



Foreign Affairs Council (Development) **19 November 2021**

The Foreign Affairs Council (Development), chaired by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep **Borrell**, will start at 9h00.

During an introductory session, the High Representative will update the Council about the latest developments in **Ethiopia** and **Sudan**, and the ongoing work to operationalise the humanitarian+ approach in support to the **Afghan people**, discussed at the informal videoconference of development ministers on 11 October 2021. The introductory session will also allow the Council to prepare the informal exchange with the Administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), **Samantha Power**.

USAID Administrator Power will then join the meeting to informally exchange views with development ministers and discuss possible **common strategic priorities** for future EU-US cooperation in the field of development, building on the outcome of the EU-US Summit from 15 June 2021.

The main agenda item will be the strategic discussions on **water in EU external action**, with a focus on **Central Asia** and the major water related challenges in the region.

Under Any Other Business the Commission will update the Council on Team Europe's delivery on **vaccine sharing**.

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[Foreign Affairs Council \(Development\) - meeting page](#)

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

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

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

Exchange with USAID Administrator Power

Development ministers will hold an informal exchange of views with Samantha Power, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), during her first visit to Brussels since her appointment and in the first ever participation by an USAID Administrator to the Council.

The visit will be an opportunity to exchange on joint priorities and forge a common agenda in responding to global and regional challenges

The discussion could focus on joint efforts to i) tackle the **COVID-19** pandemic ii) best advance a joined up approach on ambitious **climate action and energy transition**, as well as iii) address **democratic backsliding and human rights erosion**.

Additional topics of interest foreseen are the situation in the Horn of Africa, Afghanistan, Eastern Partnership countries and the Western Balkans

International cooperation is at the forefront of the renewed EU-US engagement. At the **15 June Summit**, the EU and the US affirmed a joint “responsibility to help people make a living and keep them safe and secure, fight climate change, and stand up for democracy and human rights”. The EU and the US reiterated intent to continue providing assistance to countries in need, address debt vulnerabilities, and stimulate domestic reforms and increased private investment

- [USAID Power, USAID website](#)
- [EU-US summit, Brussels, 15 June 2021](#)

Water in EU External Action

The Council will hold a strategic discussions on **water in EU external action**, with a focus on **Central Asia** and the major water related challenges in the region.

Ministers will be invited in particular to reflect on how the EU can effectively contribute to enhancing the water dimension at global and regional level and better integrate the humanitarian, development and peace nexus in EU external action.

They will also be asked to elaborate on how the collective EU water management experience, knowledge and know-how can be instrumental in strengthening resilience in partner countries, with specific reference to the Central Asian region and to the Team Europe approach.

Water demand, water scarcity and devastating extreme events are increasing due to **climate change**. In addition, competing demands for water constitute a potential driver of conflict in many regions of the world.

The Council discussion takes place at a timely moment in view of several upcoming events: the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar (March 2022), the Water Conference in Dushanbe (June 2022) that will be co-hosted by the Netherlands and Tajikistan, and the UN Water Conference in March 2023. The Council discussion will also feed into the EU-Central Asia ministerial meeting that the High Representative will chair on 22 November 2021.

Central Asia is an illustrative example of the many water challenges faced worldwide. The discussion will also be useful to promote a genuine Team Europe approach, starting for instance with the Team Europe Initiative on water, energy and climate change in Central Asia, but also in other water hotspots such as Africa and the Sahel region in particular.

Any other business

Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen will update ministers about Team Europe's delivery on **vaccine sharing**.

The intention is to take stock of EU vaccine sharing, in particular through the COVAX facility and with a focus on deliveries to Africa, given the low vaccination rates on the continent.

Council conclusions

The Council is expected to approve conclusions on:

- Water in the EU's External Action
 - European Public Sector Expertise in the EU's External Action
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