



## CELEP update

### Table of Contents

1. Ongoing EU advocacy activities with the European Institutions.....	1
a. European Parliament.....	1
b. European Commission.....	2
2. Policy briefs .....	3
3. Annual Meeting .....	3
4. Other events – activities currently being prepared .....	4
a. EC-EP event in September.....	4
b. Development briefing in Uganda in 2015 .....	4
c. European Development Days.....	4
d. Consultancy for EU policy environment.....	4
5. For your action .....	4

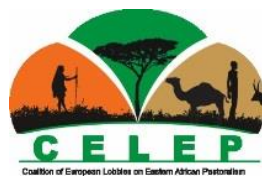
## 1. Ongoing EU advocacy activities with the European Institutions

As elections just took place very recently, an entire new parliament was elected. The mission for the coming months therefore is to find new deputies and officials that can support our cause. Unfortunately, parliamentarians are on summer break until the end of August. Therefore meeting them face-to-face will have to wait until the beginning of September. However, contacts have been made with several MEPs and with the Commission following up on the meeting of the core-group in Brussels in April.

### a. European Parliament

You can find the entire list of new European deputies on the [website of the parliament](#). As you can see the main deputies we worked with either did not get reelected or did not present themselves. Fiona Hall, Thijs Berman and Michèle Striffler are no longer deputies and therefore we need to identify new ones. However, there are two others we worked with that did get reelected: Bart Staes (BEL) and Catherine Bearder (UK).

Bart Staes, though very interested in the subject of pastoralism, is no longer part of the development committee (responsible for drafting the Parliament's position on development issues and designing development policies). Engaging with him therefore seems less interesting. Catherine Bearder on the other hand did take up her mandate within the DEVE committee as a substitute. We have been in contact with her in the framework of the JPA and the resolution on pastoralism that was approved



last year. We also organized a visit of a cattle market for her and MEP Hall in Ethiopia. She is also very interested in wildlife so if we can connect both, we should certainly have a possibility to rally her in favor of our cause. We have been trying to contact her and hope to get a meeting with her early September.

Other interesting MEPs that have been identified are the coordinators for the opinions for the different political parties in the development committee. These coordinators define the position of their political fraction within the European parliament concerning development issues. The coordinators for the four major political parties include:

- For the European Peoples' Party (biggest): Davor Stier from Croatia
- For the Socialists and Democrats: Norbert Neuser from Germany
- For the Greens: Heidi Hautala from Finland
- For the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats: Charles Goerens from Luxemburg

I have sent emails to all of them to get an appointment and inform them on CELEP and pastoralism in East Africa. So far, only one of them has replied (Hautala) and we will probably meet her early September. There has been a bit of a delay in engaging with the new MEPs because it was only decided about two weeks before the parliament closed down for summer holidays which MEPs would join which committee. This also means that one of the previous pledges, the idea of submitting a pilot project with the new MEPs, was not realized. As contacts with MEPs will hopefully evolve positively, this idea of having a pilot project submitted by one of the MEPS, can still be pursued.

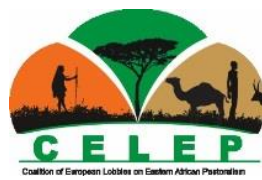
Besides the "old" MEPs and the coordinators, we also have established contacts with another MEP who already called to book a meeting early in September to get more information on CELEP and on pastoralism in East Africa. Her name is Kathleen Van Brempt and she is a substitute member of the DEVE committee and part of the Socialist and Democrats party.

My intention is to organize a meeting with all of the interested parliamentarians the day before the annual meeting or the day just after. As the DEVE committee is meeting during our annual meeting, the likelihood of having all of the MEPs mentioned above in Brussels at that particular time is quite high. This however can only be confirmed once the parliamentarians have returned from their summer holidays.

#### **b. European Commission**

Contacts with the European Commission and especially with DG DEVCO are rather good. In April, Roberto Aparicio Martin – from unit C3, responsible for pastoralism - attended the meeting of the core group and informed us on the Commission's activities regarding pastoralism. In September they will publish a technical note on pastoralism that will be used as a reference document by the EC and all of the delegations in the partner countries of the EU. CELEP has asked to be included in the process and will be contacted in September to give its' input to the document.

In light of the core-group meeting in April, officials of DG ECHO (responsible for humanitarian aid) were also invited. They declined the invitation and informed us that according to them pastoralism



was of importance for development aid because “Pastoralism should be supported by Development actors in a long-term perspective”. They stated that “pastoralists as such are not a population that ECHO focuses on, unless this group is the victim of a major crisis and is deprived of any sources of income as during the 2011 Drought in the Horn of Africa». According to some of our members and partners however, this does not reflect the position of ECHO on the ground and therefore should not be considered as a final position of DG ECHO. Following up on this, it might be necessary to develop actions to target ECHO officials at the Brussels level.

