

actalliance eu



Annual Report 2018



Annual Report 2018

4 Letter from the Director

6 Development policy and practice

14 Food security

20 Climate justice

24 Middle East

30 Refugees and migration

35 2018 finances

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pages 3, 6, 9, 13, 30, 33

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pages 24, 26

Alexandra Gerasimcikova

Dear Reader,

2018 was an important year for EU decision processes and negotiations which are central to future EU development cooperation.

One prominent feature was the EU's 2020-2027 budget, which determines not just the size of the aid budget but also how that aid is structured. The nature of the EU's relations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries also featured prominently. Much was at stake in a setting where security, defence and border control have become EU priorities, along with restricting the entry and presence of migrants and refugees; where development funds risk being instrumentalised; where new financial instruments and a move to fund 'non-traditional' actors such as the private sector could push aside what the development community — NGOs and donors — have learned about the principles underlying development effectiveness; and in a political context of increased pressure on civil society outside Europe and within. Space for continued civil society engagement, including its role in policy development, was a common thread through our work, as was maintaining human rights and rights-based approaches, and human dignity in EU policy.

In the following pages you can read how the ACT Alliance EU network's activity has met with quite some success. A few examples:

- ▶ ACT Alliance EU engaged strongly on the EU negotiating mandate for the future EU-ACP. The outcome is a mandate that supports Agenda 2030 and prioritises human rights, human development, and strengthens commitments to civil society participation.
- ▶ Our work on the EU development budget was taken up in European Parliamentary amendments and influenced a number of Member States' positions.
- ▶ Advocacy on food security and land rights saw marked success, in our work on safeguarding land rights in public and private development finance, and vis-à-vis specific countries — with the EU looking into land and human rights violations in Cambodia and Myanmar, and in tabling land rights as an issue in EU trade policy and in particular the Indonesia-EU trade deal.

- ▶ In 2018, ACT Alliance EU became a sought-after voice on migration and displacement, including at the European Parliament, and we see our language taken up in EU legislative proposals.
- ▶ We became a lead actor in linking civil society's work on migration with its work on the 2020-2027 EU budget and the EU-ACP negotiations.
- ▶ In climate justice, our network was instrumental in putting Loss & Damage onto the EU climate agenda, while an ACT Alliance EU report on climate finance, showing how the EU lags behind in its commitments to poor and vulnerable countries, met with considerable interest, including in member state capitals.

As ACT Alliance EU, we are proud to be part of the global ACT Alliance, the largest global coalition of Protestant and Orthodox churches and affiliated organisations working together in over 125 countries in humanitarian aid, development cooperation and advocacy. In 2018 the value of our integration was particularly reflected in our common efforts on civil society

space, climate justice, and displacement and migration, with our voices resonating at the UN, the EU and in EU member state capitals, and supported by the evidence and realities of ACT Alliance members and partners in the global South.

The political context in and outside Europe continues to pose challenges to civil society actors and their role in keeping the focus of development on poverty eradication and the Sustainable Development Goals. But we are encouraged by our successes in 2018, which provide a launch pad for a new strategy for ACT Alliance EU which starts in 2019. I very much look forward to working together with ACT Alliance EU's members and the global ACT Alliance, with colleagues in European and global civil society and in the EU institutions.

Please allow me to commend to you the work of our policy officers and working groups as found in these pages, and their vital work in moving the ACT Alliance EU agenda forward in 2018.

Floris Faber
Director, ACT Alliance EU

Governing and advisory bodies

Board membership from June 2018

DanChurchAid represented by Birgitte Qvist-Sørensen, Chair

Diakonie Austria represented by Michael Bubik, Treasurer

Bread for the World represented by Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel, member

Bread for All represented by Bernard DuPasquier, member

ACT Alliance represented by Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, observer

Departures from the Board

ICCO represented by Marinus Verweij, Chair — mandate ended May 2018

Observers

Permanent observer organisations to ACT Alliance EU are the **World Council of Churches**, the **Lutheran World Federation**, and the **ACT Alliance**.

Advisory groups

Policy and Advocacy Group (PAG) met once in person in Uppsala in March 2018 and had online calls in April, May, June and December 2018.

Miges Baumann (BfA) and Cecilia Nilsson-Kleffner (Diakonia) were the co-chairs.

Secretariat and staff

At the end of 2018, the secretariat was composed of the following staff:

Floris Faber Director

Susie Wilkinson Office Manager

Karine Sohet Senior Policy Officer — EU Development Policy & Practice

Karin Ulmer Senior Policy Officer — Food Security

Esther Martinez González Advisor — Middle East

Alexandra Gerasimčiková Policy Officer — Middle East

Fanni Bihari Policy Officer — Refugees and Migration

Departures/changes

Fanni Bihari (Policy Officer — Refugees and Migration) joined the team in January 2018.

Bruno Nicostrate (Policy Officer — Climate Justice) left in November 2018.

Alexandra Gerasimčiková (Policy Officer — Middle East) joined the team in November 2018 for a handover period.

Development policy and practice



2018 key achievements

ACT Alliance EU influenced the European Union negotiating mandate on the future agreement between the EU and the African Caribbean and Pacific countries (EU-ACP agreement) around objectives and principles of Agenda 2030. In line with our recommendations, the EU negotiating mandate proposes a binding value-based and principle-based agreement that gives high priority to human rights, human development, social cohesion, gender equality, and the role and space of civil society.

Our advocacy work on a post-2020 EU-ACP agreement was particularly successful in convincing the EU institutions of the need for proper mechanisms for civil society participation in all aspects of the future agreement, and to strengthen the principles and political commitments that underpin civil society participation in the future agreement.

A number of our red lines and recommendations were taken into account in the European Commission's draft for the regulation of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), the future development cooperation instrument, especially those concerning the human rights and democracy programme and the references to existing benchmarks and commitments. Many of our concerns and recommendations, including detailed amendments on the future European Fund for Sustainable Development 'Plus' are reflected in the European Parliament's report on the NDICI regulation to be adopted in March 2019.

Promotion and protection of civil society space was a specific objective in our work on EU-ACP and Africa relations and on the MFF. In both areas, we managed successfully to raise the importance of civil society per se and of supporting civil society financially.

Post-2020 agreement with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

The Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the European Union and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (the ACP group) is the

broadest EU partnership in terms of number of countries, content and funding. It frames the relationship between the 28 EU member states and the 79 members of the ACP group, focusing on three areas of cooperation: political dialogue, trade and investment, and development. This agreement is matched by the largest EU funding

envelope, the European Development Fund, with 30.5 billion euro for the period 2014-2020.

The agreement will expire in 2020. The EU and the ACP group have decided to negotiate a new, legally binding ACP-EU agreement to succeed it, which would also accommodate three separate regional partnerships between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries respectively. A common EU-ACP foundation will include essential elements such as principles, general objectives, provisions for political dialogue, Policy Coherence for Development and cooperation in international processes. The three regional partnerships will focus on more detailed cooperation priorities and strategies. Regional bodies such as the African Union will play an important role in the negotiations.

ACT Alliance EU's vision for the future partnership is that of a values and principles-based political and operational framework to realise Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement, putting people and the planet first and leaving no-one behind.

