

Fair Trade Advocacy Office's Submission to the Local Authorities in Development Issue Paper Consultation

15 November 2012

This document presents the Fair Trade Advocacy Office submission to the European Commission's Issue Paper "Local Authorities in Development". The Fair Trade Advocacy Office (FTAO) speaks out for Fair Trade and trade justice with the aim to improve the livelihoods of marginalized producers and workers - especially in the South. Based in Brussels, the office is a joint initiative of Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International FLO (www.fairtrade.net), the World Fair Trade Organisation WFTO (www.wfto.com) and the European Fair Trade Association EFTA. (www.european-fair-trade-association.org); through these three networks the FTAO represents over 2 million Fair Trade producers and workers from 65 countries, tens of millions of consumers, 24 labelling initiatives, over 500 specialized Fair Trade importers, 4,000 world shops and more than 100,000 volunteers

Fair Trade is a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers – especially in the South. Fair Trade Organizations, backed by consumers, are engaged actively in supporting producers, awareness raising and in campaigning for changes in the rules and practice of conventional international trade.

Answer to Question 1

The International Fair Trade Towns Campaign (bringing together today over 1100 towns in 24 countries) is a very good example of local authorities partnerships with civil society to achieve development outcomes and the United Nation Millennium Development Goals. It started in Europe and it aims now to expand to the Global South.

More information: www.fairtradetowns.org

It is very important that the future EU policies of Local Authorities in Development support:

1. partnerships of not only South-South Local Authorities cooperation, but also North-South and trilateral
2. partnerships between different types of actors (local authorities, civil society)

Answer to Question 2

The International Fair Trade Towns Campaign launched on 10 November 2012 the "Fair Trade beyond 2015" declaration, which is a small advocacy project that aims at garnering the support and signature of town leaders across the world for a new global development framework that:

- aims to create a just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person can realise their human rights, fulfil their potential and live free from poverty. This framework must be based on the three pillars of sustainable development (social, environmental, economic) and must ensure that all actors, at all levels, put in place coherent policies for development.

- addresses the need to reform trade rules and practices with the aim to overcome inequalities and empower small producers and workers in developing countries to trade their way out of poverty.

- supports partnerships for development between governments, local authorities, business and citizens, such as Fair Trade, which ensure market access for disadvantaged producers, guarantee sustainable livelihoods, respect labour standards, phase out child labour and encourage environmentally-sustainable farming and production practices.

The names of the town leaders that will sign this declaration will be sent to Commissioner Piebalgs and other participants of the United Nation high-level meeting on the post-2015 global development framework in September 2013.

More information should be available soon under: www.fairtrade-advocacy.org/beyond2015

Answer to Question 24

It is important that local authorities are not undermined the policy space to decide their public procurement policy. The EU should not limit their capacity to choose what products (for example, produced by small producers) or services (for example, employing unemployed people). EU aid should not introduce conditions that require public procurement to European (as opposed to local) companies.

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The FTAO speaks out before the EU for Fair Trade and Trade Justice with the aim to improve the livelihoods of marginalised producers and workers in the South. The FTAO is a joint EU policy office for Fairtrade International, the European Fair Trade Association and the World Fair Trade Organization-Europe; through these three networks the FTAO represents over 2 million Fair Trade producers and workers from 65 countries, tens of millions of consumers, 24 labelling initiatives, over 500 specialized Fair Trade importers, 4,000 world shops and more than 100,000 volunteers.