



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



9110/12

PRESSE 166

PR CO 28

PRESS RELEASE

3166th Council meeting

Foreign Affairs

Brussels, 14 May 2012

President

Catherine Ashton

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and
Security Policy

P R E S S

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Main results of the Council

*The Council reaffirmed the long-term commitment of the EU and its member states to support **Afghanistan** during its transition and the decade of transformation. At the same time, this commitment requires a reciprocal and genuine effort by the Afghan authorities to meet the agreed reform obligations. In line with this, the EU will continue to prioritise Afghanistan, making an enhanced contribution to support for the country. The Council adopted conclusions on Afghanistan.*

*The Council took stock of developments in the **Middle East peace process**. It reaffirmed its commitment to a two-state solution to the conflict and urged that the viability of such a solution be maintained. Reiterating its fundamental commitment to the security of Israel, it expressed at the same time deep concern about developments on the ground which threaten to make a two-state solution impossible, including in area C of the West Bank and in East Jerusalem.*

*The Council discussed recent events in **Syria**, reiterating its call on the Syrian authorities to fully and immediately comply with Special Envoy Kofi Annan's six-point plan as endorsed by the UN Security Council. It underlined that a complete cessation of violence by all parties is an essential step. Given the gravity of the situation, the Council once more strengthened EU restrictive measures against the Syrian regime.*

*During lunch, ministers exchanged views on the developments in **Ukraine** and on next steps concerning the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.*

*Ministers in charge of development cooperation discussed the **future of EU development policy** ("Agenda for Change"). The Council adopted conclusions on this issue, revising the EU approach to development policy whereby the EU will focus in the future on those countries and sectors where it can have the greatest impact. The Council also adopted conclusions setting out a **new EU approach to budget support** to third countries.*

*The Council adopted its second report to the European Council on **EU development aid targets**. It notably reconfirmed the collective commitment of the EU and its member states to increase aid spending to 0.7% of GNI by 2015.*

*Ministers also debated on how to best phase-in development cooperation with **Myanmar/Burma**.*

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- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

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Mr Janez POTOČNIK

Member
Member
Member
Member

The Government of the Acceding State was represented as follows:

Croatia:

Ms Vesna PUSIĆ

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs

ITEMS DEBATED**FOREIGN AFFAIRS****Afghanistan**

Ahead of the NATO summit on 20 May, the Council discussed the EU engagement in Afghanistan and adopted the following conclusions:

1. "The Council welcomes the progress made in Afghanistan's transition process. The upcoming international meetings in Chicago on 20 and 21 May, Kabul on 14 June and Tokyo on 8 July offer the opportunity to shape the further course of transition and international engagement after 2014. The Council affirms the importance of the international community taking a holistic view of post-2014 engagement, given the correlation between security and long-term development in Afghanistan.
2. Recalling its conclusions of 14 November 2011, the Council reaffirms the long-term commitment of the EU and its Member States to support Afghanistan during transition and the decade of transformation. This commitment requires a reciprocal and genuine effort by the Afghan authorities to meet the reform obligations agreed at the Kabul and Bonn Conferences. The Council welcomes the opening of negotiations on the Cooperation Agreement on Partnership and Development, which should provide a framework for relations in the coming years and strengthen mutual accountability.
3. The EU expects the Afghan authorities to reassure the international community regarding implementation of their commitments to improve political and economic governance.

The Council calls on the Afghan Government to ensure the holding of inclusive and credible presidential and parliamentary elections. The EU stands ready to continue supporting Afghan efforts to reform the electoral system and to strengthen the independent electoral institutions.

The EU underlines the importance of an Afghan-led, inclusive peace process and an outcome that respects the principles set out in the Bonn Conference Conclusions of December 2011.

The Council underlines the role of an independent and active civil society for the future of Afghanistan and welcomes the considerable development and scope of non-governmental organizations in the country. The Council recommends to build on the dialogue process initiated at the Bonn conference. Progress on these matters should be regularly evaluated and reviewed.

The Council calls on the Afghan Government to guarantee respect for human rights, in particular those of women and children, and to increase the opportunities for women to participate fully in the labour force.

The Council attaches importance to reinforcing the justice sector, which is essential as the counterpart of a strengthened civilian police force; as a guarantee that human rights will be respected; and in order to establish a legal system capable of protecting the rights of economic operators.

