



European Commission
To: Ms. Francesca Mosca
Director for Sub-Saharan Africa and Horizontal ACP Matters/DEVCO-E
Rue de la LOI 41
1040 BRUXELLES
Belgium

The Hague, 14th of September 2012

Ref: iba/September/2012

Subject: Progress in relation to the development of an EC strategy for pastoralism in Africa

Dear Ms. Francesca Mosca,

On the 22^d of February of this year a number of CELEP members (Coalition of European lobbies on Eastern African Pastoralism¹) participated in the Policy Briefing organised by CTA, on “*New challenges and opportunities for pastoralism in ACP countries*”. The Briefing was held in Brussels and co-organised by the African Union Commission, the European Commission (DG DEVCO) and the ACP Secretariat. CELEP also was one of the organisations that assisted CTA to organise this important and well attended policy briefing. On behalf of the European Commission, you participated in this meeting too.

All CELEP members present welcomed your clear, well informed and enthusiastic presentation on pastoralism. It expressed the European Commission’s , and specifically DG DEVCO’s stance, that pastoralism is not a marginal livelihood system. Quite the contrary, it underlined that pastoralism is the backbone of dry land economies, providing income and food to globally more than 200 million people. It however also emphasized that for pastoralism to remain productive and to further develop its economic potential, it is crucial that governmental policies and practices, at all levels, should be supported and facilitated. A crucial element in such policies should be a regional, cross-border approach and the facilitation of livestock mobility. This links to the words you spoke about the many threats to pastoralism in most African countries, among which are (inappropriate) policies and land loss and because of this the importance of a more supportive political environment. You further mentioned that rural development is

¹ <http://www.celep.info>

high on the EC's list and referred to the EC's '*Agenda for Change*', within which supporting pastoralism will be part of the EC's sustainable development objectives.

In line with the content of your presentation, and in line with the AU's Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa, CELEP thinks it is strategically important that the EC further develops a policy to support and strengthen pastoralism in Africa's dry lands. Possible CELEP recommendations for such an EC policy are:

- Develop a long-term overall vision and approach on how to strengthening the economic development of the arid and semi-arid areas—recognizing mobile pastoralism as a production system with high comparative advantage—in the framework of the programs for food security, climate change, the national indicative programs and other relevant EU policies such as the '*Agenda for Change*';
- The EU Rural Development Policy mentions pastoralists as vulnerable people but should include them as significant economic actors offering great potential return to investments;
- Acknowledge, in view of the EU Land Guidelines, the need for innovation in tenure legislation, to reflect the way that land is effectively used by men and women in pastoral production (with particular attention to supporting policies on mobility of livestock within and between countries);
- Promote, with African governments and international donors, the imaginative development of infrastructure, markets and public services (particularly health and education) in forms that make them easily and sustainably accessible to mobile pastoral producers. The Tool for EC Cooperation with Indigenous Peoples in ACP countries recommends involving pastoralists in the design and review of the Country Strategy Papers. Pastoralists' rights should be part of Art. 8 political dialogues with African countries.

The EC already has developed policies on the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. Furthermore, we were informed that a Technical Note from EuropeAID on the theme of sustainable pastoralism is in the pipeline. This Note among others received inputs from your former employee Michele Nori. In relation to the latter we would like to ask you about the status of this Note as well as about the contact-details of the new EC Officer in charge of this theme. If needed, CELEP members and partners are always willing to assist the EC, for instance via our pastoralist partner network in Eastern Africa, to further formulate this crucial EC document.

Finally, one of the CELEP members (VSF Belgium) is organising the CELEP annual meeting in Brussels between the 3^d and 5th of October 2012. CELEP representatives from the South and Europe will participate in this meeting. It would be an honour if you could (partly) be present during this meeting. So that we can use this opportunity to further discuss the EC's engagement in relation to supporting pastoralism. As the organiser, VSF Belgium will send you an invitation for this purpose.

Hoping to have informed you sufficiently and looking forward to receive your reaction.

Yours sincerely,
On behalf of CELEP,

I. Barmentlo

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