2018 was a key year in the negotiation process, with both sides preparing and adopting negotiating mandates, and with the official launch of the negotiations on 28 September.

Influencing the EU negotiating mandate

The European Commission published its draft negotiating directives in December 2017. We prepared comments and recommendations to better align the directives with our vision for the future EU-ACP partnership. We directed our advocacy towards the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) unit in charge of drafting the directives, members of the Council-

ACP working party, and the Committee of Permanent Representatives in the European Union (COREPER) to make sure that our recommendations were reflected in the final mandate adopted by the member states in June.

In line with our recommendations, the EU mandate proposes a binding values and principles-based agreement that confirms Policy Coherence for Development commitments and the importance of EU-ACP cooperation in international forums. It includes a dedicated strategic priority on governance and human rights and good wording on civil society. On issues such as Agenda 2030, human development, social cohesion, gender and the role of civil society, it has improved significantly compared to the original version. However, our advocacy was less successful on issues which are more divisive in EU political debates, especially migration, trade and investments. We will need to pursue advocacy efforts during the negotiations to make sure that the final agreement contains a more balanced and integrated approach towards the three dimensions of sustainable development — social, economic and environmental — and to ensure that the economic dimension does not take precedence.

The most critical issue during member states' discussions concerned migration, with a late attempt by the Hungarian representatives to radically change the consensus achieved in the Council's ACP working party. ACT Alliance EU, as chair of the EU-ACP working group of the European NGO confederation for relief and development (CONCORD), drafted a letter calling COREPER members to adhere to the consensus. Our call met with mixed success: the final compromise does preserve a human rights-based approach and positive elements on migration and development. However, it also

contains, as a main objective, "stemming illegal migration" and the intention to bind ACP states to readmission agreements. We will continue to advocate for better language in the final text of the agreement.

We were particularly successful in achieving the EU institutions' approval and support for a meaningful, effective role for civil society in the future EU-ACP agreement. Thanks to long-standing dialogue with post-Cotonou task force officials in DG DEVCO and the European Union External Action Service, we provided inputs at an early stage which aimed to strengthen the principles, political commitments and institutional mechanisms underpinning civil society participation in EU-ACP relations. Moreover, Koen Doens, the deputy director of DG DEVCO, and Chair of the post-Cotonou task force within the Institutions committed to meet civil society organisations regularly for deeper exchanges during the course of the negotiations.

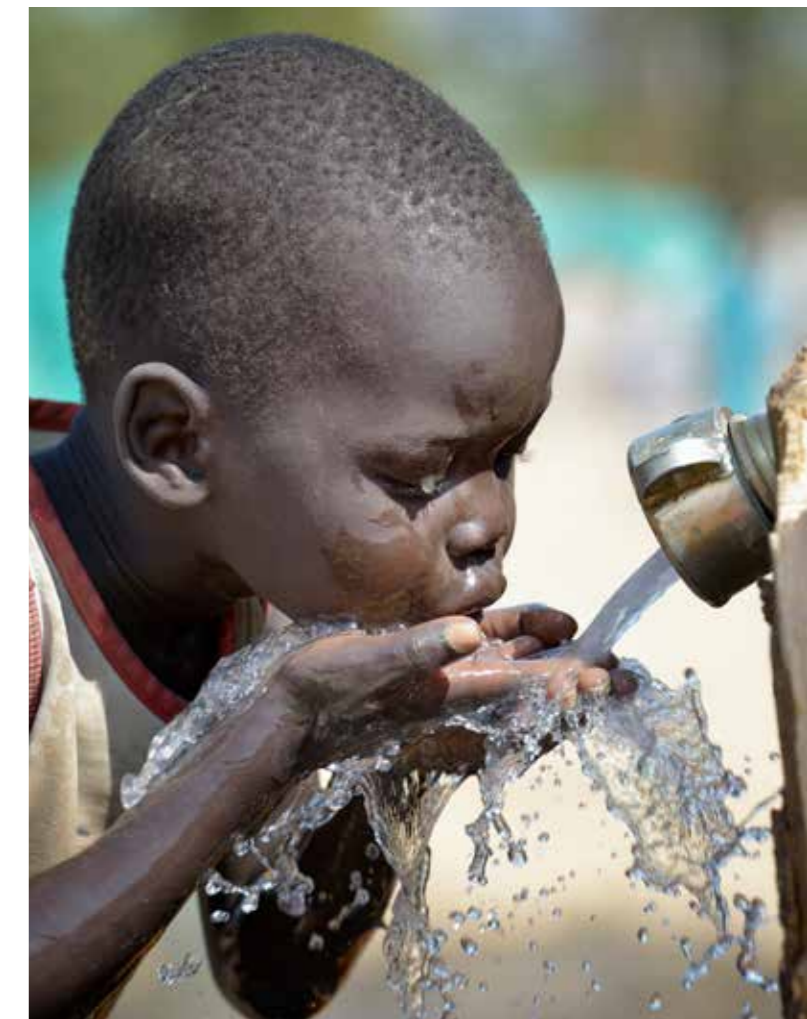
Influencing the negotiations

Negotiations between the EU and the ACP officially started on 28th September. The first main political negotiation session took place in early December, which concluded the first phase of the negotiations with a general consensus on the future architecture of the agreement.

Ahead of the more in-depth negotiations with the three regional groupings planned for 2019, ACT Alliance EU put forward our recommendation on the strategic priorities of future EU-ACP cooperation on a public panel discussion with Mr. D. Rosa, the head of the ACP and pan-African unit of DG DEVCO and Ambassador Ognimba, Assistant Secretary

General and Head of Political Affairs and Human Development Department at the ACP secretariat. The panel discussion was organised by CONCORD.

ACT Alliance EU's position as chair of the CONCORD EU-ACP working group gave additional weight and visibility to our long-standing work on the issue. ACT Alliance EU is at the forefront of the advocacy work, leading the drafting of recommendations, meeting MEPs and MPs (French 'Assemblée Nationale') addressing public meetings including the March European Parliament Committee on Development hearing and the aforementioned CONCORD public panel discussion, being quoted



in CONCORD press statements, and interviewed by journalists and researchers.

EU development practice and finance

2018 saw the launch of the negotiations for the EU's long-term budget, the 2020-2027 multi-annual financial framework (MFF). The European Commission released its general MFF proposal in May and the draft regulations of the future implementing instruments and programmes in June. This included a new architecture for the EU budget with new headings on migration and border control and on security and defence. For external action, Heading VI of the future budget, the Commission proposed a budget increase, and the merging of twelve existing external action instruments into a new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). This new instrument is to cover the whole world. Pre-accession aid and humanitarian aid will not be included in the merged instrument, but will be kept separate.

After the release of the European Commission's proposals, the Council and the Parliament started their internal negotiations on both levels of decision; general MFF architecture and budget, and more detailed co-decision on the new instruments' regulations.

Our advocacy work took place in the context of great uncertainty about the timing of the process and the impact that the final decision on the general MFF framework would have on Heading VI. The decision on integrating the European Development Fund and the European Neighbourhood Instrument into the NDICI is part of that general framework and was still pending at the end of 2018. If these two major

instruments are not integrated, the whole NDICI proposal would not make much sense and the Commission would have to make a new proposal.

