

Abstract

The European Union (EU) has committed itself to take account of objectives of development cooperation - such as poverty reduction - in policies which are likely to affect developing countries. This thesis investigates how and to what extent the EU promotes this aim for Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) in different governance areas. The study focusses on the under-researched process dimension of PCD by analysing the degree to which opinions of development actors are systematically taken into account during EU policy formulation. It follows a historical institutionalist approach that emphasises the independent role of institutions and their significance for policy output. Assessing the influence of formal and informal coherence procedures on policy development, the analytical framework examines how development actors use 'points of entry' to give input during day-to-day governance activities. It traces the planning process of six selected initiatives in three policy fields with PCD relevance: fisheries, environment, and security. The study finds that the effectiveness in promoting PCD does not necessarily depend on the particular policy field and its competence category but more on the policy instrument used and especially on the EU institution which conducts the policy formulation. While the European Parliament and the new European External Action Service promote process PCD rather effectively, the picture for the European Commission is mixed and the EU member states refrain from dealing with the issue in the Council. The study concludes that increased abilities for development actors to give meaningful input especially in Commission policy-making and the expansion of inter-departmental coordination in all EU institutions would improve the EU's effectiveness in promoting PCD.

Key Words

Policy Coherence for Development, European Union external action, historical institutionalism, policy formulation, institutional coherence procedures