

Development Co-operation

What do I need to know before I start?

The development policy of the European Union had no specific legal basis before the Treaty of Maastricht (1993) but initiatives in the field had already emerged from the Treaty of Rome (1957) onwards. The first European Development Fund (EDF) was implemented in 1958 and the policy gradually developed through several agreements between the Community and former colonies of Member States. The common trade policy provided to the Community an instrument that could be used for developmental purposes and a generalized system of preferences – granting tariff preferences - was established in 1971 for action in all developing countries. The first “Memorandum on a Community Development Cooperation Policy” published by the Commission in July 1971 and subsequent discussions led to the common decision proclaimed at the Paris Summit in October 1972 to progressively implement an overall policy of development cooperation. It is however only the Treaty on European Union, in 1993, that provided a specific legal basis for the Community to act in development policy. The Treaty clearly laid down the objectives of development policy, including the sustainable economic and social development of developing countries, the gradual integration of these countries into the global economy as well as the fight against poverty. Development cooperation was also to contribute to the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law and to the protection of fundamental freedoms. Nowadays, the Directorate-General ‘International Cooperation and Development’ formulates the European Union's development policy abroad and EU development action is based on the European Consensus on Development, endorsed on 20 December 2005 by both EU Member States and EU institutions.

Languages: Please be aware that although most documents available in our Archives are in French, English or German, some may be in other EU languages. In order to check the languages used in a fonds, please refer to our holdings page. Additionally, some fonds may contain a few files in a language other than those listed in the description.

What can I find at the HAEU?

Related specifically to European development co-operation policy building and policy-making, the fonds available at the HAEU are:

1) *EU institutions*

[Council of Ministers](#)

In the HAEU inventory, matters related to development cooperation discussed in the Council of Ministers are assembled in the sections for relations with third countries and in those for external relations in general. The fonds of the Council of Ministers being organized by year, you need to browse the fonds of each separate year to access the specific sections (example for the year [1958](#) and [1970](#)). It is also very relevant to consult the Council's sub-fonds [Etats africains et malgache associés](#) and [Pays africains, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique \(ACP\) du Commonwealth](#), concerning the Community's relations with developing countries and Member States' overseas territories.

[Commission](#)

In the Commission's fonds, you can find a specific section for the [DGVIII Développement de l'outre-mer \(puis Aide au développement\)](#). In addition, you might want to look into the sections related to the [Secretariat-General](#) and the [Cabinets](#).

[European Parliament](#)

Of utmost relevance is to consult the fonds of the [parliamentary organs for development-cooperation](#). In addition, concerning the early years of the Parliament, you can look into the proceedings and reports of the [parliamentary commission for political affairs and external relations](#), which includes discussions on cooperation development issues in relation to Member States' overseas territories at the time, as well as the sections for the different parliamentary commissions for development cooperation ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)). For later years, you can look into the reports and proceedings of the parliamentary commission for development cooperation (for the [1st](#), [2nd](#), and [3rd](#) legislature).

[European Court of Auditors](#)

You might find it interesting to consult the ECA's [annual reports](#) (1977-1997), [special reports](#) (1978-1991) ([example](#)) and [opinions](#) (1977-1997) as well as [internal documents](#), including [information documents](#) (1977-1994) and [working documents](#) (1977-1994).

[European Investment Bank](#)

It could be worthwhile to consult the sub-fonds that includes the [annual reports](#) as well as the sub-fonds '[Aides, dons et subsides exceptionnels](#)' and '[Publications](#)'. In addition, you might want

to look into the section devoted to [EIB projects between 1959 and 1971](#), in particular those [projects signed with associated African and Malagasy states](#).

[Economic and Social Committee](#)

Similarly to the fonds of the Council of Ministers, the inventory is organized by years, each includes a special section that concerns the Community's relations with Member States' overseas territories (example for the year [1965](#)).

2) *Corporate bodies*

[Organisation for European Economic Cooperation \(OEEC\)](#)

The fonds of the OEEC includes several files relating to development cooperation in Europe, specifically in the sections related to [financial assistance to less-developed countries](#) and to the work of the OEEC's [Overseas Territories Committee](#).

[European Space Agency](#)

The ESA's fonds are also relevant to consult, particularly the section dedicated to ESA's [International Relations Advisory Group and Committee \(IRAG/IRAC/IRC\)](#), which includes numerous files (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)) concerning the role of ESA in development co-operation and to its relations with the Community's institutions in this context.

3) *Individuals*

[Emile Noel](#)

In Noel's private fonds, you can find a specific section pertaining to the Community's [external relations](#) including files on [EU development policy](#), but also his notes on the European Council and Commission meetings, as well as documents on the [work of the different DGs](#) of the Commission, during his time as Secretary-General.

[Angel Viñas](#)

Viñas' [fonds](#) includes files relating to [development aid](#) but it can also be useful to look into the general section on [external policy](#) which touches upon different aspects of development cooperation including [conflict prevention](#).

[Philip Lowe](#)

Lowe's fonds includes a section concerning his role in the [DG for Development](#) (1996-2000), in particular the files on the [renegotiation of the Lomé Convention](#), files on [EU development policy](#), as well as documents regarding the [restructuring of the DG for Development](#).

[Giulio Fossi](#)

Fossi held several positions in the field of development cooperation and his experiences are imperative in understanding the development of an EU development cooperation policy. His private fonds includes files on relations between the "Fondation de France" and less-developed countries (LDC's) through the "[Comité de Tiers Monde](#)" and a section relating to Fossi's work in the [Society for International Development \(SID\)](#), which is an international, non-profit educational and scientific organization providing a forum for the exchange of ideas on important economic and social development in modernizing societies. It also includes a section related to the [OECD Development Centre](#) for external relations, which served as a bridge between the OECD and non-member countries of Africa, Asia and Latin-America and provided a forum for informal dialogue with developing countries.

[Klaus Meyer](#)

It can prove useful to consult also the private archives of Klaus Meyer, which includes various files pertaining to the work of the [Commission's DG for Development](#) and of the [OEEC in development co-operation](#), including in [OEEC's Committee for development aid](#).

4) *Oral History*

In addition, take a look at the [oral history holdings](#), which comprise numerous interviews with European politicians and officials, including important figures active in the formulation of a development co-operation policy at the European level. Below, you can find a list of persons interviewed who addressed the topic of development cooperation.

[Dieter Frisch](#)

[Charles Van Der Vaeren](#)

[Bernard Ryelandt](#)

[Emiliano Fossati](#)

[Eduard Weimar](#)

[Hans Carle](#)

[Alan Pratley](#)

[Amadeo Brusasco](#)

[Wim Blonk](#)

[Robert Cox](#)

[Tue Rohrsted](#)

[Claude Cheysson](#)

[Jean Chapperon](#)

[Jacques Ferrandi](#)

[Jean Durieux](#)

[Michael O'Kennedy](#)

[Pierre Cros](#)

[Umberto Stefani](#)

[Johannes Westhoff](#)

[Ursula Thiele](#)

[Francis Bator](#)

[Manuel Marín González](#)

[Detalmo Pirzio-Biroli](#)

[Henri-Marie Varenne](#)

[Jean-François Deniau](#)