For development NGOs and civil society in general, it is rather difficult to influence the more general decisions on the architecture and budget ceilings of the MFF headings. The European Parliament has to give its consent to the MFF, but it has no prominent role in the debates. Decisions are in the hands of member states' finance ministers and the General Affairs Council, and are subject to much bargaining in which the external action budget has little weight. To increase our chances of being heard, the major EU NGO networks like CONCORD, VOICE, Human Rights & Democracy Network (HRDN), and European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) adopted joint statements before high-level Council meetings.

ACT Alliance EU is a founding member of the CONCORD MFF group. In 2018, our advocacy concentrated on influencing the content of the NDICI draft regulation and its first reading by the Council and the European Parliament. To influence the Commission's preparation of the draft regulation for the NDICI, and to encourage member states and MEPs to raise concerns the group prepared red lines raising several concerns and risks related to the so-called 'single instrument', and proposing an alternative architecture.

Thanks to coordinated advocacy by Act Alliance EU members at national level and the secretariat in Brussels, we succeeded in gaining the support of a good number of member state representatives and MEPs for our questions and concerns and the final draft regulation proposed by the EC contained improvements.

Once the draft regulation was released, we prepared a detailed analysis and a long list of amendments to the text of the regulation. Amendments concerned the objectives and principles of the instrument, the human rights-based approach, the roles of civil society, and reporting and accountability mechanisms. We argued for benchmarks to ensure that human development and social cohesion, climate change and the environment, and gender equality were appropriately mainstreamed and that a sufficient level of funding was allocated to these issues. We also proposed a series of more detailed amendments to ensure alignment with Sustainable Development Goals, the European Consensus on Development, the Paris Agreement and the Development Effectiveness Principles at implementation level. Important cooperation modalities of the future NDICI will be the External Action Guarantee and the blending of loans and grants aiming at leveraging high levels of public and private investments for development. ACT Alliance EU prepared a series of amendments to the chapter dedicated to these tools, the EFSD+, to make sure that development impact and safeguards on human rights, decent work, environmental action and more transparent governance and reporting were secured through the regulation.

Some of our general and more concrete inputs and amendments were reflected in the second draft proposed by the Austrian presidency of the Council of the EU, but the discussion between member states is making slow progress and many contentious issues were still pending at the end of 2018, including those that depend on higher-level decisions (EDF budgetisation, the integration of ENI in NDICI, and how to address migration in external action).

The draft report by the four co-rapporteurs in the European Parliament was disappointing

in many aspects, but we were very successful in influencing additional amendments tabled by shadow rapporteurs and other members of the two committees. Our main concerns and recommendations, including detailed amendments on the EFSD+ and on the future geographic and thematic programmes, were covered in one way or another in more than 1300 amendments. In a second stage, we prepared more targeted proposals on issues to be raised in the compromise amendments that will be submitted to the vote. We are optimistic that the report to be adopted by Parliament in March 2019 will include a good number of our proposals.

At the December European Council, EU leaders decided to postpone their decision on the future MFF to autumn 2019, after the European elections. This means that the new European Parliament will finalise the NDICI legislative process. In that context, it will be important for us to make sure that the positive outcome we achieved during the first reading of the NDICI regulation by the current Parliament will be secured and maintained.

The EU's role in promoting and protecting civil society space

The promotion and protection of civil society space touches many aspects of our development policy work and is a specific objective in our work especially with regard to EU-Africa and EU-ACP relations, the role of civil society in future cooperation instruments, and access to EC funding in context of the NDICI. In both areas of work, we were very successful in raising the importance of civil society and securing EU

financial support. We have also achieved the commitment of all EU institutions to promoting civil society space, enabling civil participation in policy-making and EU aid programming, and in the political and policy dialogues between the EU and its partner countries.

More generally, CONCORD adopted a paper in March 2018 which presents our vision on civic space, an enabling environment for civil society, and the role of the EU in supporting it. ACT Alliance EU members contributed greatly to this document on the basis of their long-standing work and experience on the issue. We also collaborate with several other influential organisations in Brussels, including CONCORD, Civil Society Europe and HRDN, to monitor and counter attacks on civil society within Europe and within the European Parliament.

A more targeted area of work in which ACT Alliance EU played a convening and driving role

in recent years is the role of EU delegations towards civil society and more specifically the EU country roadmaps for engagement with civil society. In 2018, our activities in that area concentrated on:

- ▶ updating a training toolkit on the role of EU delegations and their relations with civil society in three languages (English, French and Spanish)
- ▶ facilitating the ‘advocacy day’ for the training of trainers, organised by CONCORD for its members and some of their partners, on the basis of the toolkit
- ▶ preparing a short information briefing for our members and their partners on the review and updating process of the country roadmaps, encouraging them to take part in that process. The briefing was shared with the regional offices of ACT Alliance for them to reach out to national ACT forums.

Development policy and practice

2018 publications and external references

EU-ACP

CONCORD recommendations to put People and Planet first in the future EU-ACP agreement (February 2018)

<https://bit.ly/2G5xl7X>

CONCORD’s vision for the future EU-ACP partnership agreement: putting sustainable development and human rights at the centre (December 2018)

<https://bit.ly/2U21U3a>

MFF

CONCORD’s concerns and redlines on the European Commission proposal for a single External Instrument (April 2018)

<https://bit.ly/2UnQ9Jk>

CONCORD Analysis of NDICI (August 2018)

<https://bit.ly/2U5QwU6>

The European Fund for Sustainable Development plus (EFSD+) in the MFF2021-2027: Ten areas to consider in the NDICI Regulation (September 2018: joint CONCORD — Eurodad paper)

<https://bit.ly/2GbbBsl>

CS space

Analysis and recommendations on the promotion of civic space and enabling environment in EU external action (March 2018)

<https://bit.ly/2Z9DGre>

CONCORD recommendations for a more effective and meaningful participation of Civil Society in the future EU-ACP relations

<https://bit.ly/2FZdGX4>



Food security



2018 key achievements

We put land rights restitution high on the EU's agenda and on the climate action agenda.

As a response to advocacy work by civil society, 'enhanced monitoring' was launched in Cambodia on serious and systematic human rights violations under the Everything But Arms (EBA). Another consultation was held under the new framework of 'enhanced monitoring' in Myanmar.

Jointly with Fern, we launched the Climate Land Ambition Rights Alliance (CLARA) Report 'Missing Pathways to 1.5 Degrees', presenting solutions for an ecosystem pathway.

We joined the advocacy initiative of putting forests, biodiversity and land rights at the heart of Indonesia-EU trade deals for the 21st century.

As a member of the Technical Platform on Organics, we worked to boost the credibility of concepts relevant to organic and agro-ecological farming.

The 'Peasant Rights Declaration' was adopted at UN level, after our advocacy in support of Swiss ACT member Bread for All. This marks significant progress towards recognising and protecting the rights of peasants and rural communities worldwide.

We contributed to policy analysis of the CAP and its adverse effects on livelihoods in developing countries. We welcomed strong amendments put forward by the European Parliament's development committee on policy coherence for development, including harmful protein imports and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), following our advocacy in close cooperation with CONCORD.

