



Council of the European Union

PRESS
EN

BACKGROUND¹
Brussels, 25 November 2016

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (Development) **Monday 28 November in Brussels**

The Council, chaired by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, will start on Monday at 9.30.

The Council will start with a discussion on the revision of the **European consensus on development**. Ministers will then focus on EU relations with **African, Caribbean and Pacific countries** after 2020, when the Cotonou agreement is set to expire.

Over lunch, ministers will discuss **energy and development**. The Council is also expected to adopt conclusions on this topic.

In the afternoon, the Council will discuss **migration and development**, focusing on ongoing initiatives.

Press opportunities on Monday 28 November:

+/- 15.00 Doorstep statement by High Representative Federica Mogherini and
Commissioner Neven Mimica

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[Press conferences and public events by video streaming](#)

[Video coverage in broadcast quality \(MPEG4\) and photo gallery](#)

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

European consensus on development

The Council will discuss the revision of the **European consensus on development**, on the basis of a proposal from the European Commission. The communication, presented on 22 November 2016, provides a new framework for development cooperation for the EU and its member states that **aligns with the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development**.

The proposal aims to respond to current demographic, economic, social and environmental challenges. Building state, society and individuals resilience is central to this approach. The proposal puts particular emphasis on **cross-cutting drivers of development**, such as gender equality, youth, sustainable energy, climate action and investment, and addressing the challenges of migration and mobility.

The consensus supports the global strategy on the EU's foreign and security policy. It also recommends a **more coordinated approach** between the EU and its member states, promoting joint programming and actions to achieve more effective results and impact.

The new consensus will follow the spirit of the current European consensus on development (2005). As before, it is expected to be adopted as a joint statement by the Council and the representatives of the member states meeting within the Council, the European Parliament, and the European Commission.

The Commission proposal follows the adoption by the Council on 12 May 2016 of conclusions on the revision of the European consensus on development. The Council had then an orientation debate in light of the implementation of the UN 2030 agenda, and two thematic discussions - one on joint programming and the other on the engagement of the private sector.

The 2030 agenda for sustainable development, adopted by the international community in September 2015, represents an ambitious new framework to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication. The core of the 2030 agenda are the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and associated targets, which run to 2030. The EU is committed to be a frontrunner in implementing them.

[European Commission communication on a new European Consensus on development](#)
[Council conclusions of 12 May 2016 on stepping up Joint Programming](#)
[Council conclusions of 12 May 2016 on responsible global value chains](#)

EU - ACP relations post 2020

Development ministers will have a discussion on the **future relations between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)** countries in view of the expiry of the Cotonou agreement in 2020. This debate will be based on a joint communication from the European Commission and High Representative Federica Mogherini, presented on 22 November 2016.

The joint communication **builds on the longstanding relationship with the ACP countries**, which provides a good starting point to forge an alliance that is apt for the challenges of a more interdependent, complex and contested world. This would facilitate increased cooperation at international level while allowing to better address specific regional opportunities and challenges. It should help building peaceful, stable, well-governed, prosperous and resilient states and societies at our borders and beyond and deliver on our objective of a multilateral rules-based order addressing global challenges.

The joint communication proposes significant changes with the aim of agreeing with partner countries on **an umbrella agreement** with common values and interests and facilitating increased cooperation at international level. This would be **combined with regional tailored partnerships** for Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Furthermore, future relations should also link up ACP countries with neighbouring regions, which are not part of the ACP group of states, but play a key role in relation to achieving EU objectives.

The joint communication builds on the UN 2030 agenda and is coherent with the proposal for a revised European consensus on development. It is also a tangible expression of the EU global strategy for foreign and security policy.

The Cotonou agreement was signed on 23 June 2000 and is due to expire on 29 February 2020. Relations between the EU and the ACP date back to 1975 and the first Lomé convention. Today, the EU-ACP partnership is comprehensive: it includes a political dimension, economic and trade cooperation as well as development cooperation.

Over the last two decades, major developments have taken place within the EU and within the ACP group of states. The EU has now 28 member states. The ACP group of States, composed of 79 countries (all ACP States are party to the Cotonou partnership agreement except Cuba), is more diverse than ever. The economic situation of many ACP countries has improved while others still face major challenges.

At the same time, EU regional partnerships with Africa, with the Caribbean and with the Pacific have been strengthened.

[Communication on a renewed partnership with African, Caribbean and Pacific \(ACP\) countries](#)
[EU relations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States \(ACP\)](#)

Migration and development

The Council will discuss migration and development. As a first point, the high representative will update ministers on the progress made in the establishment of the framework of partnership approach and the **country specific compacts**.

In its conclusions of 28 June 2016, the European Council called for a partnership framework approach for cooperation with individual countries of origin and transit. This approach should focus on saving lives at sea, increasing returns, enabling migrants and refugees to stay closer to home and, in the long term, helping third countries' development in order to address root causes of poverty and irregular migration by using all relevant EU policies and tools, in close cooperation with member states.

The European Council conclusions confirmed the approach set out in the Commission communication on establishing a new partnership framework with third countries of 7 June 2016. Federica Mogherini was appointed, both in her capacity as Vice-President of the Commission and as High Representative, to lead the implementation of this approach, in coordination with EU institutions and member states. The objective is to deliver measurable results before the end of the year.

Ministers will also focus on the **follow up to the Valletta Summit**, one year after it was held (11-12 November 2015).

In an effort to strengthen cooperation in light of the migration crisis, European and African Heads of State and Government at the Valletta Summit defined sixteen priority initiatives to be launched before the end of 2016. The Emergency Trust Fund for Africa was also launched on that occasion to provide additional funding support to the action plan.

[Responding to migratory pressures](#)

Other items

The Council is due to adopt conclusions on **energy and development**. Access to energy is crucial for eradicating poverty and for delivering on the 2030 agenda. The EU's development policy and actions in the energy sector are also a fundamental part of a revitalised European energy and climate diplomacy.

The Council is also expected to take a number of decisions without discussion, including:

European Court of Auditors' special report

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the European Court of Auditors special report No 15/2016 "Did the Commission effectively manage the Humanitarian aid provided to populations affected by conflicts in the African Great Lakes Region?"

The Court deems the Commission's management of humanitarian aid in the African Great Lakes Region during the period 2011-2015 to have been generally effective. According to the report, most of the projects delivered satisfactory results in a difficult working environment characterised by security constraints and challenging logistics.

First results report on EU international cooperation and development

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the first results report on EU international cooperation and development. The report is a significant step forward in strengthening the focus on performance and results in EU international cooperation and development.

Mainstreaming digital solutions and technologies in EU development policy.

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on mainstreaming digital solutions and technologies in EU development policy.

Digitalisation needs to be properly mainstreamed across all policy areas, including in the EU's development and foreign policies, while addressing cyber challenges and assuring the promotion and protection of human rights, with particular attention to freedom of expression online.

Second high level meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the EU common position for the second high level meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), which will take place in Nairobi, from 29 November until 1 December 2016.

The development effectiveness agenda and the global partnership for effective development cooperation (GPEDC) mark a shift from aid to development effectiveness, moving from a focus on official development assistance (ODA) flows to broader development partnerships and actors. It will provide a major contribution to implementation of the 2030 agenda in developing countries.
