

European Members of the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank Meet for Breakfast at the European Parliament

4 October – Brussels



On the occasion of the first joint meeting between the European Parliament's Development Committee and representatives of EU national parliaments, the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank (PNoWB), in collaboration with the World Bank, organized a Breakfast meeting on PNoWB's activities at the European Parliament.

The meeting provided an opportunity to examine synergies between the work of the European Parliament and that of PNoWB, but for many participants from national parliaments of new EU Member States it also served as an introduction to the work of the Parliamentary Network.

MEP Monica Frassoni - a member of PNoWB's board informed the participants of the Network's key activities as follows:



PNoWB provides parliamentarians across the world with a vehicle to:

- Engage in regular dialogue with the World Bank on its work via video conferences and other organized means of communication,
- Monitor the work of the World Bank through systematic visits of World Bank programs and projects in country,
- Meet and discuss with the World Bank President annually at PNoWB annual Conferences on Bank policies and strategies.

Comments and suggestions put forward by participants included the following:

- PNoWB be used as an instrument to strategically link parliamentarians from various countries to monitor donor collaboration and harmonization,
- There is a need for better coordinating the work of the European Parliament with that of EU national parliaments on development. Furthermore synergies should be sought between the PNoWB's work and that of various other inter-parliamentary bodies,
- There is an interest from many parliamentarians in engaging with the World Bank on its anticorruption and governance strategy.



Speaking on forthcoming opportunities for engagement between PNoWB and the World Bank, at the close of the meeting, the head of the World Bank's parliamentary team - Mr. Jean-Christophe Bas informed parliamentarians that there are plans for a series of policy dialogue meetings between senior management of the World Bank and PNoWB

in the coming months. The next PNoWB annual meeting is foreseen in early 2007 in South Africa.