

Question for written answer E-002772/2024/rev.1

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 144

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Subject: Member States' funding for official development assistance and the future of development cooperation in the EU

While the humanitarian aid gap is widening and the EU continues to fail to meet the UN target of 0.7 % of gross national income (GNI) for official development assistance (ODA), the Dutch Government has announced a €2.4 billion cut to its development budget. It is estimated that the failure of Member States to meet the 0.7 % aid target has cost more than €1.2 trillion in development aid since 1970. At the same time, after decades of successfully fighting extreme poverty, the number of people now living in such poverty is rising – over 700 million people in 2024.

1. Would the HR/VP agree that decreasing ODA not only harms the people and communities assisted but also the EU, as it makes us an unreliable partner in a current global context that requires strong international partnerships based on our values?
2. Can the HR/VP provide an overview of the estimated loss in ODA from the EU resulting from the increased cuts to Member States' development budgets and how it will incentivise Member States to reach the 0.7 % of GNI target for ODA?
3. How does the HR/VP aim to comply with Article 18(4) of the Treaty on European Union and ensure the consistency of the Union's external action, given the loss of contributions from Member States?

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