



FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (Development)

Friday 19 May, Brussels

The Council will start with a discussion on **humanitarian crises** in the wider horn of Africa region, Yemen and Syria. Ministers will then focus on EU relations with **African, Caribbean and Pacific countries** after 2020, when the Cotonou agreement is set to expire. The Council will also adopt the new European consensus on development.

Over lunch, ministers will discuss the implementation of the **2030 Agenda for sustainable development**, with UN Deputy Secretary General, Amina Mohammed.

On the eve of the Council meeting, a joint dinner between development and home affairs ministers will address the external aspects of migration, the implementation of the partnership framework and the Valletta action plan.

The Council is scheduled to start at 9:30. It will be chaired by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini.

Press opportunities:

- +/- 9.15 (tbc) Doorstep statement by High Representative Federica Mogherini
- +/- 12.30 Welcome by the High Representative Federica Mogherini of UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed (press point)

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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.

Humanitarian crises

The Council will discuss how to address the deteriorating **humanitarian situation in Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Yemen as well as Syria**. Those regions are currently facing major crises caused by conflicts in north-eastern Nigeria, South Sudan, Yemen and Syria, and by droughts in Somalia and to a lesser extent in parts of Kenya and Ethiopia. The crises have given rise to widespread devastation and displacement of population, acute food and nutrition insecurity and a shortage of essential health care. Almost 30 million people are affected by food crises across South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and northeast Nigeria.

Ministers are expected to discuss possible options to address the most urgent humanitarian needs and to avoid further escalation of the crises, including the importance of diplomatic and political solutions to support peace and security. They will also examine ways to improve coordination between humanitarian and development aid instruments and develop effective joint initiatives of both fields. In this regard, the Council is due to adopt council conclusions on operationalising the humanitarian-development nexus.

The **Syrian conflict** has triggered the world's largest humanitarian crisis since World War II. 13.5 million of people are in need of humanitarian assistance; of these, 6.3 million are internally displaced. The EU is a leading donor in the response to the Syria crisis with over €9.4 billion of total budget mobilised by the Commission and member states collectively in humanitarian and development assistance. An international conference on challenges on supporting the future of Syria and its region was held in Brussels on 4 and 5 April. The EU and its member states collectively pledged € 3.7 billion of both humanitarian and resilience support.

The **north of Nigeria** is facing the worst humanitarian crisis on the African continent according to the UN and continues to have some of the worst development indicators in sub-Saharan Africa. Over 60% of the population live below the poverty threshold. This has been aggravated by the recent Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast where 5.1 million people are currently facing critical food insecurity situations. For 2017, the allocation of EU humanitarian assistance for Nigeria amounts to about €60 million.

The **Horn of Africa region** is also facing a worrying situation, with stability being challenged both within countries and between countries. Recently, regional stability has been further challenged by the severe drought and climate change conditions in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya. Conflict and drought in South Sudan have displaced 1.9 million people within the country and caused an additional 1.7 million people to flee to neighbouring countries. In Somalia, half of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance. So far in 2017, EU humanitarian aid amounts to €78,75 million, including a €55 million top-up in response to the drought and famine warning in Somalia. Since the beginning of the year, the EU and its member states have provided over € 800 million for Somalia. A humanitarian crisis meeting on the alarming levels of food insecurity in the Horn of Africa was held in Brussels on 5 April 2017, while an international conference on Somalia was held in London on 11 May, where the High Representative Federica Mogherini announced that the EU would commit a further €200 million for Somalia.

Yemen is the single largest food insecurity emergency in the world. Almost 19 million people are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. 17 million people are facing food crises, of whom 6.8 million are severely food insecure. As a result of conflict, food imports, food production, and functioning markets have decreased resulting in reduced food availability and increased prices. In response to this situation, the Commission has provided an assistance of €46 million, while €70 million more is expected to be mobilised in development aid by the end of this year. At a high-level event hosted by Sweden and Switzerland in Geneva on 25 April 2017, the EU and its member states collectively pledged approximately €400 million for humanitarian assistance in Yemen.

[Joint staff working paper on the first implementation year of the 2015-2020 Horn of Africa Action Plan](#)

["Supporting the future of Syria and the region", Brussels conference, 4 and 5 April 2017](#)

[Council conclusions on Yemen, 3 April 2017](#)

Commission humanitarian factsheets on [Nigeria](#), [Yemen](#), [Somalia](#), [Syria](#)

Post-Cotonou framework

Development ministers will have a discussion on **future relations between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)** countries in view of the expiry of the Cotonou agreement in 2020.

The debate will draw on a joint communication by the European Commission and the High Representative Federica Mogherini, presented on 22 November 2016, on the basis of which the EU is still discussing its position. It will also follow up on discussions held at the EU-ACP Council of ministers of 5 May 2017.

