

TA Consultants United

STAY INDEPENDENT, BUT NOT ALONE

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Mr. L. Sarazin
Head of Unit Legal Affairs
DG Development and Cooperation
EuropeAid Co-operation Office,
European Commission,
B - 1049 Brussels,
Belgium

Date: 28 June 2011
Subject: Draft Position Paper - SoE&A

Dear Mr Sarazin,

Please find our response to the Draft Position Paper (DPP) below and in the attachments.

This document does not meet our requirements and we wish to explain why.

In October and November of last year we sent EuropeAid papers describing our concerns with the present system, notably the use of the Statement of Exclusivity and Availability, and our proposals for change that would benefit all stakeholders in the project cycle. These proposals were supported by around, at that time, 700 independent experts from every country in the EU and many more. There are many more now.

At our meeting with the Director General EuropeAid and his staff on 11 November, we were told that because our proposals were considered to be fairly fundamental, EuropeAid would need time to examine them. We accepted this and sent follow-up documents setting out our more detailed proposals for change, based on our discussion. We also later sent papers covering specific issues, including - pertaining to this specific issue:

- A review of current CV evaluation procedures;
- A review of the position of women experts and the effects of the present system on family life;

All these inputs, together with other subjects for EuropeAid's attention, raised very serious issues, but EuropeAid has not yet responded to them.

During our joint meeting on 17 February EuropeAid officials described immediate measures that the Commission would be taking in the short-term and we were told that a Working Group would examine all proposals for longer-term, more fundamental reforms.

However, the DPP does not address any of the substantive issues we have raised over the last eight months, and it does not discuss what EuropeAid told us it would examine. It offers no prospect for a significant reform of the present unfair, unnecessarily and overly-bureaucratic, inefficient approach to project design and implementation. Furthermore, when we asked EuropeAid if the Working Group was able to provide the objective data that supported the recommendations in the DPP, the Working Group was unable to do so, which indicates that it is not the result of a proper consultation process.

We are unhappy about this situation. Accordingly, we propose to engage in serious, open and fair negotiations with EuropeAid to change the current dysfunctional system. Our proposals should serve as the basis for these negotiations. These meetings should start not later than 15 September.

We have prepared detailed comments on the DPP, which are in the attached documents.

Kind regards,



Henry Leerentveld



Stephen Dewar