Safeguarding land rights

Increasing accountability and due diligence in public and private development finance

In June 2018, ACT Alliance EU presented its recommendation on increasing accountability and due diligence on safeguarding land rights in meeting with the European Investment Bank on Land Tenure Rights. While many national Development Finance Institutes are rather dismissive about our recommendations and hesitant to engage, the European Investment Bank (EIB) has shown responsiveness and willingness not only to engage, but to review its guidelines in response to our recommendations.

A step towards ensuring the right to food and empowering rights holders

In support of Swiss Bread for All, ACT Alliance EU contributed to work on the 'Peasant Rights Declaration' at the UN level. The resolution was adopted in December 2018 and focuses on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. This declaration is a major step towards a better protection of the rights of these people who not only represent 70 percent of people living in extreme poverty but often are smallholder farmers who produce 70 percent of the world's food. This is the first time that farmers' rights, ranging from the right to seeds to the right to land and other natural resources, have been enshrined in a single instrument.

The adoption of the UN Declaration is the outcome of more than ten years of work by food justice and social movements, civil society organisations, experts and academic institutions.

It echoes the long-standing call from global civil society organisations that human rights must take precedence over trade agreements such as those negotiated at the WTO or in EU bilateral deals. Bread for All and its partners work closely as part of the UN process, and the ACT Alliance EU office reached out to the broader ACT family network, calling for support for this case.

EBA enhanced monitoring missions

Cambodia

ACT Alliance EU participated in the European External Action Service (EEAS) and Commission consultation on the Everything But Arms enhanced monitoring in May 2018. Another round of intensive lobbying took place in September 2018 on remedies and restitution of land to local affected communities, with ACT Alliance EU acting alongside Cambodia partners, Bread for the World, the International Federation of Human Rights and FIAN. By November 2018, the 'enhanced monitoring' procedure was launched. In February 2019, the EU announced the formal initiation of the EBA withdrawal procedure in the Official Journal.

Myanmar

In October 2018, the EEAS and the Commission held another consultation under the new framework of 'enhanced monitoring', regarding the EBA mission to Myanmar to investigate serious and systematic human rights violations. The ACT Alliance EU secretariat provided written comments related to food security and land rights as contribution to the meeting and in

cooperation with members of the ACT Forum in Myanmar.

Earlier in 2018, the ACT Alliance EU report on Securing Land Rights was a useful input to a workshop by the ACT Forum in Myanmar on human rights and responsible business. ACT Forum members also published a report on human rights violations in the mining sector with references to land rights.

Putting human rights at the forefront of EU trade policy

ACT Alliance EU continues to work closely with the Generalised System of Preferences Platform (GSP) set up by International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Clean Clothes Campaign, International Trade Union Confederation and ACT Alliance EU to draw lessons from GSP+ for Everything But Arms countries, in the attempt to strengthen monitoring and compliance with basic human rights and environmental and social standards. ACT Alliance EU's work on Cambodia and Myanmar is part of this policy work, and the GSP Platform's statement includes recommendations relevant to land rights.

Increasing accountability on land rights in EU-Indonesia trade deal

A new report entitled 'Planting the Forest at the Root of the EU Indonesia Trade Relationship' was published during the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) jointly by Transport and Environment, Eurogroup for Animals, Fern and ACT Alliance EU. With the intent to influence

ongoing negotiations, the report suggests actions to be taken in the EU's trade deal with Indonesia to protect human and land rights, biodiversity and forests; all of which are also relevant for trade deals with other countries in the South East Asian region. This report emerged from collaboration in the EU trade expert group and ongoing strategising among civil society organisations around the EU's trade and investment policies. This work on Indonesia complements the Bread for All campaign on the Swiss-Indonesia FTA deal which takes a more radical stance, and has suggested that palm oil should be excluded from the FTA.

Towards diverse and sustainable food systems

In March 2018, ACT Alliance EU participated in the European Parliament seminar on agro-ecology. The seminar brought together a group of key stakeholders to advance agroecology in EU policies, and ACT Alliance EU was part of the preparatory process for this event under the CONCORD umbrella. The key focus was to address political hurdles that prevent funding, research and policy support to agro-ecological practices in development interventions. The ACT Alliance EU position paper on Climate Resilient Agriculture published in 2017 is the basis for our contribution to the process.

Supporting community-based seed systems

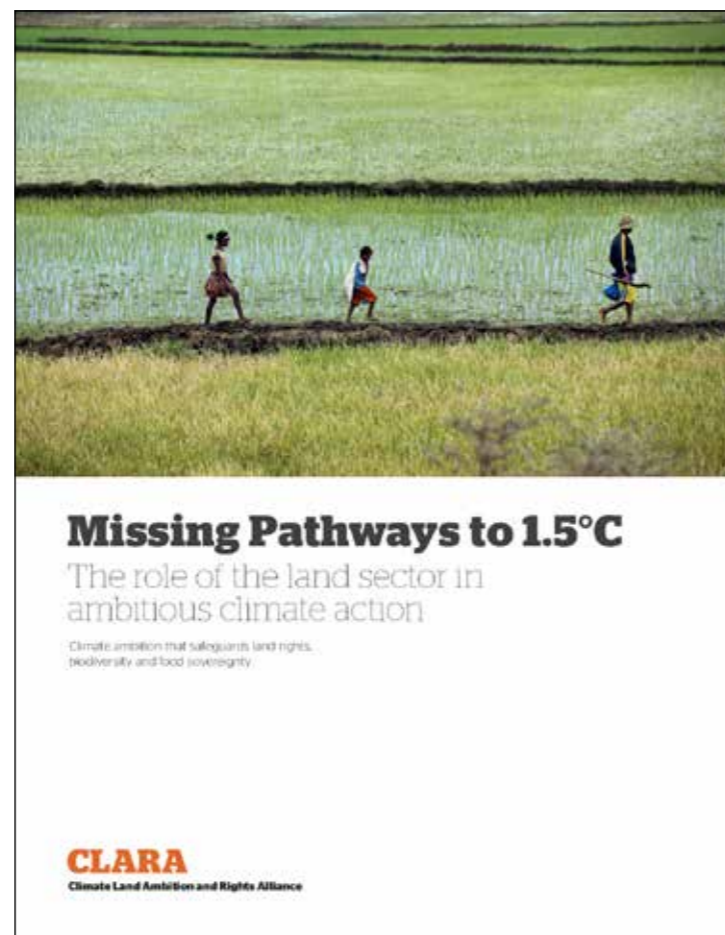
Doors were opened for further advocacy on community-based seed systems in Africa during events in 2018 of 'seed activists' at European level (i.e. members of LIVESEED project) who could be important allies for farm-based

seed systems in developing countries. This in particular in view of 2018 headlines of highly alarming loss of biodiversity and recognition of agrobiodiversity as a climate insurance to small scale farming and agriculture for example, under the EU Africa partnership. Important support for this comes from academic and scientific voices working together in the Technical Platform on Organics, of which ACT Alliance EU is currently a Steering Group member.

Climate-resilient agriculture: advancing ecosystem-based pathways

Climate action must not undermine but support efforts to ensure food security for all, respect of land rights, and restoration of ecosystems on which all our livelihoods depend. These objectives must not represent choices or trade-offs, but challenges that must be approached in an integrated manner.

