



FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL
(Development)
Monday 26 November

The Council will start with an exchange of views on the **Africa - Europe alliance for sustainable investment and jobs**, following the initiative presented by the European Commission on 12 September 2018.

The Council will discuss the **future financial architecture for development**. Ministers will receive an update on the state of play of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) negotiations on the neighbourhood, development and international cooperation instrument (NDICI). Ministers will exchange views on the steps needed to ensure a coherent, effective and inclusive **European architecture for investment** outside the EU.

Over lunch, development ministers will discuss **gender and human rights issues**, together with Nobel Peace Prize laureates Nadia Murad and Dr. Denis Mukwege.

Press opportunities:

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| +/- 9:15 | Doorstep by High Representative Federica Mogherini |
| +/- 12:50 | Welcome by High Representative Federica Mogherini of the Nobel Peace Prize laureates Nadia Murad and Denis Mukwege (press statements) |
| +/- 13:00 | Family photo with EU Development ministers and Nobel Prize laureates |
| +/- 14:30 | Press conference following the Foreign Affairs Council (Development) |

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

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

Africa - Europe alliance

Ministers will take stock of progress and exchange views on the Africa - Europe alliance for sustainable investment and jobs, together with Commissioner for international cooperation and development Neven Mimica. The discussion is taking place less than a month ahead of the high level forum Africa-Europe (Vienna, 17-18 December).

In line with the European Council's conclusions of June 2018 calling for a new framework enabling a substantial increase of private investment in Africa, the Commission presented on 12 September 2018 an initiative to increase investment, boost trade, enhance job creation and contribute to sustainable and inclusive development. In its conclusions of 18 October, the European Council underlines that EU-Africa relations are of paramount importance in a rapidly changing global landscape and that cooperation should be taken to a new level. It welcomed the presentation of the Commission's proposed Alliance and called for actions to be taken forward.

The Africa - Europe alliance aims to take the EU's partnership with Africa to the next level building on the outcome of the Africa Union- European Union Summit on 29-30 November 2018 in Abidjan, moving from the traditional donor-recipient relation towards a partnership of equals with an extensive economic dimension, which requires to mobilise and coordinate EU and member states' actions and instruments. Ministers will discuss avenues for member states' active involvement in this new Africa - Europe alliance through concrete joint initiatives under the Alliance's four strands of action and guidelines on the way forward.

Development ministers last discussed the Africa - Europe alliance for sustainable investment and jobs at their informal meeting on 14 September 2018.

[Towards a new 'Africa - Europe Alliance' \(Commission press release, 12/09/2018\)](#)

Future financial architecture for development

The Council will discuss the future financial architecture for development. Ministers will receive an update on the state of play of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) negotiations on the neighbourhood, development and international cooperation instrument (NDICI). This will include information on the ongoing work in the European Parliament, as the co-rapporteurs in the European Parliament are about to finalise their draft report on the instrument.

Ministers will exchange views on the steps needed to ensure a coherent, effective and inclusive European architecture for investment outside the EU.

On 14 June 2018, the Commission proposed the establishment of a neighbourhood, development and international cooperation instrument in order to overhaul the financing of the EU's external action. The objective of the NDICI is to streamline existing financing instruments to allow for greater flexibility and responsiveness in the promotion of the Union's values and interests worldwide. It will also allow the EU to work more effectively with its partners, in particular in the Neighbourhood and Africa.

The proposed NDICI includes an investment component, a new European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus ('EFSD+') and the External Action Guarantee. It constitutes an integrated financial package providing financing capacity in the form of grants, loans, blending and budgetary guarantees worldwide. This proposal is meant to allow the EU to leverage additional investment to support inclusive economic growth, job creation and the eradication of poverty worldwide.

[Proposal for new instruments for EU external action \(Commission press release, 14/06/2018\)](#)

Gender and human rights issues

Over lunch, ministers will discuss gender and human rights issues, together with Nobel Peace Prize laureates Nadia Murad and Dr. Denis Mukwege. It will be the opportunity to hear their messages and to identify ways in which the EU and its member states can strengthen the prevention of gender-based violence. Gender equality and women's empowerment has been recognised as one of the 17 sustainable development goals of the United Nations' 2030 agenda. In

this context, the EU has developed an action plan for the 2016-2020 period aimed at promoting the protection and fulfilment of girls' and women's rights in its external relations.

[Statement by High Representative Federica Mogherini on the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad](#)

[EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020](#)

Other items

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

Conclusions on the EU gender action plan II

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the implementation of the EU gender action plan II in 2017. The goal of the EU gender action plan is to strengthen gender equality and women's empowerment in EU external action. The Council is due to recognize the progress made globally towards achieving gender equality, while also acknowledging the remaining challenges. The Council is expected to reaffirm the EU's and Member States' commitment to promote women's and girls' full enjoyment of all human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as a priority across all areas of action.

[EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020](#)

Conclusions on global food and nutrition security

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on global food and nutrition security, which constitute major global challenges in the fight against poverty and growing inequality. The Council is extremely concerned that after decades of decline, global hunger has been on the rise for the last three years, with 821 million people suffering from hunger and malnutrition. The Council is due to recall the EU's and its member states' firm commitment to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition. Their actions are essential for the realisation of the 2030 agenda in its entirety.

The Council is also expected to welcome the third biennial report on implementing EU food and nutrition security policy commitments as well as the third progress report on the Commission's action plan on nutrition.

[Food and nutrition security \(European Commission\)](#)

Conclusions on education in emergencies and protracted crises

The Council is due to adopt conclusions on education in emergencies and protracted crises.

The Council is expected to express its concern that more than 75 million children affected by emergencies and protracted crises have no access to quality education and that violence is on the increase in and around education settings. The Council is due to reaffirm its commitment to ensuring access to inclusive lifelong learning and safe, equitable quality education and training at all levels in emergency and crisis situations.

In this context, the Council is expected to welcome the comprehensive approach to education in emergencies and protracted crises, which includes preparedness, disaster risk reduction, prevention, mitigation, rapid response, and a commitment to building resilient education systems.

[EU to increase spending and improve delivery of education in emergencies and protracted crises \(European Commission press release, 18/05/2018\)](#)

Conclusions on the EU international cooperation and development results framework

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the revised EU international cooperation and development results framework proposed by the European Commission, in order to align the EU results framework with the new European consensus on development, as well as with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

[The Council adopts a new European consensus on development \(press release, 19/05/2017\)](#)