at the Global Level. A recall of the deadlines to submit comments to the various processes currently underway was made, and a tentative calendar for the 2014 PFD was announced, namely the possibility to organise a Task Team meeting during the first trimester of 2014 and to **hold a regional PFD meeting in Latin America** before the end of the first semester of 2014, at the initiative of the Latin America and Caribbean stakeholders. EC geographical colleagues will provide the necessary input to the meeting and, and if the calendar allows, participate in the meeting.
32. Finally, Mr. Lluís Riera formally closed the session by thanking participants for their commitment and congratulating them once more for the major achievement that the PFD represents.