

The Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development  
Doha, 29 November-2 December 2008

# THE ROLE OF REGIONAL COOPERATION AND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP IN FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

**A Side Event of the United Nations Regional Commissions**

Venue: Al-Maha Conference Room

Date: 30 November, 2008

Time: 10:00 - 13:00 hrs



**UNITED NATIONS**  
Regional Commissions

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**  
Geneva, Switzerland



## **The Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development**

**Side Event of the United Nations Regional Commissions on the Role of Regional Cooperation and Global Partnership in Financing for Development**



**The European Perspective and Experience in Promoting Regional Development**

**Remarks by Robert C. Shelburne**  
**Senior Economist, Office of the Executive Secretary**  
**UNECE**

**Doha, Qatar**  
**30 November, 2008**

## **The European Perspective and Experience in Promoting Regional Development**

Let me begin with a few comments about the Doha document we are here to finalize and the Monterrey document that it updates and reconfirms. I think we should congratulate the co-facilitators of this process, the Ambassadors of Egypt and Norway, and in fact all the member States that have been engaged in these negotiations. Despite the tremendous diversity of ideological opinions and economic circumstances, the Doha-Monterrey documents are really substantive documents. They contain much more than just flowery language about the need for development, the necessity for aid, and the importance of exports. They contain very specific and economically sound principles on how to promote global development. If fully implemented, sustained, inclusive development is all but guaranteed.

My optimism about what the Doha-Monterrey principles can achieve derives from what a similar set of principles has achieved and is currently achieving in Europe. Over the last several decades the less developed regions of Europe have grown and converged towards the more advanced regions. This occurred first with the development of southern Europe, then with that of the eastern and central European former transition economies, and the process continues now with south-east Europe and extends further eastward into parts of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Much of this has occurred within the European Union framework, but the process has been broader and more general than that.

The European regional approach to economic cooperation and development has been based on what are essentially the Monterrey principles. More specifically, this process of European integration has been characterized by a rapid expansion of trade and investment flows due to the elimination of trade barriers and the opening up of financial markets. These private flows of resources have been accompanied by a significant public transfer of financial resources and technical assistance such as through the numerous EU pre-accession and post-accession aid instruments (such as the Structural and Cohesion funds). Wider assistance has been provided through such things as the EU's Neighbourhood Policy. Complementary to this expansion of trade, investment and aid flows, has been a fundamental redesign of the economic, political and legal institutions in the less advanced economies (such as fulfillment of the Copenhagen criteria and the adoption of *acquis communautaire*) in order to provide them with an institutional framework that is consistent with economic prosperity. It is also noteworthy that this increased economic output has been achieved not at the expense of environmental degradation but by significantly upgrading environmental standards and addressing transboundary externalities.

This entire process of European economic integration and domestic reform has been undertaken under a framework of evolving intergovernmental institutions that have adapted through time to changing political and economic realities. In essence then, the fundamental pillars of the Monterrey Consensus – the promotion of investment, trade, aid, and domestic reform, which are all coordinated by evolving and inclusive intergovernmental institutions – are also the essential ingredients of European cooperation and integration, including the more specific and recent eastern enlargement of the European Union. These fundamental objectives enunciated in the Monterrey document are also the core of the even broader European regional initiatives such as the Stability and Association Agreements (SAA), the European Neighbourhood Policy and

