The Council also urges the Afghan Government to act on the IMF's recommendations following the collapse of the Kabul Bank, and to take steps to improve its public financial management, including establishing a transparent system of flows of public finances from donors to central government and from central government to provinces, and advancing public administration reform. In this context, it is essential that Afghanistan uses international support effectively to achieve fiscal sustainability. Undertaking the necessary steps to facilitate adequate private sector development to sustain the economic income of Afghanistan is an important prerequisite for long term engagement of the international donor community. Without adequate economic development shared by the population, all other progress in the country may be hampered.

4. The NATO Summit and other international meetings in Chicago on 20 and 21 May will notably focus on long-term support to Afghanistan's army and police. Capable, sustainable and affordable Afghan National Security Forces will be key to increasing security in Afghanistan reinforcing the confidence of the Afghan people, the international community and external investors in Afghanistan's institutions of state. An adequate level of security, including for our personnel, will also remain vital for the EU and other donors to be able to deliver assistance effectively throughout the country.
5. Planning for the security sector must ensure that the size, structure and missions of the Afghan National Police allow for a refocus on civilian policing and rule of law capabilities. The Council recalls that assuring the professionalism and quality of the Afghan police is a higher priority than funding sufficient numbers alone. Fair and impartial policing is essential if human rights, especially those of women and children, are to be promoted. The Council invites the Afghan Government to endorse a professionalisation plan, specifying the measures and resources for its implementation.

6. Civilian policing will remain the key focus of EU assistance in the security sector. The Council reiterates the importance of continued cooperation and coordination between EUPOL, NATO and Member States' training missions throughout Afghanistan. The Council recalls its previous agreement to an extension in principle of the mandate of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN until the end of 2014. The Council reiterates the EU's commitment to support Afghanistan's efforts in strengthening policing and the rule of law beyond 2014 and intends to address this matter at an early date.
7. The Council restates its support for the 'Heart of Asia' process initiated at the Istanbul conference in November 2011 and welcomes progress by countries in the region in defining confidence building measures to be agreed at the 14 June Kabul Ministerial Conference. The Council reiterates that the initiative must be owned by the countries of the region. Continued and enhanced regional cooperation will be an important element in increasing stability and prosperity in Afghanistan and the surrounding region. It notes the conclusions of the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) Ministerial meeting in Dushanbe on 26-27 March. Greater stability will support the continued voluntary return and sustainable reintegration of the Afghan refugee population as part of a comprehensive regional approach.
8. As agreed in November 2011, the EU will engage actively with partners to support strengthened regional political and economic cooperation. The Council reiterates its readiness to support confidence-building measures where there is both political and financial buy-in from the countries of the region, in particular in areas where the EU has proven competence, such as strengthening capacities in border management, counter-narcotics and supporting collaborative efforts to promote trade, economic cooperation and development. Taking into account the results of the Kabul Conference, the EU will further consider, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, the possible development of ways to deepen its regional engagement in the framework of a comprehensive approach.
9. The EU welcomes the Declaration of the 3rd Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Initiative in Vienna on 16 February, and emphasises the importance of continued and enhanced efforts at national, regional and global level to combat the production and trafficking of illicit drugs.

10. The Tokyo Conference should focus on advancing existing mutual commitments by the international community and the Afghan Government to ensure the viability of the Afghan state up to transition and throughout the Decade of Transformation. For their part, the Afghan Government must make progress against IMF benchmarks and other vital governance reforms. The EU will advocate a progressive approach in the form of a roadmap, matching donors' alignment with the Afghan Government's national priority programmes with progress on issues such as governance and human rights. Progress should be regularly evaluated and reviewed.
11. At Tokyo, it will be important to consider future modalities for donor funding as the tasks of the Provincial Reconstruction Teams and the Transition Support Teams are progressively reduced. The EU and its Member States will strive to coordinate more efficiently their assistance to Afghanistan. The EU will also actively promote better use of international mechanisms, including the International Contact Group the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) and the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB), in coordination with UNAMA. The EU and its Member States will seek to establish common positions for these meetings. The EU will review its action in Afghanistan following the Tokyo conference. The EU will promote synergies among Member States in order to enhance its impact in Afghanistan.
12. The EU intends to reallocate an increased share of its bilateral support for governance in Afghanistan for 2012-2013 for the Afghan National Police through the Law and Order Trust Fund (LOTFA). It is essential to ensure that LOTFA is efficiently, transparently and accountably managed.
13. In line with the EU and its Member States' long term commitment, the EU will continue to prioritise Afghanistan, making an enhanced contribution to support for the country, in the context of fulfilment by the Afghan authorities of their reform obligations agreed at the Kabul and Bonn Conferences. The EU will maintain a balance between support to governance, including significant support to an effective Afghan civilian police force and the rule of law, and also to the social and productive sectors, with a continued emphasis on capacity building. The Council expects this to be accompanied by increased support from other donors."