ACT Alliance EU adheres to the policy and advocacy framework by CLARA, a broad-based coalition of 'Climate Land Ambition and Land Rights Alliance'. ACT Alliance EU contributed to the publication of the CLARA report 'Missing Pathways to 1.5 Degrees: The role of the land sector in ambitious climate action', which we launched together with Fern on 6 November in Brussels to input to the EU's long-term climate strategy 2050. The report highlights the need



to strengthen indigenous community land rights, restore forests and other ecosystems, and transform the agricultural sector in the direction of agroecology. The panel speakers from the International Panel on Climate Change negotiators, from the World Agroforestry Centre and the Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group) supported the CLARA findings that show the potential of ecosystem-based approaches to climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity and food security. The report emphasises what can and what is done already taking account of local solutions around the globe and collective agency of rural communities, indigenous peoples and smallholders to cooling the planet.

EU global food security

Do no harm: Putting policy coherence for sustainable development at the heart of EU Common Agricultural Policy

During 2017, ACT Alliance EU engaged proactively with CONCORD and both responded to the Commission's consultation on the modernisation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Following this preparatory work, a CONCORD policy brief for lobbying on the CAP was published in November 2018, which highlights the need for the CAP to establish a chapter on the EU's international responsibility under the CAP 2020-2027 legislation, to include Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development as an objective in the CAP Strategic Plans, and to monitor sensitive agro-food products to

prevent adverse CAP effects that cause harm to smallholders farmers (SDG 2) and importantly, to decrease EU's dependency on protein imports which are at the root of deforestation and land grabs.

In 2018, ACT Alliance EU led CAP lobby work for CONCORD, in particular in view of preparations of amendments and vote in the European Parliament Development Committee on the CAP legislative proposals and the EP Agricultural and Rural Development Committee, both scheduled in early 2019. This led to CONCORD sending voting recommendations to the members of Development Committee, in advance of the vote on 7 February 2019. The CAP Opinions adopted are a very strong support to PCD and a call to address and redress the adverse impacts CAP may have on livelihoods and farming communities in developing countries.

Food security

2018 publications and external references

ACT Alliance EU publications

Report on Securing Land Rights

<https://bit.ly/2ZaN7Hd>

Planting the Forest at the Root of the EU-Indonesia Trade Relationship: The Cornerstone of 21st Century Free Trade Agreements looking at human rights, biodiversity and forests.

<https://bit.ly/2Gn3YiJ>

Letters

ACT Agencies / ACT Alliance EU letter to EDFI in September 2018

<https://bit.ly/2UhemY3>

Civil Society letter calling for the EU to put human rights and sustainability front and centre of the Free Trade Agreement negotiations of EU-Mercosur, April 2018

<https://bit.ly/2GbFgAt>

ACT Alliance EU influences & (joint) policy briefs

TP Organics Research Briefing, July 2018

<https://bit.ly/2PbSfGh>

CONCORD Policy Brief on CAP and PCD, November 2018

<https://bit.ly/2Pcobuj>

Civil Society demands on the future CAP, 2018

<https://bit.ly/2DdC32N>

CLARA, the Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance report on Missing Pathways towards 1.5 Degrees scenario

<https://www.climatelandambitionrightsalliance.org/>

<https://actalliance.eu/news-post/2189/>

<https://youtu.be/8Vc-SgxHtLI>

ACT EU blog

Caring for land, water and the rights of peasants

<https://bit.ly/2UmulJu>

Food security

Annual report 2018

Climate justice



2018 key achievements

We launched a major report on EU climate finance aid, showing that the EU has lagged behind in its commitment to support poor and vulnerable countries worldwide in their efforts to tackle climate change. We have already seen promising developments resulting from this work, establishing ourselves as a major voice in the wider climate finance debate, and particularly in the fact that we directly contributed to the European Investment Bank (EIB) addressing their transparency practices.

Our Climate Change group put Loss and Damage on the EU agenda at a time when few NGOs are speaking up about this. We are an important actor in ensuring that EU institutions remember that the interests of the poorest and most vulnerable countries are a key part of the climate debate.

A report on climate action presented at COP24 included our chapter on climate impacts in the EU in the context of a temperature rise of +1.5/2 degrees.

Together with Climate Action Network Europe, we took part in the European Development Days with over 8000 participants from all over the world, effectively promoting our work including our report on climate finance.

Overview

2018 has been a challenging year in terms of meeting climate policy objectives. On a positive note, the EU reviewed its transparency & accounting for international climate change support for adaptation and mitigation assistance to developing countries, with a view to strengthening its methodologies and restructuring its reporting processes. On the other hand, the international political evolution is not helping a disunited EU to progress and step into a leading role, namely filling the gap left by the United States. Of great concern is the fact that greenhouse gas emissions in Europe increased in 2017 and look likely to also have increased in

2018. Nevertheless, the European Parliament and a coalition of member states managed to reach compromises to finalise several domestic pieces of legislation which will de facto increase the climate mitigation of the EU as a whole, although this is still not enough to ensure that the EU achieves the goals of the Paris Agreement, in particular the 1.5°C goal.

Climate finance

In April 2018 ACT Alliance EU launched a major report — An analysis of the climate finance

reporting of the European Union — which analysed EU climate finance aid. Its conclusions showed that the EU has lagged behind in its commitment to mobilise up to 100 billion USD annually by 2020 to support poor and vulnerable countries worldwide in their efforts to tackle climate change.

The report also highlighted the fact that Turkey is by far the biggest recipient of the combined funds from the European Commission, European Development Fund and European Investment Bank. When richer countries such as Turkey benefit from EU financial support, it means that those amounts of funding are not going to poorer or more vulnerable countries.

The report allowed us to get climate finance on both the political and public agenda. It was widely used and quoted and helped developing countries and other stakeholders to contribute to arguments and to take action. With this report ACT Alliance EU established itself as a 'go-to' NGO for climate finance. We were, for example, asked to contribute a chapter to the Reality of Aid 2018 report, and we continue to be approached by NGOs and other actors on climate finance questions.

ACT Alliance EU hosted an event in Brussels with panellists from DG DEVCO, INKA consult, DanChurchAid, CAN Europe and Eastern Caribbean State Embassies. We also welcomed participants from the Government of Flanders, Belgium, the Government of Uganda, and Oxfam International to a side event during the UNFCCC's Bonn Climate Change Conference.

The discussions at the events explored the current status of the climate finance discussions and identified some current challenges that require parties' continued attention for progress to be made.

We also contributed to a very positive change in practice by the European Investment Bank, which, after the dialogue about the report, the EIB decided to increase their transparency in existing and forthcoming projects.

Loss & Damage

The Polish presidency was looking for agreement rather than ambition at COP24. Rather than intervening, the EU and Norway too often hid behind the United States, Australia and Japan, and other countries. We find it worrying that rich countries hold back progress on Loss and Damage, preferring to divert the issues to the Warsaw International Mechanism, which itself has shown limited success so far. Meanwhile in various parts of the world, summer 2018 showed clearly how climate change is already severely negatively affecting humanity.

