The Brussels Office is responsible for enhancing UNIDO’s policy dialogue and cooperation with the European Union Institutions and other actors, including the European Investment Bank, the ACP Group of States, Belgium and Luxembourg as well as with other development partners represented in Brussels, including Permanent Representations of Member States, international organizations, civil society (think tank, universities) and the private sector, plus the International Organization of Francophonie (OIF).

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Photos: Shutterstock.com/UNIDO Brussels Office
UNIDO Director General spoke at the European Industry Days 2019 which gathered around 1,000 participants from across Europe and beyond, including stakeholders representing industry, trade unions, national and regional authorities, and civil society.

Learn more about the event and side meetings on Page 9

UNIDO organized the first ever International Quality Infrastructure (QI) Forum. In Brussels. It focused on the contribution of QI to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Forum brought together 140 participants from across Europe and Africa.

More on Page 13

Voice from Partner:

Ambassador Didier Lenoir, Head of Delegation of the European Union to the International Organisations in Vienna

With the transformative 2030 Agenda, the world has a unique chance to end poverty and achieve sustainable development, and key elements of this agenda are inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, innovation and infrastructure, for which UNIDO helps building strong and successful partnerships.

The European Consensus on Development creates a common framework for the European Union and its Member States, at the heart of which are a number of key drivers of sustainable development – including investment, sustainable energy, and the empowerment of women and young people- which are also at the forefront on UNIDO's work.

The European Union is already working together with UNIDO in an active portfolio of 26 projects, amounting to approximately EUR 177 Million and there are good opportunities to work together at both the national and regional level, for example amongst the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states. In fact, in 2019 there will be discussions on the future European relationship with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries in the framework of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement. The European Union’s approach will build on our core, common values allowing us to respond in a targeted manner to regional priorities. Investing in sustainable economic growth is key in each of these regions, and the European Union is actively discussing with its partners how best to achieve these aims.

The Africa-Europe Alliance for sustainable development and jobs and the European External Investment Plan are good examples of the European Union's renewed, innovative approach to development financing under the New York and Addis agendas, and our new European Consensus on Development. They help catalyse much-needed investment for job creation and growth, in sectors and areas that are crucial for Africa. They foresee an integrated approach which combines financial guarantees with technical assistance and a conducive investment climate. UNIDO can be an important partner in helping to achieve these goals.

Another area where cooperation is useful is the energy sector, where the European Union has adopted a strategic approach with ambitious targets based on the interconnected challenges of ensuring access, increasing renewables and energy efficiency and tackling climate change. We are already working together in the framework of UNIDO's Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres, where the European Union supports centres in South and West Africa, and the Caribbean. Cooperation with international partners will be necessary to improve research and innovation, capacity-building, and dissemination of technology in the area of sustainable energy.

In conclusion, UNIDO and the European Union have built a very solid base for further cooperation.

Highlights & Voice from Partner
The Task Force Rural Africa publishes its report!

The spirit of the ‘Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs’ called for by Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in September 2018, knowledge transfer, sharing of good practices, and reinforcing strategic policy cooperation and dialogue between the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU), should contribute to African job creation and to the development of its agricultural sector.

In this context, the European Commission has set up the Task Force Rural Africa, a group of experts that will provide expertise, advice and possible recommendations to strengthen European partnership with the African food and farming sectors. The Task Force consists of 11 members appointed in a personal capacity, with expertise and experience in agriculture, agri-business or agroindustry, trade, development policy or migration related issues and first-hand knowledge of the agri-food sector in Africa.

The group of experts is working on the following tasks:

- providing advice on how to accelerate impact, based on a better coordination with existing initiatives; and how to focus on boosting public and private investments in African sustainable agriculture
- identifying strategies to promote and prioritise agricultural policy and regulatory reform in African countries (in line with the Malabo Declaration) and facilitate EU responsible private investments, to boost intra-African trade as well as exports from African countries
- identifying strategies to support African youth working in agriculture, agribusiness and agroindustry

The group has issued an executive report in March 2019 proposing strategies and policies, harnessing cooperation between Africa and Europe, contributing to the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

What is the Task Force Group: [here](#)

Latest reports/factsheets available [here](#)

The new financial instrument would, once agreed by both Parliament and EU ministers, be used to distribute a large part of EU external action funding, with a proposed budget of € 93.154 billion in current prices for the 2021-2027 period, an increase of almost EUR 4 billion compared to the EU Commission’s proposal.

The NDICI merges most of the EU’s current external financing instruments, including the European Development Fund, into one broad instrument. Once in force, it will be the EU’s main tool to foster cooperation with non-EU countries in the neighbourhood and beyond, and to implement its international commitments deriving from the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Concretely, Parliament proposes that 45% of NDICI funds should support climate and environmental objectives.

The new instrument would also establish a framework (the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus) for external investments intended to raise additional financial resources for sustainable development from the private sector.

Funds suspended if democracy or rule of law deteriorate!

MEPs consider the promotion of democracy, peace and security, the rule of law and respect for human rights to be central objectives of EU external action. Countries that backslide in those areas should therefore face full or partial suspension of their EU funding.

On top of that, Parliament proposes to increase the funds for human rights and democracy activities worldwide to at least € 2 billion. Given the shrinking space for civil society all over the world, MEPs want to increase the EU’s financing for civil society organisations to € 2.2 billion, with an additional € 0.5 billion to go to local authorities.

Finally, MEPs insist that at least 95 % of the EU’s funding under this Regulation should contribute to actions designed in such a way that they fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance (an indicator of international aid flow), compared to the originally proposed 92 %.

More political control and better governance

While acknowledging the need for more flexibility when managing the EU’s external action instruments, Parliament also wants to balance this with more parliamentary control, as well as strengthened governance and accountability provisions for the programming and administration of funds. The text was approved by 420 votes in favour, with 146 against and 102 abstentions.

Next steps

In order to enter into force, the proposed NDICI will have to be agreed between Parliament and Council. Negotiations between the two EU institutions are expected to start later this year.

More information on NDICI [here](#)
Promoting stronger digital economies for the EU’s six Eastern Partners

The Ministerial meeting follows up on the joint commitment by the EU, its Member States and the 6 Partner countries, at the Eastern Partnership Summit in November 2017 to deliver tangible benefits for citizens in the region, based on a clear work plan of 20 Deliverables for 2020 in four priority areas (stronger economy, stronger governance, stronger connectivity, stronger society).

On Thursday 28 February in Bucharest, the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European Commission hosted the 3rd Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting on the Digital Economy.

The event brought together EU Ministers responsible for the Digital Economy and their counterparts from the six Eastern Partners - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine - to help deepen cooperation in the digital area across the region.

The European Union, ministers and representatives of the EU Member States and the ministers from the six countries that together make up the Eastern Partnership endorsed a declaration, which commits the six eastern partners to a roadmap on reaching a Regional Roaming Agreement among them by the end of 2020.

16 March 2019, Patrick J. Gilabert attended the ACP – EU Parliamentary Assembly in Bucharest, Romania.

MEPs and African, Caribbean and Pacific MPs discussed the future of the partnership and agreed to enhance support for education and the fight against climate change.

The 37th session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) took place from 18 to 20 March; Members of the European Parliament and their counterparts from 78 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries debated and adopted a series of resolutions, strengthening the discussion on the post-Cotonou framework. The assembly also agreed on reinforcing initiatives in fields such as climate change or education. UNIDO made a presentation on Sustainable industrialisation and digitalisation: the approach and industrialisation and digitalisation policies for ACP countries.
ACP’s efforts post-Cotonou must be economically sustainable

On the 2nd of April, Namibia has reaffirmed its commitment to the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) and European Union (EU) partnership and says it will do all it can to honour and work toward the commitments embodied in the Cotonou Agreement and post-Cotonou when it expires in 2020. This was the message by Minister of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development of the Republic of Namibia and President of the ACP Council of Ministers, Tjekero Tweya, when he spoke at the 37TH session of ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly that took place in Bucharest, Romania.

“We are embarking on a new chapter in the history of our partnership. The future partnership between the ACP and EU will be a unique partnership that is expected to have a greater political and strategic approach on the world fora. This approach will assist our cooperation to address challenges that cannot be handled by one country, one region or one actor. It is therefore critical that the outcome of the current negotiations leads to a win–win partnership that delivers on the aspirations of our nations and the objectives of the partnership that is to have development that leaves no one behind,” said Tweya while addressing the gathering in his capacity as President of the ACP Council of Ministers.

In pointing out these regional needs, Tweya emphasised the need to develop agricultural value chains, the unmatched potential of the blue economy and the urgent need to address climate change.

He noted the ACP Group’s production of a Framework Programme on the Development of Agricultural Value Chains.

“The programme will support all actors in the value chain including family farms, small and medium-sized enterprises, women and youth. This program will address supply-side constraints and facilitate diversification. In this way, the programme will contribute to enhancing Intra-ACP Trade and actualising the benefits of trade agreements signed such as Economic Partnership Agreements. I am confident that by working together and supporting sustainable agricultural development, we can not only improve the food security of those who are hungry; but instead create new opportunities for the ACP Group to shape the world for a better tomorrow,” said Tweya.

In addition, Tweya stressed significant importance to the sustainable development of the blue economy as a whole, and in particular, the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

“This is a crucial sector that underpins the food and nutritional security, employment, exports, trade and livelihoods of many countries, particularly for Small Island Developing States [SIDS]. Fish exports trade in particular continues to be of critical importance to SIDS accounting for over half of the total commodities exports in some countries. In fact, as much as US$5.3 billion (include EURO equivalent) worth of ACP fish exports from at least 65 ACP countries are estimated to the international market annually,” the trade minister stated.

Continue on the ACP website here.
Overcoming the Development Trap: How the GSP can lift millions out of poverty

Almost 50 years ago the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development asked developed countries to help developing countries integrate into the world economy. At that moment, the ‘Generalised System of Preferences’ (GSP) was born. While, today, about a dozen countries have similar trade mechanisms in place, the European Union’s GSP - with over 70 beneficiaries – is widely recognised as the most progressive and generous of them all. European Commissioner for Trade, Cecilia Malmström explores the many ways for the GSP to remain relevant for developing countries.

Download discussion paper in full

The MFF: Europe’s other ticking clock

The EU’s next multiannual budget needs the agreement of all member states and the European Parliament. But the negotiations are expected to be harder than ever, given the member states’ opposing visions for the future and the prevailing ‘juste retour’ logic: everyone tries to get as much as they can while contributing as little as possible. Instead of waiting for an 11th-hour agreement to materialise, the EU and its member states should face their differences head-on and start working on a compromise now, or risk going over another cliff edge, with no deal at all.

Publication by Marta Pilati (Policy Analyst) and Fabian Zuleeg (Chief Executive and Chief Economist) available here

Assertive, appreciative and aloof: South Africa, Cabo Verde and Ghana reflect on EU research and innovation collaboration

Research and innovation (R&I) is a key ingredient of sustainable development. It is also an asset that the EU wishes to leverage to create more horizontal, mutually beneficial and multi-actor partnerships with middle-income countries (MICs). This study by Mariella Di Ciommo, Emmanuel De Groof and Sanne Thijssen presents the perspectives on R&I cooperation with the EU in Cabo Verde, Ghana and South Africa.

ECDPM discussion paper 251, March 2019
UNIDO actively contributed to the European Industry Days 2019, which recognizes the importance of industry in sustainable development and which focuses on industrial challenges, such as sustainability, digitalization, investment and globalization.

The European Industry Days 2019 gathered around 1,000 participants from across Europe and beyond, including stakeholders representing industry, trade unions, national and regional authorities, and civil society.

UNIDO Director General LI Yong spoke during the high-level panel on industry and the future of globalization, during which he underlined the importance of innovation for industry to attain inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

On the side lines of the event, the UNIDO Director General had the opportunity to further exchange views with inter alia Vice-President of the European Commission Jyrki Katainen, Interim President of the World Bank Kristalina Georgieva, Chairman of the European Round Table of Industrialists Carl-Henric Svanberg, Chairman of Volvo Jussi Herlin. Throughout the discussions, the importance of cooperation and partnership was very much stressed.

Director General also held a bilateral meeting met with EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica to further improve the valued EU-UNIDO cooperation, through which 28 projects are being implemented with the financial support of the European Union. The UNIDO Director General also met the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of states’ Secretary General Patrick Ignatius Gomes to discuss ACP-UNIDO in the Post-Cotonou process, for the third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) and for the Samoa Plan of Action.

Director General also met Lotte Knudsen, Managing Director of Human Rights, Global and Multilateral Issues at the European External Action Service (EEAS), who agreed on the importance of (re)industrialization and its recognition in multilateral fora. The Director General further emphasized the importance of approaches such as UNIDO’s Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) to address the root causes of forced migration, and the importance of enhanced EU-UNIDO cooperation in this context.
UNIDO BRUSSELS ENGAGES WITH YOUTH

(1) February 21: ULB Bachelor’s and Master’s students had the opportunity to visit the UN House in Brussels, and to have a dedicated sessions in view to joining the next Model United Nations (MUN) in New York. Patrick J. Gilabert did a presentation aimed at giving them an overview of all the UN agencies, conveying to them with them what the role of the United Nations is and what the duties to accomplish are. He deepened the main features of UNIDO, focusing also on the role of a Liason Office to the European Union compared to the role of a Headquarter. In the end, he analyzed with the students the different characteristics of the countries they will represent during the role plays – Georgia and France.

(2) March 11th: UNIDO was invited at BOCCONI Job Fair in Brussels. On this occasion UNIDO trainees presented the Agenda 2030 to students who wished to know more about the UN system. Recruitment and professional opportunities to work in the UN were also outlined.

(3) March 27th: UNIDO Brussels Office presented to High School students the role of the United Nations and UNIDO in strengthening multilateralism. Earlier that week, Patrick J. Gilabert UNIDO Representative to the EU was part of a jury on "Science and society, what a world in 2050?" with the French high schools of Belgium, Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Russia, Ukraine, Sweden.

(4) March 22nd: UNIDO Representative to the EU was invited to speak and reflect on the Sustainable Development Goals, conference organized by at the French university Nice Cote d’Azur.
SOUTH AFRICA AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM WELCOMES UNIDO FOR DISCUSSIONS - 25 January

H. E. Baso Sangqu Ambassador of South Africa in Brussels is looking forward to strengthening cooperation with UNIDO for South African economic development, job creation, sciences, technology, innovation.

UNIDO AT THE UFM SECRETARIAT - 30 January

Antoine Chausinand (UNIDO EPR/BRO) participated to the High-Level Policy Dialogue process organized by the EU and RCREEE at UfM secretariat in Barcelona on “how to foster the energy transition in the Mediterranean”. There he discussed UNIDO’s expertise in the field of RE & EE and presented the Private Financial Advisory Network (PFAN).

OIF AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT VISIT UNIDO BRUSSELS OFFICE- 27 February

Successful meeting between OIF francophonie, Commonwealth secretariat to work together for the economic and industrial development of ACP countries in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific.

SEMINAR ON THE FUTURE OF COMPETITIVE INTELLIGENCE - 5 March

UNIDO organized a seminar about economic and strategic intelligence. A panel of high level experts consisting of Alain Juillet, Philippe Clerc and Henri Dou were invited to discuss key topics related to economic intelligence. As a result of their reflections, the three panelists invited to take stock of the changes taking place in our societies and in our socio-economic landscape and stressed the need to find new tools to understand the world in which we live in.