Middle East peace process

The Council took stock of the Middle East peace process. It adopted the following conclusions:

1. The EU reaffirms its commitment to a two-state solution and its conviction that the ongoing changes across the Arab world make the need for progress on the Middle East peace process all the more urgent. Heeding the aspirations of the people in the region, including those of Palestinians for statehood and those of Israelis for security is a crucial element for lasting peace, stability and prosperity in the region.
2. Ending the conflict is a fundamental interest of the EU as well as of the parties themselves and the wider region, and it can be achieved through a comprehensive peace agreement, based on the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, the Madrid principles including land for peace, the Roadmap, the agreements previously reached by the parties and the Arab Peace Initiative. The EU recalls the applicability of international humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territory, including the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilians.
3. The EU welcomes the exchange of letters between the parties initiated on 17 April, following the Quartet efforts facilitated by King Abdullah of Jordan and Foreign Minister Judeh and encourages the parties to continue on this path. The EU welcomes Prime Minister Netanyahu's statement that the new Israeli government will try to advance the peace process. It stands ready to support the resumption of substantive negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians with a view to achieving a two-state solution. The EU strongly urges both sides to build on the current contacts, including the Joint Statement of 12 May, to resume direct negotiations on the basis of the Quartet statement of 23 September 2011. The EU fully supports the Quartet statement of 11 April and calls on the parties to pursue actions conducive to an environment of confidence necessary to ensure meaningful negotiations, to refrain from actions that undermine the credibility of the process and to prevent incitement.
4. The EU and its Member States reiterate their fundamental commitment to the security of Israel, including with regard to vital threats in the region. The EU is appalled by recurring rocket attacks from Gaza and condemns in the strongest terms violence deliberately targeting civilians. The EU reiterates its call on all partners in the region for the effective prevention of arms smuggling into Gaza.

5. The viability of a two-state-solution must be maintained. The EU expresses deep concern about developments on the ground which threaten to make a two-state solution impossible:
- the marked acceleration of settlement construction following the end of the 2010 moratorium, the recent decision of the government of Israel regarding the status of some settlements outposts as well as the proposal to relocate settlers from Migron within the occupied Palestinian territory, while all outposts erected since March 2001 should be dismantled, according to the Roadmap.
 - in East-Jerusalem the ongoing evictions and house demolitions, changes to the residency status of Palestinians, the expansion of Givat Hamatos and Har Homa, and the prevention of peaceful Palestinian cultural, economic, social or political activities.
 - the worsening living conditions of the Palestinian population in Area C and serious limitations for the PA to promote the economic development of Palestinian communities in Area C, as well as plans of forced transfer of the Bedouin communities, in particular from the wider E1 area.
 - the risk of jeopardising the major achievements of the Palestinian Authority in state-building if the current financial difficulties are not addressed by a common effort of the PA, Israel and donors.
6. Concerning these developments, the EU reiterates its positions and determination to contribute to maintaining the viability of the two-state-solution in accordance with international law and its positions, including the conclusions of the EU Foreign Affairs Council in December 2009, December 2010 and May 2011:
- Settlements remain illegal under international law, irrespective of recent decisions by the government of Israel. The EU reiterates that it will not recognise any changes to the pre-1967 borders including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties. The EU and its Member States reaffirm their commitment to fully and effectively implement existing EU legislation and the bilateral arrangements applicable to settlement products. The Council underlines the importance of the work being carried out together with the Commission in this regard.
 - The EU reiterates that a way must be found through negotiations to resolve the status of Jerusalem as the future capital of two states. Until then, the EU calls for an equitable provision of resources and investment to the city's population. The EU calls for the reopening of Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem in accordance with the Roadmap.

