

FPA Watch Group

Context: The FPA Watch Group was founded in 1999 in order to monitor the implementation of the 1999 FPA. A second renovation was done in 2004, to face the challenges of the 2003 FPA. The third renovation was concluded in May 2008.

Objectives: To monitor the implementation of the 2008 FPA and to ensure implementation support and training are provided by ECHO, reflecting a spirit of partnership.

Structure: A committed, representative group of about 30 ECHO partner NGO representatives. A Task Force works as the executive of the Watch group, responsible for drafting, representation, etc.

Activities: to exchange experience and identify problems on one hand, but also to create feedback to ECHO. The FPA WG should hold ECHO to its responsibilities of the partnership and the contract. The WG will meet about three times per year in Brussels. Minutes of the FPA WG meetings and other relevant documents drafted by the group are available on VOICE website:
<http://www.ngovoice.org/index.php?page=117> .

In the table below, please find a **sample of activities** conducted by the WG as well as results achieved between 2005 and 2007:

2005	2006	2007
Drafted two documents entitled “Background document for the revision of Annex V” and “ECHO-NGOs Framework Partnership Agreement - Towards a strengthened partnership” including a set of “recommendations” to ECHO (see VOICE website).	ECHO DG Cavaco officially replies to 2005 WG’s recommendations. Internal reorganisation of ECHO: new Unit (B2) dealing with both finance management and legal and procedural affairs (see WG recommendations).	WG analyses and gives inputs on the Fact Sheets.
Presentation of the “recommendations” of the above documents at the 2005 ECHO conference.	Launched two questionnaires on internal procurement procedures and the start up of operations. Majority of WG members wish ECHO to recognise their procedures.	Analysis of the FPA revision process and comments on all the draft versions of the revised FPA.
Monitoring of Annex V and inputs to ECHO in order to see NGO procurement procedures recognised by ECHO.	ECHO launches the “Fact Sheets” aiming to give coherent interpretations of the FPA (see WG recommendations).	Following WG advocacy work, ECHO recognises NGO internal procedures; a list of HPCs is published by ECHO; ex-post publications of awarded contracts are dropped; rules of origins and nationality as well as dedicated and not dedicated supplies.