



# CALL FOR EVIDENCE FOR THE BALANCE OF COMPETENCES REVIEW: DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND HUMANITARIAN AID REPORT

## BRIEFING NOTE

### The Balance of Competences Review

- The UK Government launched the [balance of competences review](#) on 12 July. The review will assess the scope of the EU's competences (the power to act in particular areas conferred on it by the EU Treaties), how they are used, how they affect the UK, and what that means for the UK's national interest.
- The review will comprise a series of around 30 reports, each assessing a particular area of EU competence using evidence submitted by external stakeholders. The reports are designed to be analytical and informative but will not put forward any policy recommendations.
- The Department for International Development (DFID) is leading the [Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Report](#), one of the first six reports being produced. The remaining reports will be produced in three waves finishing in autumn 2014. The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) is leading on the Foreign Policy Report, which is also part of the first wave of reports.

### The Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Report: Call for Evidence

- The call for evidence for this report opened on 6 December 2012 and will end on **Friday 1 March 2013**. The final report will be published in summer 2013 following ministerial clearance.
- We are seeking factual, objective evidence from a wide range of organisations and individuals, including the UK Parliament, Devolved Administrations, EU institutions, EU member states, non-EU donor countries, UN agencies, international financial institutions, global funds, civil society, the private sector, and national governments and partner organisations operating in countries where both the UK and the EU are active in the areas of development and humanitarian aid.
- To assist you in preparing evidence, please first read the attached [call for evidence paper](#). The paper sets out in detail the envisaged scope of the report and contains an annex outlining the legal framework for EU competence in these areas. It is worth noting that in the areas of development cooperation and humanitarian aid the EU has what is called a 'shared parallel competence'. This means that the EU has competence to carry out activities and conduct a common policy, but the exercise of that competence does not prevent Member States (including the UK) from exercising theirs. For the UK this means that while a significant portion of our budget is spent through the EU (roughly £1.2 billion, or over 15%), we are of course still free to act as we wish in our bilateral programmes.
- In addition to covering EU competence in development cooperation and humanitarian aid, the Development Report will also cover some aspects of trade, security and stability, neighbourhood and enlargement, and other related policy areas. The main issues likely to be raised in the report include:

- The advantages/disadvantages for the UK of working through the EU as compared with working independently or through other multilateral organisations (UN, World Bank, etc.);
  - The need for transparency and value for money in development spending;
  - The coherence and complementarity between development and other policy areas;
  - The external representation of the UK in international organisations and fora (UN, OECD, etc.); and
  - Future challenges or opportunities facing the UK/EU in these areas.
- You can submit evidence by email to [balanceofcompetence@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:balanceofcompetence@dfid.gov.uk), or via our [online survey](#). Your submission should seek to respond to any or all of the questions set out in the call for evidence paper, as you see fit. You can refer to the attached one page question sheet for your convenience.
  - We will expect to publish your response and the name of your organisation unless you ask us not to. We will not publish your name unless you wish it included. Please note that even if you ask us to keep your contribution confidential we might have to release it in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

#### **Further information**

- Balance of Competences Review homepage (Foreign & Commonwealth Office website): <https://www.gov.uk/review-of-the-balance-of-competences>
- Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Report homepage (DFID website): <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/What-we-do/Who-we-work-with/The-European-Union/>
- Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Report online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6SGQFYH>