- Social and economic developments in Area C are of critical importance for the viability of a future Palestinian state, as Area C is its main land reserve. The EU calls upon Israel to meet its obligations regarding the living conditions of the Palestinian population in Area C, including by accelerated approval of Palestinian master plans, halting forced transfer of population and demolition of Palestinian housing and infrastructure, simplifying administrative procedures to obtain building permits, ensuring access to water and addressing humanitarian needs. The EU calls upon Israel to work together with the PA to allow more access and control of the PA over Area C. The EU will continue to provide financial assistance for Palestinian development in Area C and expects such investment to be protected for future use. The EU will engage with the Government of Israel to work out improved mechanisms for the implementation of the donor funded projects for the benefit of the Palestinian population in Area C.
 - The EU is the largest donor to the Palestinian Authority. It notes that the majority of the Palestinian Authority's budget is met by its own customs and tax revenues and therefore it urges for swift implementation of improvements, currently discussed between the parties, to the mechanism by which these are collected and transferred, which should be transparent and predictable. The European Union underlines that these transfers by Israel are an obligation under the Paris Protocol. The EU calls on the PA to continue pursuing reforms. The EU calls on other donors, especially donors in the region, to increase their financial support to the Palestinian Authority.
7. The EU expresses deep concern regarding settler extremism and incitement by settlers in the West Bank. The EU condemns continuous settler violence and deliberate provocations against Palestinian civilians. It calls on the government of Israel to bring the perpetrators to justice and to comply with its obligations under international law.
 8. The EU remains committed to the Palestinian state building process, including through CSDP missions and within the Quartet, aiming at a Palestinian state based on the rule of law and respect of human rights. The EU is concerned about recent reports of arrests of journalists and underlines the importance of freedom of expression, including via traditional and new media. In this regard, it welcomes President Abbas' instructions to lift the ban on several websites, as indicated in the official Palestinian communiqué.

Recalling the Palestinian institutions' responsibility under the Roadmap to end incitement, the EU expresses concern for recent incidents of incitement in Palestinian media and elsewhere.

9. The European Union has consistently called for intra-Palestinian reconciliation behind President Mahmoud Abbas, in line with the principles set out in his speech of 4 May 2011, as an important element for the unity of a future Palestinian state and for reaching a two-state solution. In this regard, it recalls its Council Conclusion in May 2011. The EU looks forward to the holding of elections as an important contribution to Palestinian state-building.

10. Fully recognising Israel's legitimate security needs, the EU continues to call for the immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of crossings for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from the Gaza Strip, the situation of which is unsustainable as long as it remains politically separated from the West Bank. Despite limited progress, the EU urges the government of Israel to take further meaningful and far-reaching steps allowing for the reconstruction and economic recovery of the Gaza Strip, including by allowing trade with the West Bank and Israel.

Southern neighbourhood

The Council debated developments in the EU's southern neighbourhood, with particular emphasis on the situation in Libya and in Syria.

The Council adopted the following conclusions on Syria:

1. "The EU reiterates its call on the Syrian authorities to fully and immediately comply with the Joint UN-League of Arab States Special Envoy Kofi Annan's plan as endorsed by UNSC resolutions 2042 and 2043 and abide by all their commitments to the UN. The EU recalls that the main responsibility for the ceasefire and the successful implementation of the plan lies with the Syrian authorities. The Syrian government must ensure without delay the necessary conditions for an effective operation and full and fast deployment of the UN observation mission, including full freedom of movement and agreement on the use of air assets. It must fully withdraw its troops and heavy weapons from population centres. The EU is deeply concerned about the continued violence in Syria, including the recent deadly bomb attacks, notably the ones in Damascus on 10 May. Acts of terrorism cannot be justified under any circumstances.
2. The EU underlines that a complete cessation of violence by all parties is an essential step in the full implementation of Kofi Annan's Plan, whose crucial goal is to facilitate a peaceful Syrian-led and inclusive dialogue leading to a political solution that meets the democratic aspirations of the Syrian people on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, UN General Assembly and League of Arab States.
3. The EU recalls its full support to Kofi Annan's six point plan, welcomes the progress to date to deploy members of the UN supervision mission to Syria (UNSMIS) and urges continued prompt deployment of the full mission. It recalls that the Syrian authorities are responsible for ensuring the security and safety of the mission. The EU and its Member States are providing support to the mission, as requested by the UN. The EU calls on all States concerned, and in particular the Members of the UN Security Council, to continue to support Kofi Annan and use all their influence to ensure that the UNSC resolutions 2042 and 2043 are fully implemented. The EU underlines that the six-point plan is not an open-ended offer and that the plan and the deployment of UNSMIS constitute the best opportunity to support a peaceful solution to the crisis. It recalls that the UNSC remains seized of the matter.