ACT Alliance EU contributed to the global ACT Alliance submission on Loss and Damage (L&D) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to provide inputs to the Suva Expert Dialogue, a group of country delegates, experts and representatives from observer organisations. As part of the ACT Alliance delegation to the intersessional round of negotiations, ACT Alliance EU also engaged in the dialogue, contributing with other NGOs to raise concerns, issues and solutions for greater action and support on L&D and links to DRR and other humanitarian fields of work.

We are proud that ACT Alliance EU is considered to be a highly relevant actor in the field of L&D, not least by bringing credibility and expertise through our work with partner organisations on the ground. It is through this direct work that we can demonstrate with authority what

aid is needed and how it can most efficiently be brought about. Politically we are involved in exchanges with the Warsaw International Mechanism and are therefore able to influence the process and actively engage in its work, evidenced, for example, by the note taken of our calls for public finance for L&D.

Unfortunately fossil fuels still remain the major sources of energy for many European countries. This looks likely to remain the case as subsidies for these non-renewable energies, already in place for many years, continue. The special report on 1.5°C released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in October 2018 again rang alarm bells, showing what would happen to vulnerable people and those living in poverty, if global warming reaches 1.5°C. We will continue our efforts to keep this in the public's mind and the media.

Together with Fern, we initiated and in November 2018 launched the Climate and Land Rights Ambition (CLARA) report Missing Pathways to 1.5 Degrees. ACT Alliance EU's main contribution was focused on Land Rights and Agriculture and is reported more fully in the Food Security section of this report.

COP 24

ACT Alliance EU was part of the global ACT Alliance delegation at the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) in Poland during December 2018, and actions towards the EU were well-coordinated with the Alliance's global efforts. We were active in meetings with EU negotiators, and with the EU Climate Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete, in bringing climate finance and loss and damage onto the EU agenda.

ACT Alliance released a report taking stock of the climate action needed to reach 1.5°C and presented the findings in a side event during COP24. ACT Alliance EU contributed a section on climate impacts in the EU in the context of +1.5/2°C.

There were two main challenges at COP24: for the Rulebook to be sufficiently fair and ambitious, and for it to be sufficiently exhaustive. If it was not, this would leave many loopholes for countries not to fulfil their commitments, and additional time would be needed in 2019 to finalise the Rulebook.

Our media work was successful during COP24; reaching the German minister for development cooperation Dr. Gerd Müller who took a lead in including Loss and Damage in the 'global stocktake' as a direct reaction to ACT Alliance EU members' call for action.

Our work continues on the EU long-term strategy, and on the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework. These two pieces of legislation will give significant directions to the trajectories of EU climate policies.

The work we have undertaken in 2018 has brought about tangible results, such as that of the EIB's increase in transparency protocols. ACT Alliance EU's climate justice work is important. We are grateful for the strong collaboration with the global ACT family, as well as with our sister NGOs within CAN Europe.

2018 publications and external references

Climate Finance Report
<https://bit.ly/2Gh21mL>

CLARA report
<https://bit.ly/2UDCiPg>

ACT Alliance report
<https://bit.ly/2V13SFD>

Middle East



Alex Gerasimčiková

2018 key achievements

Along with its member agencies, ACT Alliance EU has secured a resolution in the European Parliament (representing 500 million citizens) that stands as its strongest rebuke of Israeli settlement policy to date.

As a result of strong European pressure, planned demolition of Khan al-Ahmar has not taken place so far, although the village remains in danger.

ACT Alliance EU, with other like-minded NGOs, contributed to building consensus amongst most member states, the EU and the European Parliament to unanimously support the dispatching of UNHRC Commission of Inquiry.

ACT Alliance EU has closely monitored and provided fact-checks to institutional actors targeted by state-sponsored disinformation — especially when MEWG agencies and their local partners came under attack.

We have brought to the attention of the Commission and the member states cases of insufficient implementation of the differentiation requirements in EU-Israel trade relations.

ACT Alliance EU has brought to the attention of the Commission, the EEAS and member states regulatory changes under the Palestinian Authority restricting the work of human rights defenders.

Overview

2018 has been a trying year: the Israeli settlement policy has been accelerated, no pathway was found to lift, or at least ease, the blockade of Gaza (by both Israel and Egypt) and the intra-Palestinian schism between Fatah and Hamas deepened, further suffocating the Gaza strip.

The US Administration — which had already departed from its traditional role in the conflict

last year — exacerbated these trends with a series of actions that ACT Alliance EU believes contribute to the consolidation of the Israeli-Palestinian status quo at the expense of the Palestinian right to self-determination and the Two State Solution.

In the face of this, ACT Alliance EU continues to call on the EU to redouble its commitment to its key policies grounded in the EU's commitment to international law — implementation of UN Security Council 2334, upholding differentiation

between Israel proper and the settlements, defending the Palestinian presence in Area C, empowering civil society voices, and supporting Palestinian unification.

By the end of 2018, ACT Alliance EU facilitated a total of 10 advocacy visits for our member agencies and their local partners and briefed decision-makers in over 150 meetings.

Supporting accountability

Israel's military closed a war-crimes probe into the 2014 Gaza war without recommending any



criminal charges, and did not respond to the ICC prosecutor's call for restraint in its use of force against protestors at the Gaza fence.

The Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council also dispatched an independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate the circumstances surrounding the large number of fatalities (205) and injuries (21,228) during weekly large-scale popular protests at the Gaza fence that started in March 2018 and are still on-going.

The findings concluded there are "reasonable grounds" to believe that human rights violations amounting to war crimes were committed in Gaza by Israeli forces.

In the meantime, Israel has undertaken an internal military review of its conduct in the proximity of the fence, and concluded that none of the reported killings fell outside of conduct permitted under the rules of engagement issued to its soldiers. The review, however, did not address the legality of the rules of engagement themselves.

ACT Alliance EU followed the events in Gaza closely and with great concern.

In close cooperation with our members, we denounced the conflation by the IDF of the policing of non-armed protestors with instances of armed incursion into Israeli territory; its use of lethal weaponry against non-armed protestors and others who did not pose an imminent threat to life or serious injury, and the restrictions on medical patients from receiving treatment outside Gaza.

We urged the EU and its member states to make urgent representations before the Israeli government to protect protestors in Gaza; to support the dispatching of an independent fact-finding mission to establish all the facts

and securing accountability for violations of international law; and to provide emergency funding to the health sector in Gaza to cope with the increased caseload and prevent further unnecessary injury and loss of life.

With other like-minded NGOs, we helped to convince most member states, the EU and the European Parliament to support the dispatching of this Commission of Inquiry. Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) also provided urgent funding to the overwhelmed and already fragile health sector in Gaza. However, despite our efforts, we failed to achieve a sustained condemnation by the EU of the blockade of Gaza.

Preventing forcible transfers and annexation

During 2018, the coalition partners of the Israeli government used the US proclamation of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the US's departure from its long-standing bipartisan position on settlements to consolidate its unlawful annexation of the Eastern part of the city and its deepening control over Area C via the intensification of settlement activity — both forcible transfers in anticipation of settlement construction and settlement construction itself.

A new law was passed in Israel which prevents a negotiated solution for Jerusalem by requiring the support of a 2/3 supermajority of MPs in the Knesset (and a referendum) for any agreement with the Palestinians that would leave any part of Jerusalem outside Israel's exclusive control.

