

To policymakers, to international development organisations and to whom it may concern:

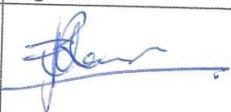
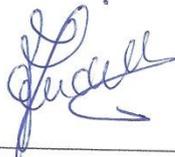
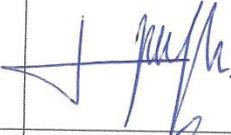
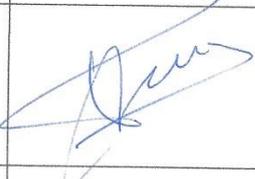
Preamble

This declaration is the result of a dialogue between the participants of the first European conference on *Citizen Initiatives for Global Solidarity* held on the 30th and 31st of January 2014 in Brussels. Citizen initiatives refer to small-scale initiatives or organisations set up by (groups of) individuals, on a voluntary basis, in the global North and aimed at improving the living standards of people in the global South. The aim of the conference was to share knowledge, expertise and viewpoints about the role of citizen initiatives in European countries and in international development.

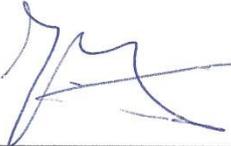
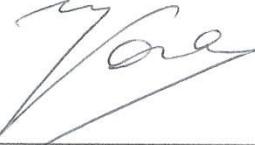
We, signatories of the conference declaration on Citizen Initiatives for Global Solidarity, endorse the following declaration:

1. We consider international cooperation a matter of global sustainable development on a mutual basis. *European citizens play a role* in this by initiating and operating their own organisations in partnership with initiatives owned by partners in the global South;
2. We recognize that European citizens, as a vital part of civil society, voluntarily initiate organisations related to global solidarity and therefore are an *actor in their own right* (together with non-governmental development organisations, multilateral and bilateral actors);
3. Citizen initiatives bring *added value* to international cooperation and civil societies in the global North and South. For example, we recognize that they develop solutions for technical and social problems and we support the role of citizen initiatives as a driving force for creating public support for global solidarity in Europe, on a local level and in their personal environment;
4. We urge European and national governments to *recognize the existence* of citizen initiatives as an actor in global solidarity and to adopt policies which enable broad participation of citizen initiatives in international cooperation;
5. We advise European Institutions to *support collaborations* and partnerships between non-governmental development organisations, governmental bodies (such as municipalities and ministries) and citizen initiatives in order to ensure the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, and to maximise the potential benefit citizen initiatives can bring to global development;
6. We recommend applicant friendly *funding schemes* for activities of citizen initiatives from governments and private donors, to support invaluable networking and knowledge transfers amongst citizen initiatives;
7. We suggest that future *policies* of European and national governments are developed with the activities of citizen initiatives in mind;
8. The activities of citizens initiatives merit professional support and guidance in order to further enhance the *quality* of their contribution to global solidarity;
9. *Research* on citizen initiatives for global solidarity needs to be stimulated in order to increase our understanding of this actor. Scientific institutes and universities have the intention to cooperate in European-wide research, and in raising funds for research on citizen initiatives for global solidarity;
10. We have the intention to start a *European network* of organisations who support citizen initiatives, and/or study them in order to continuously share experiences and expertise internationally.

List of signatories for the conference declaration
European Conference on Citizen Initiatives for Global Solidarity
30 and 31 of January 2014 – Brussels

Name	Organisation	Country	Signature
Esther Roussel	Wild Geese	Netherlands	
Judith Jacobs	Pi-wyzere	Netherlands	
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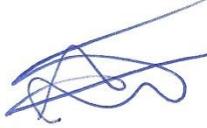
**List of signatories for the conference declaration
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30 and 31 of January 2014 – Brussels**

Name	Organisation	Country	Signature
Jelken Kadijk	NCDO	the Netherlands	
Eva Roodmense	NCDO	the Netherlands	
Mirjam Vossen	My World	the Netherlands	

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Hynek Roubik	Befair	Czech Republic	
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Name	Organisation	Country	Signature
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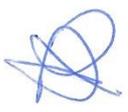
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30 and 31 of January 2014 – Brussels**

Name	Organisation	Country	Signature
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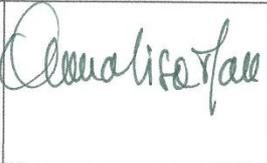
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Name	Organisation	Country	Signature
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Denise DALLE	eu can aid!	Brussels	
ENRICO TALIBANI	ASSOCIAZIONE SCIENZE PER LA PACE	ITALY	