

High-Level Conference on Property Rights

The missing key to eradicating poverty

Chaired by

Nirj Deva DL MEP, Vice President of the Development Committee and Author of the EP Report on Property Rights

&

Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development

DRAFT AGENDA

Wednesday, 9 April 2014

European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm (Room PHS 3C 050) Opening Session:

- **Nirj Deva MEP, Vice-President Development Committee**
- **Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development**
- **HE Blaise Compaore, President Burkina Faso**
- **The Rt Hon Justine Greening MP, Secretary of State for International Development, United Kingdom (To Be Confirmed)**

3:00 - 4:00 pm (Room PHS 3C 050) Panel 1: Good governance in land management

Speakers:

- **Klaus Deininger, Lead Economist and Land Tenure Specialist, World Bank**
- **Steven Lawry, DAI - *Different forms of land tenure systems and land rights***
- **Duncan Pruett, Oxfam**
- **Madiodio Niassé, Director International Land Coalition**
- **Jean-Luc Francois, French Agency for Development**

4:00 - 4 30 pm - Coffee Break - in front of room A5E2

4:30-5:30 (Room A5E2) Panel 2: Improving land governance in practice

Speakers:

- **Nigel Thomson, Sennior Associate, Tetra Tech**
- **Tiernan Mennen, Chemonics**
- **Clayton Schaefer, Director Globaland**
- **Hendrik Westerbeek, Property Rights lawyer, Dutch Cadaster**
- **Prof Stig Enemark, FIG Honorary President**

5:30-6:30 Panel 3: Looking ahead: Challenges for the EU and the international development community

Speakers:

- **Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director General, FAO**
- **Joan C. Kagwanja, Chief, Land Policy Initiative, UNECA**
- **Solomon Haile, GLTN, UN Habitat**
- **Robert Buerghenthal, Senior Director Thomson Reuters**
- **Ms. Gerda Verburg - Chair of the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group (Committee on World Food Security)**

18:30-19:00 (Room A5E2) Closing session: Placing Property Rights and Land tenure Security on the post - 2015 agenda

Speakers:

- **HE Raymond Tshibanda, The DRC Minister for Foreign Affairs**
- **HE Pierre Mabiala, Minister for Land Affairs and Public Domain, The Republic of Congo - Brazzaville**
- **HE Mamadou Sangafowa Coulibaly, Minister of Agriculture, The Ivory Coast**

- **Dacian Ciolos, European Commissioner for Agriculture**

Ceremony of signature between of a European Commission - FAO contract on land tenure

19:00 VIP Cocktail Reception

Among attendees:

- ***Developing countries Ambassadors to the EU***
- ***Permanent Representations of Member States***
- ***MEPs, Council members***
- ***Large number of NGOs based in Brussels***
- ***Private sector***
- ***Representatives from African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Investment Bank, Latin America Development Bank***

Conference Concept:

In the backdrop to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, this conference aims to address the insecurity of land tenure and absence of property rights prevalent in developing countries. The recognition that most of the key challenges of the 21st century - food scarcity, energy scarcity, water shortages, urban and population growth, environmental degradation, climate change, natural disasters and state fragility - are correlated with land governance issues, places property rights at the centre of a development policy designed to empower people in developing countries to decide how to invest sustainably in their future.

Roughly 1.2 billion people worldwide live without permanent homes, land access or formal property rights. With recognised rights and secure physical assets, owners are brought into the formal economy, enabling them to access credit, start businesses or increase agricultural productivity. Property rights are the key to sustainable development.

If this issue remains unaddressed, analogous development efforts will continue to be impaired or blocked altogether. Implementing successful land policies not only makes current development programmes more efficient, but will also save taxpayers' money in the long run.

This conference comes at a critical juncture following the adoption, with a large majority, in the European Parliament Plenary of the report authored by Nirj Deva MEP - *"The role of property rights, property ownership and wealth creation in eradicating poverty and fostering sustainable development in developing countries"*.