Palestinian communities located in strategic locations of the East Jerusalem periphery also saw their situation worsen significantly:

In May, after years of protracted legal proceedings, Israel's Supreme Court authorised the demolition the iconic village of Khan al-Ahmar — leaving the decision on whether and when to demolish and relocate the community into the relocation site of Al Jabal (and to build the settlement of "E1") to the entire discretion of the current government.

The preparations for the demolitions unleashed heavy criticism from the EU. This lasted until October 2018 when the Israeli Prime Minister suspended the Khan al-Ahmar demolition owing to the EU pressures and the possibility of an ICC investigation.

Former UN Secretary General (UNSG) Ban Ki-moon warned that the relocation of the Khan al-Ahmar community will amount to individual and mass forcible transfer, a grave violation of international humanitarian law and a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The situation of the 300,000 Area C residents

Alongside these high-profile developments, the Israel Defence Forces and the Ministry of Justice adopted several low-key amendments to existing laws and military orders which effectively allow fast-tracking of demolitions in the future.

Under this new, concerning legal framework the Israeli military will be allowed to demolish villages in the occupied Palestinian territories without major obstacles and administrative delays, and to impede emergency assistance delivery by NGOs and the International

Committee of the Red Cross to its residents — who, without shelter or water, will be left with no choice but to leave. Area C residents worry that the demolition of Khan al-Ahmar could unleash comprehensive utilisation of this new legal framework and, thus, a wave of house demolitions of unprecedented dimensions.

Act Alliance EU has closely monitored the situation — especially of Khan al-Ahmar and the Area C communities — and brought real-time updates to the attention of EU decision makers (European Union External Action Service, member states and the European Parliament) as new developments occurred.

The High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini and the EU member states in the United Nations Security Council have called upon Israeli authorities to reconsider their decision to demolish Khan al-Ahmar, stressing that the consequences of a demolition would be “very serious and severely threaten the viability of the Two State Solution” — echoing a previous engagement by the largest five member states of the EU.

ACT Alliance EU and its member agencies have also secured a resolution in the European Parliament — representing 500 million citizens — that stands as its strongest rebuke of Israeli settlement policy to date. Besides supporting member states and the EU in doubling down its current diplomatic efforts, it defines a transfer of Khan al-Ahmar as a crime of forcible transfer that would require “a commensurate response” from the EU and asks the EU (in a first) to seek financial compensation for the EU assistance already destroyed.

Promoting differentiation and responsible business behaviour

Between 2012 and 2015, ACT Alliance EU contributed to the process of adoption of several EU measures aimed at excluding Israeli settlements from the privileges it grants to the State of Israel.

Such measures paved the way to codifying into international law in 2016, through a UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution, the obligation incumbent upon all states to distinguish in its bilateral dealings with Israel between sovereign Israel and the settlements, illegal under international law, and of the UNSG to report quarterly to the UNSC on the progress made by the international community on the matter.

In January 2018, the UNSC reported the first two differentiation measures taken by the international community since its adoption and in which ACT Alliance EU was actively involved.

Later in the year, an Israeli wine maker located in an illegal settlement challenged before the Conseil d’Etat (France’s supreme court of appeal for administrative law courts) the validity, under EU law, of the obligation in France to label the origin of goods produced in the settlements as not “from Israel”. In June, the Conseil d’Etat referred the matter to the European Court of Justice.

ACT Alliance EU has continued to bring to the attention of the European Commission and EU member states cases of insufficient implementation of the differentiation requirements in EU trade relations with Israel.

Safeguarding space for civil society, ensuring security of human rights defenders

As institutional checks and balances in Israel are increasingly challenged, Israel’s Strategic Affairs Ministry intensified its pressure on dissenting local and international civil society groups — an issue that fared prominently in the 2018 UPR and its follow-up.

The Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs published a report titled “The Money Trail”, which accuses the EU of “giving millions” to NGOs that have “ties to terror” and promote “boycotts against Israel” — echoing old allegations of the Jerusalem based-group NGO Monitor.

In Palestine in early December 2018, the Palestinian Authority re-started considering legislation that violates the independence of Palestinian NGOs: from requiring NGOs to get prior approval of the Ministry of Interior to access donations, to insisting that NGOs invite representatives of the same ministry to their general assemblies, to giving the ministry representatives the right to veto and to propose NGO board appointments — or face dissolution by ministerial decree.

ACT Alliance EU has kept a close eye on the aforementioned developments and has provided rapid fact-checks and contextual information to institutional actors — especially when MEWG agencies and their local partners were the targets of disinformation campaigns.

The High Representative/Vice President Mogherini strongly rebuffed Minister Erdan saying that “any suggestion of EU involvement in supporting terror or terrorism is unfounded and unacceptable” and that “vague and unsubstantiated accusations serve only to contribute to disinformation campaigns” —

whilst stressing that the EU will continue to stand by civil society organisations that promote respect for human rights and democracy. Furthermore, the Prime Minister of Ireland expressed concern that the report was aimed at creating pressure on European NGOs to avoid issues that the Israeli government sees as controversial.

ACT Alliance EU and member agencies on the ground organised round tables with donor agencies to discuss restrictive developments under both Israeli and Palestinian authorities as well as constructive steps to protect and support human rights defenders.

Looking into the future, standing up for its local partners will become even more important for ACT Alliance EU agencies and will be a test of their commitment to local civil society actors and the localisation agenda.

2018 publications and external references

ACT Alliance EU: The killings of protesters in Gaza demand immediate, independent investigation (May 2018)

<https://bit.ly/2KlxJ1C>

Resolution on the threat of demolition of Khan al-Ahmar and other Bedouin villages (September 2018)

<https://bit.ly/2ua0YiA>

Universal Periodic Review — Israel

<https://bit.ly/2PgM3x4>

EEAS, 24/09/2018, HRC 39 — Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

<https://bit.ly/2PdxYjL>

EU Members’ Joint Statement on Khan al-Ahmar (September 2018)

<https://bit.ly/2J9nFKs>

Refugees and migration



2018 key achievements

EU legislative proposals by the European Parliament incorporated ACT Alliance EU language and input: Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and related files and the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument of the next seven-year EU budget.

ACT Alliance EU addressed a joint hearing of four committees in the European Parliament on external migration financing.

Politico published an article on EU external action and migration co-written by ACT Alliance EU.

ACT Alliance EU co-authored a paper about guiding Civil Society's advocacy position on migration in the proposed external action instrument of the next 7-year EU budget. This has guided CONCORD's work on the topic.

We advocated for legal opinions and impact assessments to accompany the proposed reform of the CEAS which were influential in the negotiations.

To ground our advocacy in programmatic evidence, ACT Alliance EU visited member EU-funded projects in Ethiopia and EU related to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.

