



FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (Development) **Thursday 12 May in Brussels**

The Council, starting at 10.00, will be chaired by Federica Mogherini, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

The Council will discuss the revision of the **European consensus on development** in light of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

The Council will then have a discussion on **trade, private sector and sustainable development** focusing on contribution of the private sector to the Agenda 2030.

Over **lunch**, ministers will have an exchange of views with the Afghan Minister of Finance Eklil Ahmad Hakimi, and discuss the preparations of the **Brussels conference on Afghanistan** scheduled on 4-5 October 2016.

In the afternoon, the Council will hold a debate on **joint programming** of EU and member states' external assistance. It will then address **migration and development issues**, where ministers will discuss the Commission communication "[Lives in dignity: from aid-dependence to self-reliance](#)" and take stock of the situation 6 months after the Valletta summit.

Finally, the Council is expected to adopt conclusions setting out the position of the EU and its member states for the **World Humanitarian Summit**, to be held on 23-24 May 2016 in Istanbul.

Press opportunities on Thursday 12 May:

- +/- 13.00 Photo opportunity - High Representative F. Mogherini and Finance Minister Eklil Ahmad Hakimi (meeting: 12:45 at the press centre Info Desk)
- +/- 17.00 Press conference

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Press conferences and public events by video streaming: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu>

Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery on:

<http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/event/foreign-affairs-council-development-may-2016-5731b0f56f323>

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

Revision of the European consensus on development in light of the 2030 Agenda

The Council will discuss the revision of the European consensus on Development in light of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Ministers will have a general orientation debate and two thematic discussions, on joint programming and on the role of the private sector.

The European consensus on development (2005) set out a shared vision for the EU and its member states and identified values, goals, principles and commitments to be implemented in development policies, such as the reduction of poverty, the promotion of democratic values including human rights, fundamental freedom, the rule of law and gender equality, and the build up of nationally-led initiatives in developing countries. It was formally 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. It aimed at improving the cooperation and effectiveness of EU development policy and to respond to the Millennium development goals (2000-2015). Its policy orientations were modernised in 2011 by the Agenda for change.

The European consensus on development is foreseen to be updated as the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York (27-27 September 2015). The agenda includes a broad and universal set of development goals, the Sustainable Development Goals which replace the Millennium Development Goals. The revision of the consensus should also take account of the Paris agreement on climate change (December 2015).

Ministers will share their views on what are the main issues and changes they would like to see in a revised European consensus on development. Beyond a general orientation debate, they will focus their discussion on four main aspects, two of which will be covered during this Council meeting. The two other will be discussed at ministerial level at a later stage.

- Taking into account the Addis Ababa action agenda (July 2015), ministers will discuss how can the EU best help to **mobilise the full range of means of implementation** of the 2030 Agenda - financial and non-financial, public and private, domestic and international. The **role of the private sector** is particularly key in this regard and this aspect will be discussed under the agenda item "Trade, private sector and sustainable development".
- Minister will also explore how **coherence, complementarity and coordination** between the EU and its member states can be improved and joint action be enhanced. This includes **joint programming**, which ministers will discuss in the afternoon.
- As the **security and development** nexus is more crucial than ever, with crises becoming more complex and long-lasting, there is a need for enhanced coordination among all instruments. This aspect will be further discussed at a later stage.
- The 2030 Agenda is comprehensive and universal. It therefore requires an engagement with an **increasingly diverse range of countries**, from the least developed countries to middle-income and industrialised countries. The question is now how can the EU best respond to the need for **increasing differentiation**. This aspect will also be discussed in-depth at a later stage.

[European Consensus on Development](#)

[Agenda for change](#)

[Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(UN\)](#)

Trade, private sector and sustainable development

The Council will focus on the role of the private sector in implementing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, in the context of the revision of the European consensus on development. The Commission's staff working document *Report on the implementation of the European Commission Communication on "Trade, Growth and Development"* will feed into the ministers' discussion.