4. The EU remains extremely concerned by the human rights situation in Syria, in particular the systematic and widespread human rights violations committed by the regime. It condemns the Syrian government's increased use of targeted assassinations and arbitrary detentions as a means of repressing all opposition. The Syrian regime must immediately release all political prisoners and human rights defenders, and ensure freedom to demonstrate peacefully. The EU recalls that all those responsible for human rights violations should be held accountable.
5. The EU calls on all sides to respect the safety of humanitarian workers and deplores the death of two humanitarian workers killed on 24 and 26 April. The EU reiterates its call on the Syrian authorities to grant immediate, unimpeded and full access of humanitarian organisations to all areas of Syria in order to provide relief to the one million people identified as in need of humanitarian assistance. The UN Humanitarian Response Plan needs to be implemented immediately and humanitarian capacities in the country strengthened. The EU continues to support the efforts made by neighbouring countries to host Syrian refugees who fled violence in Syria.
6. The European Union remains committed to the Syrian people's struggle for freedom, dignity and democracy. The EU urges all opposition groups to continue to support Kofi Annan's efforts and to be ready to provide leadership and engage in a national political process as foreseen in the six point plan endorsed by UNSC. The Syrian National Council and other opposition groups must pursue their efforts to put aside their differences and to agree on a set of shared principles and mechanism under the auspices of the League of Arab States for working towards an inclusive, orderly and peaceful transition in Syria.
7. The EU approved today further designations of individuals and entities to be subject to restrictive measures. The EU will continue its sanctions policy targeting the regime, not the civilian population, as long as repression continues. The EU will also continue to urge the international community to join its efforts, in taking steps to apply and enforce restrictive measures on the Syrian regime and its supporters. It calls on all Syrians to dissociate themselves from the repressive policy of the regime in order to facilitate a political transition."

In view of the gravity of the situation in Syria, the Council once more reinforced restrictive measures against the Syrian regime. For details, see press release [9816/12](#).

Mexico

The Council exchanged views on EU-Mexico relations, ahead of the EU-Mexico summit scheduled for 17 June in Los Cabos, Mexico.

Russia

During lunch, ministers debated strategic aspects of the EU's relationship with Russia, with a view to the EU-Russia summit on 3/4 June.

Ukraine

During lunch, ministers held an in-depth discussion on the situation in Ukraine and the next steps concerning the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Future of EU development policy

The Council discussed the future of EU development policy and adopted conclusions on "Increasing the impact of EU development policy: an Agenda for Change".

The rapidly changing global environment and the new international architecture require a more comprehensive, responsive and effective approach to external action and development policy. The Council set out a renewed EU approach to development policy whereby the EU is to focus in the future on those countries and sectors where it can have the greatest impact.

These new principles will guide EU financial instruments for external action under the next Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020, and in particular the new development cooperation instrument.

The Council conclusions are set out in [9316/12](#).

EU budget support

The Council adopted conclusions setting out a new approach to EU budget support to third countries, see [9323/12](#).

EU development aid targets

The Council adopted its second annual report to the European Council on EU official development aid (ODA) targets ([9318/12](#)).

The Council reiterated its view that ODA remains an essential element in the overall development financing available for developing countries, and reconfirmed the collective commitment of EU and its member states to increase aid spending to 0.7% of GNI by 2015.

In 2011, the EU and its member states provided EUR 53.1 billion, that is 0.42% of the EU Gross National Income (GNI), a decrease from EUR 53.5 in 2010 (0.44% of GNI) in the context of continued budgetary constraints owing to the economic and financial crisis. Nevertheless, the EU and its member states remain the biggest donor of ODA globally and provide more than half of the aid worldwide.

