



EUROPEAN UNION
Delegation of the European Commission
to the United Nations

Statement by

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Member of the European Commission

High Level Plenary Meeting of the 60th Session of the United Nations

General Assembly

Check against Delivery

**Statement by Dr Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Member of the European Commission, to the
High Level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly,
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Mr President, Mr Secretary General,

Standing here in this great hall brings back happy memories of my previous work here; but today I am speaking in my current capacity, as European Commissioner for External Relations. And from this vantage point, on behalf of the European Community, I welcome the promising results of this meeting. President Ping and his team have been untiring in pushing for a worthwhile outcome. And none of it would have been possible without Secretary General Kofi Annan's leadership and vision.

The European Community is happy that we could contribute to this outcome together with many others. How do we now see the results? Do they meet our original aspirations?

Not everything has been attained. Compromises were inevitable. But we have laid a solid foundation as we seek to re-build the UN and to make it capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

Development, security and human rights are the three pillars of our common vision of the future. How do we measure up against that vision?

When it comes to **development assistance**, the EU leads the world. The European Community and EU member states provide some 55% of the world's overseas development assistance. From the outset, we have led the efforts to increase this assistance to 0.7% of GNI by 2015. We have set for ourselves an intermediate goal of 0.56% by 2010. Today we provide some 43 billion euro a year in ODA. This total will increase by another 20 billion euro over the next five years. At least 50% of this increase will go to Africa. This is not negligible! We very much hope to see other donors following our lead.

The other side of this coin of course is good use of these resources: it means that donors have to make increased efforts to coordinate and harmonize - another field where Europe is taking the lead - and that our partner countries, with our support, make a serious effort to establish and reinforce good governance.

Trade is also key to development. The WTO Doha Development Agenda can bring benefit to us all and in particular to developing countries. The European Community remains firmly committed to making a success of the WTO negotiations, including by the elimination of export subsidies. Our serious offer made earlier this year still stands. We hope that others will follow with similar commitments, on export as well as domestic subsidies. As you know, we have worked for a more ambitious outcome on trade at this Summit, including on immediate duty-free and quota-free market access for all exports of the least developed countries. The European Community's "Everything But Arms" initiative has been in place for more than three years; and it is time that others follow. Finally, we also need more efforts on trade capacity building. The

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