

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

IMPACT ON THE NATIONAL INTEREST

1. What are the comparative advantages or disadvantages in these areas of the UK working through the EU, rather than working independently or through other international organization?

Answer

As a beneficiary institution, there are more advantages of the UK working through EU than working independently.

A case in question is the financial assistance which the Commission gets from EU versus what it gets from DFID. Seldom does the DFID provide direct assistance to the Commission. If it does so, it is through the UNDP Basket fund for which the Commission has no control over. It is not known how much money has been injected into the basket fund by an individual donor country. Besides, if UNDP administers that fund, it puts a lot of red tapes to its administration to the effect that some of the activities we would want to benefit suffer because of the red tapes applied to the fund.

On the other hand, for two years now, the Commission has been getting financial assistance from EU on a direct assistance and all what EU has been requesting the Commission is to make available the planned activities and how much each one would cost. Once this process is done, funding per activity is assured as per the provided work plan of activities.

To illustrate this, last year the Commission wanted assistance from the UNDP through the basket fund for the development of its strategic plan but this never came through as UNDP wanted us to fulfill certain

conditions before accessing the funds. However when we approached EU, they came forward to assist and as we are now, the SP is through. Besides a number of capacity building activities have been funded by the EU. The Commission would therefore stand to benefit more if UK worked through EU than through other international organizations,

On a direct funding assistance the Commission hasn't benefitted enough for UK direct assistance as compared to assistance through EU.

At national level the impact of dealing with UK working through the EU will be more pronounced than if it were to deal directly with the Government or through UNDP due to the aforementioned examples as it will allow its financial assistance go direct to the beneficially institutions than passing through other international organizations which may not fully recognize the EU treaties to which UK is part as a member of EU. UNDP is for example a global organization while EU is a European block to which UK is a member and therefore there are more commonarities in terms or rules governing the operation of funds for the EU and UK than what UNDP would provide.