

**To:** #HQ-DCD PP&E White Paper Review  
**Subject:** Submission Regarding Overseas Aid

To whom it may concern,

Apologies if this submission is a little late. I got knowledge of the possibility of submitting very late.

In light that this country is estimated to incur a budget deficit including debt repayments of some 18.8Bn euros for 2012 and that General government Debt will be in the region of 182Billion euro by the end of the same year, it is important to review our foreign aid expenditure with knowledge of this.(src: Depart of finance estimate)

A few points come from this, money raised for foreign(Overseas) aid in large part has to be borrowed at interest from International banks. It would not be prudent for an individual to borrow money from a credit institution to make a private donation so why would the state do this on the taxpayers behalf?

I suggest that Ireland cannot afford foreign or overseas aid and it should be cut to zero until at least our national finances are back in the black; that we no longer owe billions to our creditors. The spend in 2011 was 636 million this needs to cut so we can pay our debts. I read we are the eight most generous donor of ODA per capita in the OECD.

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/17/9/44981892.pdf>

Our international commitments can wait, we are a client of the IMF now. Pretending otherwise is not in the interests of anybody in the long term.

If foreign aid were to be resumed at some point in the future. Given the fact around 500 euro per family is taxed for aid currently I suggest you adopt the practice of sending a receipt detailing exactly what this money was spent on to every family in the country with a breakdown on how much was spent on administration overheads and how much was given to each project. It might offset some of the moral hazard in taking away peoples free agency to have to decide to donate of their own free will.

I don't really see any valid reason for state involvement in foreign aid.

If emergency relief is needed I suggest private charitable organisations can petition private citizens and corporations for donation. A small tax break for such action would make a suitable incentive if need be. It seems morally wrong to transfer the function of charity to the state, thereby removing free agency from the individual.

Countries like Uganda who purchased large numbers of Russian fighter jets can be asked for a rebate on the charitable donations we have already given them already and we can stop the money the previous administration promised to give them in the future.

I am not alone in being disturbed at the very high levels of spending in this area and I look forward to hearing from you regarding my suggestions, it is remarkable that payment in this area wasn't reformed when the budget crisis was clear back in 2008.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Foskin