

## **DÓCHAS**

### **The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations**

Press Release

**27 May 2014**

#### **Irish NGOs urge newly elected MEPs to protect the world's poorest people**

Dóchas, the umbrella body for overseas aid agencies, today called for the new Irish members of the European Parliament to use their roles to improve the lives of the world's most marginalised people.

The membership body, which represents 50 overseas NGOs, congratulated the new MEPs on their success, but urged them to ensure that eradication of extreme poverty remains at the heart of Europe's engagement with developing countries.

Hans Zomer, Director of Dóchas commented:

"We would like to congratulate the new Irish MEPS on their election. People in Ireland have given our MEPs a mandate – to find solutions to the social and economic crises by means of international cooperation. We celebrate that mandate, and remind our politicians that decisions made by Irish MEPs will affect millions of people not just in Europe, but also around the world".

Dóchas members are urging the Irish MEPs to commit to a strong and progressive approach to overseas development, international justice and human rights. They are calling for Ireland to hold the EU to its promises on aid quantity and quality, and to ensure that the EU works for a more equal world through fairer European trade, energy and fisheries policies.

Jim Clarken, CEO of Oxfam, a Dóchas member organisation, said:

"It is essential that the European Union provides the global leadership necessary to address and overcome challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change. Irish MEPs have the power to make decisions that will affect people in every country around the world. It's important that the decisions they make are the right ones for a more equal world".

[ENDS]

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### **Notes to the editor**

- Dóchas is the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations. It provides a forum for consultation and cooperation between its members, and a platform to speak with a single voice on development issues. For more information, visit: [www.dochas.ie](http://www.dochas.ie)
- A list of Dóchas members can be found at: <http://www.dochas.ie/membership/our-members/>