



FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL
(Development)
Thursday 16 May 2019

The Foreign Affairs Council (development ministers), chaired by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, will start at 9.00 with a discussion on the 2030 agenda in the context of effective multilateralism: **"2019 - maintaining momentum for the 2030 agenda and addressing climate change"**. Development ministers will discuss how best to take advantage of upcoming events to reinvigorate the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and of the Paris Agreement taking action on climate change. This discussion will contribute to the preparations for the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (July 2019), as well as the Climate Summit (23 September) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit (24-25 September), which will be held in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The Council will then exchange views on **youth and development**. They will discuss the best ways to strengthen partnerships with young people as key actors in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs.

Development ministers will have an exchange of views on the **Sahel**, and how to step up the EU's long term engagement with and support for the region. This discussion will complement earlier exchanges held during the week: foreign ministers will first have a discussion on Monday 13 May to set out the political framework and on Tuesday 14 May, EU foreign and defence ministers will have an exchange of views with their counterparts from the G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger), which is expected to focus on security aspects. The Council will adopt conclusions on the Sahel on 13 May reaffirming that the Sahel is a strategic priority for the EU and its member states. The various meetings taking place during the week of 13 May demonstrate this sense of priority and the **EU's integrated approach to the region**.

Over an informal lunch, development ministers will discuss the future of the **financial architecture for development**, following-up on their discussion at their last Council on 26 November 2018.

A number of decisions and conclusions are expected to be adopted by the Council without debate, including conclusions on **policy coherence for development** and the annual report to the European Council on development targets.

Press opportunities:

+/- 8:45 Doorstep by High Representative Federica Mogherini

[Council meeting page](#)

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

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

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

2019 - maintaining momentum for the 2030 agenda and addressing climate change

The Council will discuss progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Development ministers will discuss how best to take advantage of upcoming events to reinvigorate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the Paris Agreement taking action on climate change. This discussion will contribute to the preparations for the **high-level political forum on sustainable development** (8-19 July 2019), as well as the **Climate Summit** (23 September) and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit** (24-25 September) which will be held in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Ministers are expected to discuss how the EU can **demonstrate** effectively **leadership** at these upcoming meetings. They will reflect on how to make more effective use of public diplomacy and how the EU can **better support the UN** in delivering a more coordinated implementation of the SDGs and the Paris agreement.

Shortly before the Council, the Commission is due to issue the first **joint synthesis report** on the implementation of the 2017 European Consensus on Development including the impact of its actions in support of the 2030 Agenda in developing countries, as a contribution to EU reporting to the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2019. Ministers will have the opportunity to give preliminary views on the main findings of the report, and indicate what they consider to be a **priority for SDG implementation** for the way ahead and where efforts could be stepped up.

Ministers may also take stock of **lessons learnt from supporting partner countries** in terms of mobilising means of implementation and financing for the 2030 Agenda, and how to adapt these as necessary in the post 2020 engagement with partner countries.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development comprises a set of **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** aimed at eradicating poverty while achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental. The goals include fighting hunger, guaranteeing healthy lives, education, gender equality, sanitation, energy, employment for all, combatting climate change, preserving global biodiversity, promoting sustainable cities, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, as well as mobilising means of implementation committing all developed and developing countries. It is the shared vision of the international community on people, prosperity, planet and partnership that replaced the Millennium Development Goals after its adoption by the UN General Assembly in September 2015. The initial goals were successful, in, for example halving global poverty, ensuring that 90% of children in developing regions enjoy primary education, and in drastically narrowing gender disparities. The 2030 Agenda add to this primary focus on the human dimension of development an economic and environmental angle for sustainable development and includes a stronger follow-up and review framework than existed for the MDGs, which is reflected in multiple annual summits.

The Council adopted **conclusions** concerning the EU's approach to the internal dimension of the implementation of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda on sustainable development on **9 April 2019** (General Affairs Council), in response to the Commission's reflection paper "Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030," of 30 January 2019. In its conclusions, the Council underlines the central importance of sustainable development for the European Union and stresses the EU's interest to continue to play a leading role in implementing the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs. Recognising its importance for the EU, the Council calls for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to be accelerated "both globally and internally, as an overarching priority of the EU, for the benefit of its citizens and for upholding its credibility within Europe and globally."

[Council conclusions "Towards an ever more sustainable Union by 2030"](#)

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

[SDG SUMMIT, 24 - 25 September 2019, \(UN\)](#)

Youth and development

The Council will exchange views on youth and development together focusing on working for and with youth.

EU development ministers will have a discussion on the best ways to further strengthen partnerships with young people as key actors in realising the 2030 Agenda. Youth is a main priority in EU's development cooperation, and young people as agents of change are at the center of external EU policies. Nobody has more stakes in the success of the 2030 Agenda than the younger generation. It is therefore essential to build strong and sustainable networks and partnerships with youth representatives in partner countries.

The discussions will take a starting point in different initiatives which have been considered as good practices. These include, for example, the G5 Sahel Youth Voices, the Young Mediterranean Youth Voices Plus and AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub. The latter is a multi-stakeholder platform with 42 young experts at its core. It not only allows to include youth in the formulation of policy recommendations, but also involves them in concrete actions to operationalise these recommendations.

[AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub](#)

Sahel

Development ministers will have an exchange of views on the **Sahel**. They are expected to discuss in particular how to adjust and step up the EU's long term engagement with and support for the region, as it is confronted with an alarming degradation of the security situation. This discussion will build on earlier exchanges during the week: foreign ministers will first have a discussion on Monday 13 May to set out the political framework and on Tuesday 14 May, EU foreign and defence ministers will have an exchange of views together with their counterparts from the G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger). This discussion is expected to focus on the security aspects. The Council will adopt conclusions on the Sahel on 13 May reaffirming that the Sahel is a strategic priority for the EU and its member states. The various meetings taking place during the week of 13 May demonstrate this sense of priority and the **EU's integrated approach to the region**.

Considering the extensive political and operational actions taken in the Sahel in recent years, ministers might discuss how to **further enhance and better operationalise the EU's integrated approach to the region**. This approach combines political, security, humanitarian, and development actions in order to respond better to the root causes of instability, beyond emergency response.

Ministers may also discuss the best ways to encourage G5 Sahel countries to step up their own efforts in the most vulnerable zones and regions, as well as to foster burden sharing with other relevant players, such as ECOWAS, the African Union and the UN. They may reflect on how to make more rapid and visible improvements on the ground, in particular to respond to aspirations for the youth for a better future.

The EU is committed to the security and development of the Sahel, and is the **leading partner in the region**. It has a comprehensive approach integrating political and diplomatic dialogue, security and stability, and development and humanitarian support.

The **political and diplomatic dialogue** is focused around the EU-G5 Sahel political partnership, including ministerial meetings and the implementation of the EU Sahel strategy, the regional action plan as well as the Malian peace process. The EU High Representative holds regular meetings with her G5 Sahel counterparts to review and strengthen cooperation and coordination in areas of interest such as development, governance, and security. In addition, the EU acts as a guarantor of the Malian peace process.

The EU also supports the **security and stability** of the region through three CSDP missions: EUCAP Sahel Mali, EUTM Mali and EUCAP Sahel Niger with a reinforced regional approach. The missions include training, advising, as well as direct support to security forces with the ultimate objective of reinforcing respective national capacities. In addition, the EU assists in the operationalisation of the G5 Sahel Joint Force.

Total **development cooperation** support from the EU and its member states to the G5 Sahel countries amounts to € 8 billion for the period 2014-2020. The EU provides long-term assistance to the Sahel mainly through the EU trust fund for Africa (through which €930 million has already been mobilised), and the European development fund, which for the period of 2014-2020 has allocated €628 million for Burkina Faso, €542 million for Chad, €664 million for Mali, €160 million for Mauritania, and €686 million for Niger. The EU is also a major **humanitarian donor**, with more than €250 million allocated to G5 Sahel populations over the past two years.

[The European Union and the Sahel, fact sheet \(EEAS\)](#)

[Sahel: EU takes further steps to better support the security of the region, 3 May 2019](#)

[Council conclusions on the Sahel, 25 June 2018](#)

Informal lunch: Financial architecture for development

Over lunch, development ministers will discuss the future financial architecture for development. They may focus on the appropriate way forward to boost private investments in least developed/fragile countries, and whether the relevant financial architecture guarantees its effectiveness.

Ministers will review the best ways to ensure adequate coordination between national and EU mechanisms, as well as the inclusive participation of Member States and European financial institutions in this open architecture.

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

The Council last discussed future financial architecture for development on 26 November 2018, during the Foreign Affairs Council with EU development ministers. On this occasion, ministers had a first discussion on the future European architecture for investment outside the EU.. They also reflected on the need for the future MFF to ensure sufficient flexibility while guaranteeing that the EU priorities on its neighbourhood and Africa are fully reflected.

[Main results, Foreign Affairs Council \(Development\), 26 November 2018](#)

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

Other items

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

Council conclusions on policy coherence for development

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on policy coherence for development.

The Council recalls the Treaty obligation to take into account the objectives of development cooperation in all internal and external policies and underlines the importance of PCD as a fundamental part of the EU's contribution to achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Council acknowledges the progress made concerning PCD, and calls for further efforts to ensure that non-development policies take into account the development objectives of partner countries, thereby minimising negative impacts. The Council underlines the need to focus on sustainability, create win-win situations and enhance the positive impact of EU policies on developing countries, including by promoting synergies and reducing trade-offs between policies.

The Council acknowledges that political will is key to achieve PCD and reiterates its political engagement to promote whole-of-government approaches, to ensure political oversight and coordination efforts at all levels, and to support evidence-based policy formulation and decision making for SDG implementation.

Council conclusions on EU development aid targets (2019 annual report to the European Council)

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the 2019 annual report to the European Council on EU development aid targets. The report analyse trends with regard to commitments and delivery on the EU's official development assistance (ODA). 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.

The Council will note that the EU and its member states have maintained their position as largest ODA provider, accounting for almost 57% of the total ODA to developing countries from members of the OECD's development assistance committee. In 2018, EU ODA reached EUR 74.4 billion, and represents 0.47% of EU gross national income. The total was EUR 731 million lower than in 2018, when the ratio was also higher, at 0.50%.

The conclusions will express that the Council is increasingly concerned by the negative trend of EU collective ODA, which has decreased for the second year in a row, and regrets the deepening gap towards reaching the collective target to provide 0.7% of GNI as ODA. The Council will reaffirm its political leadership and commitment to development aid, and recall the EU and its member states' individual and collective ODA commitments, as laid down in the new European Consensus on development.
