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New CER working paper

WHAT FUTURE FOR EU DEVELOPMENT POLICY?

By Aurore Wanlin

The EU, together with its member-states, is the world's largest source of development aid. It gives three times more aid than the US (as a share of GDP). However, The EU's efforts are less visible and arguably less effective than those of other prominent donors, including the World Bank. This low profile contrasts sharply with the EU's weight in international trade negotiations. And it does not tally with Europe's ambition to take a leading role in combating global poverty, climate change and terrorism.

Aid is a key ingredient of the EU's 'soft power' and an increasingly important foreign policy tool. So the Union has to get it right.

In this new CER working paper, Aurore Wanlin argues that EU aid policy needs more strategic thinking and better co-ordination between EU governments and the European Commission. The EU should use both the current discussions on revising the EU treaties and the forthcoming EU budget review to improve its aid policies. It will also need to address a number of tricky issues, such as the coherence between its policies for aid, trade and agriculture, and whether it wants the Commission to play a bigger role in Europe's aid efforts.

Notes for editors:

1. Gareth Thomas MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department for International Development (DFID), will launch this publication on May 22nd 2007 at a CER roundtable on development policy.
2. For media enquiries, please contact the author on either +44 20 7233 1199 or aurore@cer.org.uk.
3. This paper can be ordered from the CER website (www.cer.org.uk) or by contacting Kate Meakins at kate@cer.org.uk or on +44 20 7233 1199.

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