The joint communication **builds on the longstanding relationship with the ACP countries**, which provides a good starting point to forge an alliance that is suitable for the challenges of a more interdependent, complex and contested world. This would facilitate increased cooperation at international level while allowing for specific regional opportunities and challenges to be better addressed. It should help building peaceful, stable, well-governed, prosperous and resilient states and societies at the EU's borders and beyond and deliver on the 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 now consists of 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. The reflection on the future agreement aims at taking into account these developments.

[Communication on a renewed partnership with African, Caribbean and Pacific \(ACP\) countries](#)

[EU relations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states \(ACP\)](#)

[ACP-EU Council of ministers, 5 May 2017](#)

European consensus for development

The Council is due to adopt a joint statement of the three institutions (Parliament, Council and Commission) setting out a **new framework for development cooperation for the EU and its member states**.

The European consensus for development is the **EU's response to the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development**. It puts forward the main policy principles to guide the EU's and member states' development cooperation for the next 15 years in order to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and their approach to cooperation with developing countries. In line with the global strategy on the EU's foreign and security policy, the consensus will contribute to achieving the priorities of EU external action.

The consensus aims to respond to current global challenges including demographic, economic, social and environmental challenges. Building states', societies' and individuals' resilience is central to this approach. The proposal aims at achieving sustainable development and accelerating transformation by putting particular emphasis on **cross-cutting elements of development** such as gender equality, youth, investment and trade, sustainable energy and climate action, good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights, and migration and mobility.

The consensus recommends greater coordination and coherence between the EU and its member states. It proposes a tailored and differentiated approach in working with partners to promote joint programming and implementation, with the full involvement of civil society and other actors, to achieve more effective results and impact. It puts the spotlight on the principles of development effectiveness, transparency, mutual accountability and ownership by all partners involved, as well as the mobilisation of all means of implementation to deliver on the SDGs.

The joint statement will be officially signed by the President of the European Parliament, the Maltese Prime Minister, on behalf of the Council, the High Representative and the President of the European Commission, at the European Development Days on 7 June. It will then replace the current European consensus on development adopted in 2006.

[European Commission communication on a new European consensus on development](#)

[Council conclusions of 12 May 2016 on stepping up joint programming](#)

Implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development

Over lunch, Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations will join ministers for an exchange on the **implementation of the 2030 agenda** focusing on the external parts of the 2030 agenda, including the internal work of the UN to achieve the sustainable development goals and EU's efforts to contribute to the implementation.

This discussion falls within the context of the preparation of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be held on 10-19 July in New York. The 2030 agenda was adopted in September 2015 and came into force on 1 January 2016. It includes 17 sustainable development goals that provide a universally agreed plan to achieve sustainable development.

[UN's sustainable development agenda](#)

External aspects of migration

On the eve of the meeting, a joint dinner between development and home affairs ministers will address the external aspects of migration to ensure **full coherence between migration and development policies**. They will discuss how to reinforce cooperation with countries of origin and transit to address the root causes of migration, prevent irregular migration and improve return, readmission and reintegration of irregular migrants.

[Finding solutions to migratory pressure](#)

[Valletta action plan, 11-12 November 2015](#)

[Information on the migration partnership framework](#)

Other issues

The Council is expected to adopt without debate a number of conclusions and decisions, in particular:

Operationalisation of the humanitarian development nexus

Poverty, conflict, fragility and forced displacement are deeply interlinked and must be addressed in a coherent and comprehensive way. In this context, the Council is due to adopt conclusions recognising the connections between sustainable development, humanitarian action and peace and security. In particular, the conclusions should stress the need to coordinate humanitarian and development actions so as to address the root causes of vulnerability, fragility and conflict while simultaneously meeting humanitarian needs and strengthening resilience.

[Council conclusions on the EU's comprehensive approach](#)

Annual report on EU development aid targets

The Council is due to adopt conclusions regarding information on the EU's official development assistance (ODA), analysing trends with regard to its commitments and delivery in 2016. The ODA is a major source of finance for least developed countries and fragile states which particularly lack the domestic capacity to raise finance from other sources. Last year, ODA reached €75 billion. This constitutes an 11% increase compared to 2015.

[OECD's summary of ODA data for 2016](#)

Sustainable garment value chains

The Council supports the promotion of responsible supply chains in the textile and clothing sector. It is due to adopt conclusions recognising the potential of this sector as a driver of development and emancipation, but also acknowledging the economic, social and environmental challenges posed by the garment value chains. Deadly accidents such as the collapse of the factory in Rana Plaza in Bangladesh in 2013 underline the importance of preventing human rights violations and of promoting corporate social responsibility in the garment sector.

[Commission's staff working document on sustainable garment value chains through EU development action, 26 April 2017](#)