The private sector provides some 90% of jobs in developing countries, which makes it a **key partner in the fight against poverty**. The EU invested EUR 2.2 billion for blending public and private funds under the last multiannual financial framework and aims at higher investments until 2020. For the period 2014-2020, the EU grants are expected to leverage around EUR 100 billion in investments from financial institutions and private investors in partner countries. Building on the EU policy on a strengthened role of the private sector in development (Council conclusions of 12 December 2014), ministers will address **ways to encourage EU private sector investments to promote sustainable development**, including steering institutional investors into biodiversity, ecosystems or sustainable cities. The role of the private sector is crucial to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and development partners need to explore innovative ways for engaging the private sector. Ministers will also explore the means to make better use of official development assistance (ODA) and public financing in leveraging such investments, and to enhance the inclusivity of these investments.

Possible ideas include exploring new financial indexes to guide the global financial markets, or building on innovative instruments such as ElectriFI or AgriFI initiatives, which promote private sector investments in rural electrification and in agriculture. Identifying ways to help reduce financial risks of investments in sustainable development for companies also deserves to be further explored. Another avenue is to move beyond from the traditional concept of corporate social responsibility to a broader approach of responsible business conduct for sustainable development.

In this context, the Council is expected to adopt conclusions on **responsible global value chains** (GVCs). The concept of global value chains describes the organisation of international production, trade and investments where different stages of the production process are located across different countries. GVCs are becoming increasingly important in global production patterns. The EU can have a positive impact on sustainable development by promoting responsible management of GVCs, making them sustainable and inclusive, in line with the EU objective to ensure that inclusive economic growth is developed together with social justice and respect for human rights, including core labour standards and sustainable environmental practices. The Council is expected to underline the importance of engaging with the private sector on these issues.

[Report on the implementation of the European Commission Communication on "Trade, Growth and Development"](#)

[Council Conclusions on the role of the private sector in development cooperation \(December 2014\)](#)

[Commission Communication "A stronger role of the private sector in achieving inclusive and sustainable growth in developing countries" \(May 2014\)](#)

Afghanistan

Over lunch, EU development ministers will be joined by Afghan minister for Finance, Eklil Ahmad Hakimi. They will discuss the state of play of the **preparation of the ministerial conference on Afghanistan**, scheduled on 4-5 October 2016 in Brussels and have an exchange of views on the **progress made on the reforms** by the Afghan government.

The Brussels conference on Afghanistan will gather up to 75 countries and 20 international organisations and agencies. It will be **co-hosted by the EU and the government of Afghanistan**, with the presence of President Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah and on the EU side, European Council President Tusk and High Representative Mogherini as well as Commissioner for development cooperation Mimica.

The Brussels conference will provide a platform for the government of Afghanistan to set out its vision for reform. For the international community, it is the opportunity to signal sustained political and financial support to Afghan peace and state-building. The conference has three objectives:

- convey a strong message of support for Afghanistan's reform process and state building process
- commit development assistance at or near current levels
- create a political momentum of regional cooperation reaching out to Afghanistan's neighbours

International community pledges for ongoing support for Afghanistan go together with the commitments on the Afghan side to **implement reforms** notably addressing the promotion of human rights and particularly women's and children's rights, good governance, democratic process, economic growth, and the fight against corruption. The "**Self-reliance through mutual accountability framework**" (September 2015) lays down these commitments.

In July 2012, at the Tokyo conference on Afghanistan, it was agreed to hold a series of meetings at ministerial level to support progress. In 2014, the UK government hosted the London conference on Afghanistan. The Brussels conference is the second meeting of this kind.

After the working lunch, the Council is expected to adopt conclusions on Afghanistan.

[Self-Reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework \(5 September 2015\)](#)

[Council Conclusions on Afghanistan \(26 October 2015\)](#)

[EU relations with Afghanistan \(EEAS website\)](#)

Joint programming of EU and member states' external assistance

In the context of the revision of the European consensus on development, ministers will have a discussion **on joint programming of external assistance of EU and member states assistance**. The Council may adopt conclusions.

Joint programming is a collective tool which can effectively contribute to the policy commitments made at the EU and global level, in particular in delivering on the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. It can enhance EU coordination at country level, strengthen coherence, transparency and visibility of the EU's action. It implies increased joint analysis and information sharing, which is key in improving **aid effectiveness**. Where implemented at country level, it has facilitated a more effective division of labour and reduced aid fragmentation.

