

Response of ECDPM to External Evaluation Report

Board Response

The Board of ECDPM considered the final report of the External Evaluation (EE) received on 25 February at its meeting of 17/18 March 2016.

Having reviewed the evaluation process the Board was satisfied that it was conducted in an independent and transparent manner as laid out in the Terms of Reference on which the Board had commissioned the evaluation. The process laid out was followed scrupulously: the staff engaged with the EE Team in a professional manner and provided them with all information requested to the satisfaction of the Team. The Reference Group consisting of a representative of the Dutch MFA IOB evaluation unit and the recently retired independent evaluator for the Belgian MFA met the Team, scrutinised the methodology and expressed their satisfaction. The EE Team also took account of the comments received on the first draft. The Board notes that the Reference Group also made various suggestions that improved the analysis, content, independence and quality of the process and thanks them for their constructive role. The Board itself engaged directly with the EE Team at several points both independently of the management team and in their presence and found these interactions useful and constructive.

The Board now accepts the Final Report, discharges the EE Team and thanks them for their services and professional work. An impressive range of detailed evidence was collected and the Board feels the EE Team has well understood the Centre's niche and approach.

The Board noted that the Report is generally positive on the performance of ECDPM over the past 5 years and while accepting this overall judgment, does feel that the organisation cannot afford to be complacent. The Board therefore shares the view of the management that the conclusions and recommendations of the report need to be followed up but with a degree of critical awareness and imagination in certain areas given the volatility of the development and global environment. The Board agrees to the sharing of the report with partners and the publication of the document, including the management response. The Board will continue to monitor critical issues raised in the report and looks forward to the management addressing many of these in the development and implementation of its new 5 year Strategy.