



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Development

2012/2026(INI)

6.11.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the EU Strategy for the Horn of Africa
(2012/2026(INI))

Rapporteur: Michèle Striffler

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the adoption in November 2011 of a strategic framework for the Horn of Africa, since this will tend to enhance the coherence of the European Union's external action in this strategic region, by comparison with the hitherto very fragmented approach that has been based on widely differing instruments; in this connection, also welcomes the appointment in January 2012 of an EU Special Representative (EUSR) for the Horn of Africa, Alex Rondos, and pays tribute to the work he has already achieved; is well aware that, less than a year after this strategy was adopted and the EUSR took up his duties, it may not yet be possible to identify or measure any significant improvement in the coherence of the EU's approach in the region;
2. Welcomes, in the interests of both regional development aid and humanitarian aid, the new plan for the Horn of Africa proposed by the Commission in 2012 known as SHARE (Supporting Horn of Africa Resilience), which seeks to be an instrument linking short-term humanitarian aid to long-term development in order to break the vicious circle of crises afflicting the region; fully supports the Commission in this project to strengthen the link between relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD); calls for the EU to work through this programme towards the provision of diverse livelihood opportunities and better access to markets and information, so as to boost household incomes for pastoralist, agropastoralist, riverine, coastal, urban and periurban populations, to improve access to basic social services, and to aim to offer reliable and predictable levels of support for chronically and seasonally at-risk populations;
3. Takes the view that boosting regional security and combating terrorism and piracy, while essential, must not eclipse the absolute necessity of supporting as a first priority the eradication of poverty in the region, particularly since the EU has an obligation under its founding Treaty to take account of the objectives of development cooperation – foremost among which are the reduction and eradication of poverty – in the policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries (Article 208(1) TFEU); notes that all the countries of the Horn of Africa are developing countries, and as such – apart from Sudan and South Sudan, which have not signed the Cotonou Agreement – have received EUR 2 billion in development aid (of which EUR 644 million went to Ethiopia alone) for indicative national and regional programmes under the 10th EDF (2008-2013); notes that, during the same period, again under the 10th EDF, the East Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region is receiving EUR 619 million, partly for the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the aim being to eradicate poverty in the countries of the region and help them attain the Millennium Development Goals; recalls, finally, that the African Peace Facility, a sub-instrument of the EDF, gives financial support to the African Union mission in Somalia (AMISOM);
4. Takes the view that, as the world's main development aid and humanitarian aid distributor in the region, thanks in part to the centralisation of its diplomatic activity in the EEAS and the EUSR, the success of Operation Atalanta, and the diplomatic and military presence in the region of certain Member States, the EU (the Member States and the Commission)

could do more to eradicate the endemic poverty in the region and the pockets of anarchy and lawlessness that exist there;

5. Considers it desirable to seize the opportunity presented by the election on 10 September 2012 of the new Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, with a view to working – helped by the Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa and with the support in the region of the EUSR, as well as that of the EEAS and national diplomats and of the African Union – in favour of the establishment of normal diplomatic and economic relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea and of the resolution of the Somali crisis, since this would benefit the development of the whole region; notes that the Great Lakes region, which borders the western fringes of the Horn of Africa, is also one of the most unstable in the world, including some severely underdeveloped countries that are plagued by armed violence - e.g. the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) - and even by wars with one or more of their neighbours - e.g. the tensions between the DRC and Rwanda, which is part of the Horn of Africa in the wider sense; stresses that in implementing the European strategy for the Horn of Africa we cannot ignore its possible repercussions for the much-needed development of the neighbouring regions (notably the Great Lakes region, Central Africa and Southern Africa).

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	5.11.2012
Result of final vote	+: 23 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Thijs Berman, Michael Cashman, Ricardo Cortés Lastra, Véronique De Keyser, Leonidas Donskis, Charles Goerens, Mikael Gustafsson, Eva Joly, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Gay Mitchell, Norbert Neuser, Bill Newton Dunn, Maurice Ponga, Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, Michèle Striffler, Alf Svensson, Eleni Theoharous, Ivo Vajgl, Iva Zanicchi
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Philippe Boulland, Edvard Kožušník, Bart Staes
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa