

FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council (Development) **12 December 2014 in Brussels**

On 11 December, EU development ministers will have a working dinner with Ms. Amina Mohamed, Special Adviser of the UN Secretary-General on post-2015 development planning.

The Council will start at 9.00 on 12 December, chaired by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini.

Ministers will first discuss recent developments and next steps regarding **the post-2015 framework**, which will be the new framework for the international community's efforts towards poverty eradication and sustainable development.

The Council will then exchange views on **migration in EU development cooperation** and adopt related conclusions.

The Council will also discuss medium and long-term support in the wake of the **Ebola** epidemic with Christos Stylianides, EU Ebola Coordinator and Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid.

Finally, ministers will be updated on work regarding the EU action plan on **gender in development cooperation**.

Over lunch, the High Representative will brief ministers on the new Commission. A discussion of working methods in the Foreign Affairs Council (Development) will ensue.

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

Post-2015

The Council will discuss recent developments and next steps regarding the post-2015 framework, the new framework for the international community's efforts towards poverty eradication and sustainable development.

The EU and its member states are committed to an ambitious, transformative and inclusive post-2015 agenda. Negotiations at the UN are underway to prepare the conference on financing for development in July 2015 and the UN summit on the post-2015 development agenda in September 2015. Ministers will discuss latest developments and the EU's approach to upcoming negotiations. The EU is set to further develop its position through Council conclusions adopted by the General Affairs Council on 16 December.

In June 2013, the Council agreed the EU position on the overarching post-2015 agenda and underlined that poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development are mutually reinforcing and should be integrated into a single overarching post-2015 framework. This should be reflected in a single set of global sustainable development goals. The framework should focus on sustainable development to eradicate poverty, including ending extreme poverty in a single generation, sustainable prosperity and well-being of all people within planetary boundaries. It should also address democratic governance, human rights, as well as peace and security. See [Council conclusions on the overarching post-2015 agenda](#).

Migration, refugees and development

The Council will exchange views on the inter-related issues of migration, refugees and development. Conclusions on migration in EU development cooperation will be adopted.

The Council is due to acknowledge the unprecedented challenges related to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) as well as to host countries resulting from conflicts around the world. It will also recall the significant contribution that development cooperation can provide to responding to the root causes of irregular migration.

The Council is to request that full account is taken of the opportunities and challenges of migration in EU development cooperation and ensuring a coordinated approach to refugees and IDPs. In particular, the Council will recommend a more systematic incorporation of migration in the dialogue with partner countries as well as strengthening the migration dimension in programming of development aid.

The Council will invite the Commission to provide further policy guidance by adopting a communication on these issues by the end of 2015.

Ebola

The Council will be briefed by EU Ebola coordinator Christos Stylianides on the crisis and the EU's response to it. Ministers will exchange views on medium to long-term support to reconstruction and recovery in the wake of the epidemic.

Collectively, the EU and its member states are the prime donor among the international community to help stem the Ebola outbreak: they have committed close to €1.1 billion. Specialist teams are being seconded, laboratories and hospitals built and air and sealfight capacities made available. EU funding also goes to the reinforcement of local and regional healthcare capacities and budget support to the affected countries. EU-supported medical evacuation of international health workers diagnosed with the virus to an equipped hospital in Europe can be assured within 48 hours. Additionally, a € 280m call for proposals for a joint EU-pharmaceutical industry initiative is intended to help boosting research on Ebola. See [fact sheet on the EU's response to Ebola](#).

In November, the Council reaffirmed its strong commitment to step up even further its response in containing, combatting and eventually controlling the epidemic. See [Council conclusions on Ebola, 17 November 2014](#).

Gender issues

The Council will be briefed on work regarding the EU action plan on gender in development cooperation.

The current EU plan of action on gender equality and women's empowerment in development runs through 2015 and should be reviewed. It sets out to strengthen the lead role of the EU in promoting gender equality in development by, inter alia, placing gender equality issues systematically on the agenda of dialogues with partner countries; ensuring that gender is mainstreamed in EU funded projects and that EU budget support uses gender-sensitive performance indicators. It is also aimed at strengthening EU support to partner countries in combating gender-based violence and discrimination.

Other items

The Council is due to adopt conclusions on several other items without discussion ("A-items"):

Action plan on nutrition

The Council will adopt conclusions on the action plan on nutrition, which was presented by the Commission last July. The Council will welcome the the plan. In particular, it will welcome the emphasis on the need to accelerate the reduction in the number of stunted children so as to achieve the WHO targets. The Council will in addition welcome the commitment of the Commission and certain Member States to scale up their action against malnutrition. It will also emphasise the need for coordination to achieve nutrition objectives, for instance in the framework of EU joint programming. See [Action Plan on Nutrition, as presented by the Commission](#).

Role of private sector in development

The Council will adopt conclusions in response to the Commission communication "A stronger role of the private sector in achieving inclusive and sustainable growth in developing countries".

The Council will set out its views on the tools for putting into practice the 12 proposed actions for harnessing the contribution of the private sector to inclusive and sustainable growth in developing countries. It will invite the Commission to reflect the new framework in the programming of EU development assistance for the period 2014 to 2020. It will support the use of innovative financial instruments to leverage additional financing, including blending of private and public funds. The Council will also express support to efforts to promote corporate social responsibility, which will be one of the priority areas of EU assistance in the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights in the 2014-2020 period. See [Commission communication on the role of the private sector in development cooperation](#).

Annual report on EU development policies

The Council will adopt conclusions on the annual report on EU development and external assistance policies and their implementation 2013. It will note important progress on joint programming of development aid, contributing to improved aid effectiveness. In addition, the Council will request a review of the progress on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals so as to learn lessons for the transition to sustainable development goals. It will invite the Commission and the European External Action Service to focus reporting more on the prevention and fight against corruption, the comprehensive approach to external conflicts and crisis and on gender equality.