



FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council (Development) **26 May 2015 in Brussels**

The Council will start at 15.00 and will be chaired by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini.

EU development ministers will exchange views on **financing for development** in the context of the negotiations towards the new **post-2015 development agenda**. The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on a "New Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015".

Gender and development will also be on the agenda. Ministers will discuss how to support the promotion, fulfilment and protection of women's and girls' rights in EU development policies and programmes. The Council is due to adopt conclusions on gender in development.

In the context of the dramatic situation in the Mediterranean and as a follow-up to the special **European Council** of 23 April, the Council will also debate **migration and development**.

Ministers will also have an exchange of views on the basis of the recent joint communication on **capacity building in support of security and development**, also in preparation of the European Council in June.

In addition, the High Representative will update ministers on the ongoing work regarding the **strategic review**.

A dinner with UN Secretary General **Ban Ki-moon** will follow in the evening.

* * *

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

Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery on: www.eucouncil.tv

* * *

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

Post-2015 development agenda

The Council will discuss the post-2015 development agenda, the new framework for the international community's efforts towards poverty eradication and sustainable development. In particular, ministers are expected to focus on financing for development ahead of the 3rd UN Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July and the UN summit on post-2015 in New York in September.

The EU remains the world's largest aid donor: with €82 billion made available for the period 2014-2020, the European Union and EU countries together provide more than half of all official global aid. In 2014, the EU and its member states increased their official development assistance (ODA) to €58.2 billion (up by 2.4% compared to 2013).

The EU and its member states remain committed to an ambitious, transformative and inclusive post-2015 agenda. The EU continues to play an important role in the negotiations towards a new development framework. A proposal for 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is on the negotiation table, including: end poverty in all its forms everywhere; ensure healthy lives; ensure inclusive and equitable education; achieve gender equality; reduce inequality within and among countries; ensure sustainable consumption and production, and take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

In this context, EU development ministers are expected to adopt conclusions on "A New Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015" which will build on the conclusions of 16 December 2014 on a transformative post-2015 agenda and further develop aspects of the new global partnership needed to achieve the SDGs.

The ambition is that this new global partnership will strengthen the determination to end extreme poverty in one generation, building on and completing the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals. It should cover all means of implementation, including establishing an enabling policy environment, mobilising and making an effective use of financial and other resources, stimulating trade and investment, fostering science, technology and innovation and addressing the challenges and harnessing the positive effects of migration. Progress towards the SDGs should also be supported by a strong monitoring, accountability and review framework.

See: [Council conclusions on a transformative post-2015 agenda of 16 December 2014](#)

More details on [Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Gender in development

The Council will discuss how to support the promotion, fulfilment and protection of women's and girls' rights in EU development policies and programmes.

The EU action plan on gender equality and women's empowerment in development (GAP), adopted in 2010, covers the period until 2015. A successor to the GAP is under preparation for the period from 2016 to 2020 and should build on the progress achieved and lessons learned under the previous GAP.

2015 is a pivotal year for gender equality, human rights and the empowerment of women and girls in the context of negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, the main global political agreement on gender equality, and the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. In view of this, the Council is due to confirm that women's and girls' rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls remain a policy priority for the EU's external action and development cooperation. The Council is expected in particular to stress the need for an ambitious and transformative approach to address the root causes and risk factors of gender inequality, discrimination and violence against women and girls.

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on gender in development.

Migration and development

EU development ministers will exchange views on the inter-related issues of migration and development, as a follow-up to the special European Council of 23 April.

On 23 April 2015, EU leaders discussed the dramatic situation in the Mediterranean and agreed on four priority areas: saving lives, fighting traffickers in accordance with international law, preventing illegal migration flows and reinforcing internal solidarity and responsibility.

Addressing migration requires a comprehensive approach and this approach includes working on root causes. The EU is committed to enhance work on the links between migration and development while continuing to address human rights abuses and work on conflict resolution in countries of origin and transit.

The Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, adopted in 2011, provides an overarching framework for the EU's external migration policy, including migration and development. The EU has strengthened its cooperation with third countries on migration both at bilateral and multilateral level. The action plan for 2014-2017 under the EU-Africa Migration and Mobility Dialogue focuses on six priorities including addressing the root causes of migration. The Rabat process, launched in 2006 in cooperation with countries of Western and Central Africa, the European Commission and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) also promotes dialogue on migration and development. In a similar vein, the Khartoum process was established in 2015 with countries of the Horn of Africa.

See: [Council conclusions of 12 December 2014 on migration in EU development cooperation](#).

Capacity building in support of security and development

In view of the June European Council, development ministers will discuss efforts for more efficient EU capacity building in support of security and development so as to enable partner countries to prevent and manage crises themselves.

One important aspect is to formulate proposals responding to gaps in the EU's comprehensive approach; for example when training or other capacity building activities are performed by an EU mission under the Common Security and Defence Policy, but their effectiveness is hampered by a deficient training environment or lack of basic equipment.

In a recent joint communication, the Commission and the High Representative underlined their commitment to enhance coherence and coordination between EU security and development actions. The joint communication explores the practical feasibility of three actions related to funding arrangements. Following a debate among EU foreign and defence ministers, EU development ministers will exchange views on the joint communication and discuss the way forward.

Read the [joint communication](#).

See: [Council conclusions of 18 May 2015 on CSDP](#)

Strategic review

High Representative Mogherini will inform ministers about the ongoing work regarding the strategic review. This update takes place after a discussion on the strategic review in the Foreign Affairs Council of 18 May with both foreign and defence ministers. The High Representative is currently preparing a report to be presented to the European Council on 25-26 June, as mandated by the EU leaders in December 2013.

Other items

The Council is expected to adopt a number of conclusions without discussion ("A-items"), notably on:

Annual Report 2015 on EU development aid targets

The Council is due to approve conclusions on the annual report 2015 to the European Council on EU development aid targets. The report analyses trends with regard to the Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments, both by the EU and its individual member states.

The EU has maintained its position as the biggest global development assistance donor according to the OECD/DAC. Development aid from EU and member states has increased from €56.9 billion in 2013 to €58.2 billion in 2014.

Member states and the Commission estimate that EU ODA is likely to continue to increase in 2015.

Biennial report on EU food and nutrition security policy commitments

The Council is to approve conclusions on the first biennial report on implementing EU food and nutrition security policy commitments. The objective of the report is to enhance efficiency of EU action to implement its policy commitments regarding food and nutrition security.

The Council is expected to recognise that global food and nutrition security challenges are inherently complex issues that require EU attention and need to be addressed in a sustainable way.
