



Overseas Development
Institute

‘ Global challenges: Europe’s role’

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Minister for Europe, FCO**

Speech to ODI, APGOOD and the Foreign Policy Centre
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Question 1: Which three main global challenges are especially suited for a Europe-wide response?

- Over 10 different global issues were mentioned in response to this question
- The most popular issues were:
 - Global poverty
 - Climate change
 - Conflict resolution
 - International trade
 - Migration

Question 2(a): What three main **STRENGTHS** will determine whether the EU is or is not able to deliver a good response?

- More than 12 different strengths were mentioned in response to this question
- Most predominant were:
 - Single entity
 - Coherence
 - Experience
 - Economic strength
 - Scale as a donor
 - Capacity (institutional, political, research, technology, resources, etc)
 - Reputation / legitimacy
 - Soft power
 - Values

Question 2(b): What three main **WEAKNESSES** will determine whether the EU is or is not able to deliver a good response?

- More than 12 different weaknesses were mentioned in response to this question
- Most predominantly:
 - Disunity
 - Self-interest
 - Inefficiency
 - Position on world stage
 - Single entity
 - Prominence of development in policy (esp re. new Member States)
 - Paradigm blindness
 - Transparency
 - Neo-colonial style
 - Hard power

Question 3: What does the UK and wider European development/external relations community have to do differently to make sure the weaknesses are overcome?

- There were a large number of different points mentioned in response to this question
- There was some convergence around the issues of:
 - **Strategy** – for an improved policy agenda focussing on fewer issues which takes a global view and has greater coherence (i.e. trade policy should not undermine development policy)
 - **Reform** – both institutional and structural, for a more streamlined, accessible, transparent and legitimate organisation
 - **Cooperation** – improved working with relevant regional and international bodies (UN, WTO, NATO and others) and improved lesson-learning between Member States