

Brussels, 7 February 2025

Letter to the attention of

Kaja Kallas, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Jozef Síkela, Commissioner for International Partnerships

Hadja Lahbib, Commissioner for Equality, Commissioner of preparedness and crisis management

Adam Szapka, Presidency of the Council of the EU

Call for urgent action and debate on the global financing gap for development at the upcoming informal meeting of ministers for development policy

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, call to include on the agenda of the informal meeting of ministers for development policy 10-11 February 2025 the US' budget cuts under USAID, and to propose concrete actions on the global financing gap for development.

The decision by the Trump administration to freeze billions in US development aid is not only having an immediate impact on vulnerable populations and aid workers worldwide, it directly threatens numerous values we hold at the core of our European democracy. With an annual budget of over \$40 billion, USAID is one of the largest organisations dedicated to development aid, reaching 160 countries and regions. Among its highest recipients are the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ukraine. USAID even works within the European Union to assist in shoring up our democracies against external threats. It also makes crucial contributions in all EU candidate countries, where USAID funds contribute to the implementation of EU acquis.

USAID contributes to global development, and much more. It provides vital support for rule of law, elections, democracy, anti-corruption, fundamental freedoms, protection of human rights, and the environment to name a few critical areas.

The reform of USAID and the announced budget cuts are not isolated issues; they are part of a global trend of backtracking on development aid, marked by significant reductions in Official Development Assistance (ODA) budgets. This includes vast cuts to development budgets in EU Member States. Reducing ODA budgets has dire consequences for NGO presence and contributes to the shrinking of the civic space, further risking the creation of opportunities for destabilizing actors to fill the void. In the current global context, we need strong international partnerships based on our shared values.

As it becomes clearer which USAID programs will receive reduced funding or be entirely discontinued, it is imperative for the EU and its Member States to show solidarity with people in need, NGOs and aid workers. We ask the EU to take a strong stance in favour of solidarity and strong relations with other countries.

We therefore call on the European Commission, and the Member States to

- Address this issue with priority during the upcoming informal meeting of ministers for development policy, engage in discussions on the matter in other relevant sessions;
- Make an inventory of the present and potential global impact of the full package of announced cuts, through the network of EU Delegations;
- Urge Member States to follow through on their commitments, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 0.7% UN target for ODA, and provide concrete steps on how to achieve these targets;
- Increase efforts to bridge the global financing gap on development aid, through cooperation with partner countries and by showing solidarity with people in need globally.

Sincerely,

MEP Marit Maij, S&D
MEP Thijs Reuten, S&D
MEP Udo Bullmann, S&D
MEP Barry Andrews, Renew
MEP Tineke Strik, Greens
MEP Catarina Vieira, Greens
MEP Marta Temido, S&D
MEP Estelle Ceulemans, S&D
MEP Merja Kyllönen, The Left
MEP Dan Barna, Renew
MEP Carla Tavares, S&D
MEP Kathleen van Brempt, S&D
MEP Marie Toussaint, Greens
MEP Sergey Lagodinsky, Greens
MEP Estrella Galán, The Left
MEP Villy Søvndal, Greens
MEP Rasmus Nordqvist, Greens
MEP Kira Marie Peter-Hansen, Greens
MEP Nikos Papandreou, S&D
MEP Matjaž Nemec, S&D
MEP Hana Jalloul Muro, S&D
MEP Vivien Costanzo, S&D
MEP Bernard Guetta, Renew
MEP Abir Al-Sahlani, Renew
MEP Francisco Assis, S&D
MEP Hannes Heide, S&D
MEP Bas Eickhout, Greens
MEP Kim van Sparrentak, Greens
MEP Murielle Laurent, S&D
MEP Marco Tarquinio, S&D
MEP Ingeborg ter Laak, EPP
MEP Chloé Ridel, MEP S&D
MEP Mohammed Chahim, S&D
MEP Lara Wolters, S&D
MEP Sebastião Bugalho, EPP
MEP Mounir Satouri, Greens
MEP Damien Carême, The Left
MEP Leire Pajín, S&D
MEP Erik Marquardt, Greens
MEP Vlad Voiculescu, Renew
MEP Vicent Marzà Ibáñez, Greens
MEP Hilde Vautmans, Renew
MEP Christophe Clergeau, S&D
MEP Cristina Guarda, Greens
MEP Charles Goerens, Renew
MEP Cecilia Strada, S&D
MEP Alessandra Moretti, S&D
MEP Michał Kobosko, Renew
MEP Brando Benifei, S&D

MEP Daniel Freund, Greens
MEP Tonino Picula, S&D
MEP Reinier van Lanschot, Greens
MEP Robert Biedroń, S&D
MEP Virginijus Sinkevičius, Greens
MEP Maria Walsh, EPP
MEP Lucia Yar, Renew
MEP Lena Schilling, Greens
MEP Krzysztof Smiszek, S&D
MEP Madjoulaine Sbai, Greens
MEP Sara Matthieu, Greens