Burma/Myanmar

The Council discussed engagement and cooperation with Burma/Myanmar, including in the areas of ethnic peace; economic and social development; rule of law and human rights. Ministers also discussed common principles for the EU's engagement, in particular on donor coordination, including possible joint programming and donor dialogue with the government, underlining the need for institutional capacity building.

Rio+20

Ministers discussed the development aspects of the Rio+20 outcome. They reflected on the possible implications for development policy both for the EU and for its member states, of the follow up to Rio+20, including in the perspective of the post-2015 development agenda.

The Rio+20 conference on sustainable development will be held on 20-22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). It will bring together heads of state and government, civil society and private sector participants who will address the global social, economic and environmental challenges of sustainable development in a coherent manner. The conference will focus on two overarching themes: green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and the institutional framework for sustainable development. Possible sustainable development goals might be a key result of this process; discussions are ongoing.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**FOREIGN AFFAIRS****Afghanistan**

The Council took note of the fifth implementation report on the EU action plan for Afghanistan, covering the period from October 2011 to March 2012. At the same time, it modified the frequency of reporting on the implementation of the plan for strengthened EU action in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In the future, the EU High Representative and the Commission are to report to the Council once per year on the two countries ([9579/12](#)).

EU Special Representative in Afghanistan

The Council increased the budget for the EU Special Representative in Afghanistan by EUR 300.000. The financial reference amount covers the period until 30 June 2012.

Relations with Albania

The Council approved the common position of the European Union for the fourth meeting of the EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Council, to be held on 15 May in Brussels.

Burma/Myanmar - restrictive measures

The Council adopted a regulation suspending EU sanctions against Burma/Myanmar for one year, with the exception of the arms embargo. For details, see press release [9626/12](#).

Yemen

The Council adopted conclusions on Yemen, set out in doc. [9814/12](#).

Somalia

The Council adopted conclusions on Somalia, see [9596/12](#).

Relations with Mongolia, Vietnam and the Philippines

The Council authorised the signature, on behalf of the EU, of three agreements:

- the Framework Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between the EU and its member states and Mongolia ([7902/1/11 REV 1](#));
- the Framework Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between the EU and its member states and the Republic of the Philippines (15616/10 + COR 1); and
- the Framework Agreement on comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation between the EU and its member states and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (18204/10).

Relations with Ukraine

The Council adopted the EU position for the fifteenth meeting of the EU-Ukraine Cooperation Council, to be held on 15 May 2012 in Brussels.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Investment financing within the ACP - EU Partnership Agreement

The Council adopted a decision on the position to be taken by the European Union within the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)-EU Council of Ministers regarding the revision of terms and conditions of investment financing ([8573/12](#)).

This decision increases the amount allocated to technical assistance from EUR 40 million to EUR 60 million within the EUR 400 million Investment Facility under the 10th European Development Fund (2008-2013). This facility is a risk-sharing financial instrument for financing investment projects delivering sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits in the ACP countries. It is managed by the European Investment Bank.

Policy Coherence for Development

The Council adopted conclusions on policy coherence for development ([9317/12](#)). These conclusions follow the EU 2011 Report on Policy Coherence for Development adopted by the European Commission on 15 December 2011 ([Commission Staff Working Paper SEC\(2011\)1627](#)). The Council notably reaffirmed its commitments on policy coherence for development, which aim to enhance the coherence of EU policies with development objectives, in particular poverty eradication, as well as the impact of EU external assistance.

Renewed EU-Pacific Development Partnership

The Council adopted conclusions on a renewed EU-Pacific Development Partnership ([9857/12](#)).

Strengthening Resilience to Food Crises in the Horn of Africa

The Council adopted conclusions on strengthening resilience to food crises in the Horn of Africa. Following the drought and consequent food crisis in East Africa in the summer 2011, the EU has taken a number of actions to support the region in addressing the challenges it is facing. In this context, strengthening resilience of vulnerable communities in the region to drought and food crises is a key element of EU support to long-term efforts of the countries of the region and relevant regional organisations. The conclusions can be seen in [9597/12](#).