In 2015, joint programming was ongoing or foreseen in 55 countries, counting 25 joint strategies currently in place or being finalised, 30 joint analyses and 37 roadmaps. Progress has been made, but further improvements are possible. Ministers will discuss how to consolidate and expand joint programming.

Migration and development

The Council will discuss migration and development. The first part of the discussion will focus on the implementation of the Valletta action plan, six months after its adoption at the **Valletta Summit** (11-12 November 2015). In an effort to strengthen cooperation in light of the migration crisis, European and African Heads of State and Government have 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. Commitments under the trust fund have reached EUR 750 million to date. The Council will review the state of play of the trust fund, as well of **high-level dialogues** with partners countries.

[Valletta Summit on Migration - Action Plan \(11-12 November 2015\)](#)

[Finding solutions to migratory pressures](#)

The second part of the discussion will be dedicated to the internally displaced persons and forced displacement. Ministers will discuss how to best support refugees and displaced people in long lasting crisis, based on the Commission communication "**Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance**". The communication proposes to review how the EU can help refugees and displaced people to become more self-reliant in their residence country, moving away from relying exclusively on emergency humanitarian type assistance.

Globally, more than 60 million people – refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) - are forcibly displaced because of conflict, violence and human rights violations. 90% live in developing countries. The Syrian crisis, which now enters its sixth year, has made the situation more acute than ever. The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on EU approach to forced displacement and development.

[Commission communication "Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance"](#)

World Humanitarian Summit

The first World Humanitarian Summit, called by the UN Secretary General and to be held in Istanbul on 23-24 May, is a multi-stakeholder event bringing together governments, local communities, international organisations, aid providers and the private sector.

It will be an occasion to **review the global humanitarian system**, which is faced by an unprecedented increase in the number of people affected by conflicts and natural disasters, including the highest number of displacements since World War II. Despite record contributions from donors worldwide, the gap between humanitarian needs and the funding available for humanitarian response continues to grow.

World leaders will be called upon to commit to reducing humanitarian needs by **redoubling efforts to resolve and prevent conflicts**. Stakeholders are expected to also announce voluntary commitments in four additional areas, including respect for international humanitarian law, protecting the most vulnerable, improving ways of working, and humanitarian financing.

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions setting out the **position of the EU and its member states** for the World Humanitarian Summit. The Commission communication "Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance", which will be discussed by ministers in the context of migration and development, is also intended as a contribution of the EU to the Summit.

The EU collectively is the world's largest humanitarian donor (funding from EU resources plus member states' bilateral funding). From the EU budget alone, over EUR 1 billion a year are provided.

[World Humanitarian Summit 23-24 May 2016](#)

[Council conclusions on the World Humanitarian Summit preparatory process](#) (10 December 2015)

[Commission communication "Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance"](#)

Other items

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

Annual report 2016 to the European Council on EU development aid targets

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the annual report 2016 to the European Council on EU development aid targets. The report features the preliminary information on the 2015 EU official development assistance (ODA), analysing member states ODA commitments and deliveries over the year.

The report shows the EU remains the world's leading aid donor in 2015, accounting for more than half of the total ODA. The figures show that the EU's collective ODA reached €68.23 billion in 2015, an increase of 15% compared to 2014.

[Factsheet: Publication of new figures on 2015 Official Development Assistance](#)

Habitat III

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the EU's key objectives and priorities for the 3rd UN conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Quito/Ecuador, 17-20 October). The conference is set to establish a global new urban agenda. Sustainable urban development plays a key role in achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

Risks related to a results-oriented approach (European Court of Auditors' Special Report)

The Council is set to adopt conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report on the risks related to a results-oriented approach for EU development and cooperation action. The European Court of Auditors' special report (n°21/2015) identified nine key risk areas, relating among others to the establishment of a clear results chain, the harmonisation of instruments and frameworks between partners and the consolidation of data quality.

[European Court of Auditors' special report n°21/2015](#)