Background

2015 and the so-called 'refugee crisis' brought significant change to the EU's approach to migration and asylum internally as well as in its third country relations. The lack of solidarity among EU member states and the contentious political debate about people arriving to the EU led to reform proposals of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and related files. These proposals often put an emphasis on keeping people out or returning them to third countries, while shrinking access to protection

and integration. The EU's ongoing search for new, 'creative' interpretations of human rights, including the right to seek asylum or the right not to be returned to countries that may violate basic human rights (non-refoulement) questioned the EU's basic values and founding principles. Migration as a central policy area for EU common foreign and security policy (CFSP) impacted negatively on the EU's approach to development cooperation. Namely, it resulted in the conditionalisation of development assistance to cooperation on migration; the diversion of aid

to programming reducing the number of people on the move towards the EU; and the obligation to re-admit people to their countries of origin who are returned from the EU.

The European Council and the Commission established the EU Emergency Trust Fund of Africa (EUTF), a new financial instrument largely funded by the European Development Fund (EDF). It 'addresses the root causes of migration' with projects aiming at managing and reducing the number of migrants to Europe. Many of these projects are highly criticised by civil society as well as by the European Court of Auditors. Positively, the fund does have a large envelope of funding for resilience and for self-reliance of displaced populations.

The negotiations of 2018 brought about the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular Migration (GCM). The EU was unable to speak with one voice on the Compacts or negotiate with a respectable mandate. This was due to some members states' non-adoption of the GCM, putting into question the position of the European Union as a bloc which respects human rights and fosters international cooperation.

Since January 2018, ACT Alliance EU has been advocating for the protection of a rights and evidence-based EU asylum and migration policy and aid regime at a time when sustainable, principled migration policy is under continuous pressure and space for principled action is shrinking. Our work has been impactful and ACT Alliance EU and its members' work on asylum and migration has become more visible and prominent among EU institutions, civil society organisations, think tanks and researchers. Our focus on migration and development, migration in the upcoming next EU 7-year budget (MFF),

the external dimension of the CEAS and related files, and dangers of the externalisation and securitisation of migration policy via EU — third country (source and transit) relations have brought successes and shed light on the evidence provided by member organisations.

Our work at EU level ties into the global ACT Alliance strategy and is done in close cooperation with the Migration and Displacement Program coordinated in Geneva.

Through bilateral and joint advocacy, our language has been incorporated into EU legislative proposals. ACT Alliance EU spoke about external migration financing on a joint hearing of four committees of the European Parliament, co-wrote an article for Politico about EU external action and migration, co-authored a paper about migration in the proposed external action instrument of the next EU budget and advocated for legal opinions and impact assessments to accompany the proposed reform of the CEAS and related files.

Migration and development, external dimension of EU asylum and migration policy

Our advocacy on the MFF towards the EU Commission, Council and Parliament, and so far most intensely towards the EP, shows good signs of success. We have been instrumental in shaping the Parliament's language around rights-based asylum and migration policy in external action, fair agreements with third countries and clear funding guidelines for development assistance, for migration and for persons in need of international protection.



CONCORD is a key network for development and relief NGOs including on the topic of migration. In 2018 ACT Alliance EU became a lead member of the CONCORD migration group as well as the migration expert in the working group on the external action aspects of the MFF. Our proactive role in CONCORD, including co-authoring a paper on migration in external action, opened doors for ACT Alliance EU to build relationships with MEPs, the European Parliament's Committee on Development and Committee on Foreign Affairs, the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Commission's DG DEVCO and DG ECHO and Policy Coherence for Development working group of the European Council.

Our prominence as the liaison organisation between the CONCORD MFF work and the European NGO Platform on Asylum and Migration (EPAM)'s ad-hoc MFF working group has allowed us to become a focal point on coordinated advocacy messaging towards the EU Institutions and responsible national authorities.

Moreover, ACT Alliance EU takes the lead in advocacy on migration issues in the negotiations on the future EU-ACP agreement. Our main

concerns relate to the securitisation of migration, diversion of development aid for 'migration management' and conditionalisation of aid linked to cooperation on migration.

Programmatic evidence from ACT Alliance EU members contributed strongly to our advocacy messaging, while the ACT Alliance EU secretariat provided the legal and policy analysis of proposals and EU law which formed the legal basis of the argumentations.

Reform of the Common European Asylum System

ACT Alliance EU is active in joint advocacy on the Common European Asylum System's (CEAS) reform and related issues, as a regular member the European Platform for Asylum and Migration (EPAM) and other CS platforms.

Furthermore, as regular host and active member of a group of faith-based organisations working on asylum and migration, ACT Alliance EU helped produce advocacy tools relating to returns, integration and resettlement in the

framework of the CEAS reform, used as the basis of common work with the Institutions.

Thanks to the many events and meetings related to the CEAS reform, we also built relationships in the European Parliament, especially the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

(LIBE) and in the European Commission, specifically the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs. These have been crucial in our advocacy on several issues: impact assessment about the legality of possible controlled centres for asylum seekers; disembarkation platforms in third countries; the proposed conditions of returns and the responsibilities of the new European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCGA).

The two global compact negotiations: strong cooperation between the Brussels and Geneva secretariats, successful information gathering to support UN-level advocacy

Information about the position of the EU and its member states helped the advocacy work of the Geneva-based ACT Alliance Migration and Displacement program coordinator thanks to ACT Alliance EU's participation in civil society working groups on the Compacts, and the outcomes of meetings with permanent representations and the EEAS which fed into global ACT Alliance's advocacy.

To extend our influence, ACT Alliance EU is also creating a network beyond the EU institutions and locally represented civil society in the think tank 'scene' of Brussels, regularly participating in open and Chatham House discussions.

Refugees and migration

2018 publications and external references

Oxfam letter on detention in CEAS

MFF leading group talking points on NDICI (Concord)

Speech in the European Parliament (Concord)

<https://bit.ly/2VFICCI>

Christian group contribution to Humanitarian visas

MFF leading group amendments to the NDICI regulation proposal (Concord)

Article in Politico (Concord)

<https://politi.co/2qjyv8F>

Christian group position on returns (co-authored, not signed)

<https://bit.ly/2UATHld>

MFF leading group position paper on NDICI (Concord)

ACP group position on the EU negotiating mandate (Concord)

Comments to Council Conclusions for Devex (Concord)

<https://bit.ly/2DfeB51>

2 interviews with journalists about MFF and migration (Concord)

AidWatch Paper comments (Concord)

<https://bit.ly/2CsXJs4>

2018 finances

Membership contributions are our main source of income. We are most grateful to all our members for their continued financial support which is both generous and sustained. Our 2018 expenditure was closely aligned to the revised budget which was approved at the 2018 General Assembly. The 2018 accounts were audited by DGST and partners, Reviseurs d'entreprise of Brussels, Belgium.

	2018 €	2017 €
Income		
Member contributions	742 231	781 284
Other income	7 204	7 351
Unspent funds deferred from previous year	20 189	84 362
Unspent funds deferred to following year		(20 189)
Total income	769 624	852 808
Expenses		
Human resources	640 954	649 292
Office costs	74 517	71 542
Communications	7 705	4 728
Travel & meetings costs	45 549	26 942
Advocacy activities	15 975	21 802
Administrative & other costs	34 354	25 808
Total expenses	819 054	800 114
Net surplus/(loss) for the year	(49 430)	52 694
Reserves at 1 January 2018	382 087	329 393
Reserves at 31 December 2018	332 657	382 087



Brot
für die Welt



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