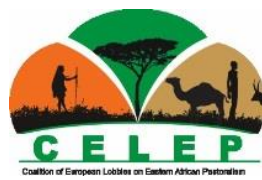
## 2. Policy briefs

To assist us in our advocacy work, we need tools. We already have some tools – position papers – that we can use for advocacy purposes. However, the existing policy briefs haven’t been adapted in a while. This is why we have sent them again to all CELEP members and partners to update them. Afterwards, a graphical designer will be contacted to work on a template for CELEP policy briefs. Then the adapted policy briefs will be adapted according to this new graphical chart and laid-out with photos of pastoralists in East Africa. Next to adapting the existing policy briefs, Huig Markus (PHD at WUR) is currently working on a policy brief on land for CELEP. Once this policy brief is finished, it should also be a useful document for advocacy purposes.

## 3. Annual Meeting

We have also been working on preparing our annual meeting which will take place in Aachen, Germany at MISEREOR’s headquarters from Tuesday September 23-25. Together with VSF-G we have advanced quite a lot in organizing this meeting.

- **Funding.** It has been confirmed that we will get funding from MISEREOR to organize the AM. This will allow to pay for travel and accommodation of more EA partners than initially foreseen, but also to pay for lunch on all three days, coffee breaks, etc.
- **Facilitator.** Paul Mundy has agreed to facilitate the meeting. His work will be pivotal to work on our action plan for next year. Especially on day 2 we will work with him according to a specific methodology to work on our action plan.
- **EA Partners.** Since we will have the funding from MISEREOR, we will invite more partners. As of now, we have already received the confirmation from several East African partners that also participated at previous meetings such as Reconcile, COPACSO and PFE. Shoba Liban from Pastoralists Women for Health and Education and focal point for PDNKP in Isiolo, Kenya has also confirmed that she will be attending. We also invited Daoud Tari from RAP to attend which he also confirmed. Next to them, we are currently also trying to find out if we can have someone from Sudan to participate. We have received some contacts through Jan Vossen from Oxfam Novib and are trying to get in touch with them. We might still try to invite a representative from South Sudan as well.
- **Side-event for MISEREOR staff.** We agreed that we would have some sort of presentation for the MISEREOR staff. Together with Dr. Atsbaha Gebr-Selassie, we agreed that it would be interesting to have a presentation on good practices of water and pasture management.



So far everything is going good to prepare the annual meeting and we are confident that we will have a good meeting. In case you (as a celep EU member) would still like to register for the annual meeting, you can still do so by getting in touch with Cornelia Heine from VSF-G. She can also send you some suggestions for accommodation near the conference venue. For those who submitted a registration form before August 14, hotel bookings have been made. You will receive more detailed information on accommodation and also a detailed agenda for the meeting at the end of the month.

#### **4. Other events – activities currently being prepared**

##### **a. EC-EP event in September**

Since there are a lot of partners coming to attend the annual meeting, it is important to make use of this opportunity to engage with Brussels EU officials and deputies. That is why we will invite partners to come to Brussels prior to the annual meeting and ask them to present/participate in meetings with the Brussels EU officials and deputies. So far **a lunch conference at the infopoint of the European Commission on Monday September 22** has already been confirmed. We are also trying to arrange for a meeting with the deputies mentioned in the above and/or with ECHO representatives in Brussels. This has yet to be confirmed. Once the parliament is back from Summer holidays, this will become much clearer.

##### **b. Development briefing in Uganda in 2015**

We have established a first contact with CTA to organize a regional briefing and had a meeting in June. We have also informed the CTA people that our partners will be in Brussels on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and they might be interested to meet them to discuss possibilities to organize a regional meeting in Uganda in 2015. Prior to the first meeting with CTA, we worked on a concept note which can be downloaded [here](#).

##### **c. European Development Days**

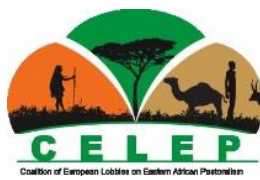
So far it is unclear when and if the EDD's will take place in 2014. Just recently we have contacted the organizers to get some more information but we have yet to receive an answer. With CELEP, we can however already start to think on what subject related to pastoralism we would like to be addressed at the meeting and which speakers we would like to invite.

##### **d. Consultancy for EU policy environment**

To prepare for the next annual meeting in Aachen, we made TORs to look for a consultant to help us identify lobby opportunities at the EU level in the coming year. The consultant will be asked to make an analysis of ongoing and future policy processes and procedures that we can try to influence through our advocacy work. We have sent the TORs to some particular Brussels based consultancy firms and are currently waiting for their reply. The focal point will present the result of the consultancy at the annual meeting in Aachen.

#### **5. For your action**

- If any of the European members still wish to register for the annual meeting, please do so as soon as possible by sending an email to Cornelia Heine: [cornelia.heine@toge.de](mailto:cornelia.heine@toge.de)



- If EU members have a connection through their Brussels liaison office or in another way with one of the above mentioned EU-deputies or with other EU-deputies, please inform the focal point.
- If you wish to contribute to updating the existing policy briefs, please do so **before the end of August**. You can find them [here](#).

**Do not hesitate to contact me for any remarks or comments on [k.vantroos@vsf-belgium.org](mailto:k.vantroos@vsf-belgium.org)**