UNIDO AT THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION - 8 March

Successful meeting between Rafik Feki (PTC/TII/BCI), UNIDO Representative to the EU and WCO officials.

UNIDO REPRESENTATIVE TO ALGERIA IN BRUSSELS - 26 March

Hassiba Sayah UNIDO Representative to Algeria discussed with Patrick Gilabert UNIDO Representative to the EU ways to enhance Sustainable and Inclusive Industrial Development in Algeria.
UNIDO Brussels Office took part to the Third Conference on "Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region" from the 12-14 March 2019. The conference was hosted by the European Union and co-chaired by the United Nations.

The Days of Dialogue on the 12th and 13th March 2019 brought more than 1,000 participants, including representatives from more than 400 Syrian, regional and international NGOs/CSOs, to the Brussels Hemicyle of the European Parliament. UNIDO among other Organizations were consulted on all key topics in the international response to the Syria conflict.

The Ministerial Conference at the European Council on the 14th March brought together 78 delegations including 56 States, 11 regional organizations and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) as well as 11 UN agencies. Co-chairs and main donors agreed to widen the resource base and ensure greater predictability, coherence and effectiveness of the aid.

Participants announced their pledges for both Syria and the region: US$ 7 billion (€ 6.2 billion) for 2019 and multi-year pledges of close to US$ 2.4 billion (€ 2.1 billion) for 2020 and beyond. Additionally, international financial institutions and donors announced around $ 20.7 billion (€ 18.5 billion) in loans on concessional terms.

Find more info on the declaration here, Funding announcements by Countries and Organizations here and participants here.
UNIDO in cooperation with the African Union Commission (AUC), held the first ever International Quality Infrastructure (QI) Forum. It focused on the contribution of QI to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). The Forum also showcased how the private sector can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs through the adoption of sustainability standards.

The Forum set the scene for future collaboration on QI and served to identify priority interventions for the development of QI systems within the framework of the AfCFTA in support of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa 2016 -2025 (IDDA III).

The Forum’s technical sessions focused on how to steer African regional quality infrastructure development within the AfCFTA towards the SDGs. The participants also discussed the importance of good governance and quality policy dialogue for building a robust QI.

The Forum brought together around 140 participants from across Europe and Africa, including representatives of international quality infrastructure governance bodies and practitioners as well as stakeholders representing international, national and regional authorities, industry, civil society and academia.
European Commission's Director General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), Stefano Manservisi, said: “The EU is one of the major contributors worldwide in terms of QI and is ready to support African countries even further in their endeavour to achieve the SDGs.”

Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Director, UNIDO Department of Trade, Innovation and Investment: “Our role is to advocate and promote the quality policy dialogue and involve government practitioners with moving the Agenda 2030 forward.”

Patrick Gilabert, UNIDO Representative to the EU: “The Forum served as a platform to disseminate knowledge and good practices in an effort to remove trade barriers; assist SMEs’ access to better QI services; support funds mobilization for investing in QI in developing countries; provide technical assistance and tools to developing countries to allow them to connect to global value chains and international markets; and promote sustainable development to achieve SDGs.”

“QI would allow African businesses to compete abroad, to create more wealth and thus more jobs,” said AU Ambassador, Ahmat Awad Sakine, Permanent Representative to the European Union and the ACP Group in his opening remarks. “At a time when economic relations and the globalization of trade impose the respect of international standards, it goes without saying that QI represents the key to Africa’s growth and development in a globalized world.”
The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) organized a one-day workshop on “Good Practice in Quality Policy Development” gathering 27 participants. The event took place on 5 April 2019 at the United Nations premises in Brussels, Belgium.

Successful and sustainable exports to the global marketplace are increasingly predicated by demonstrable compliance with international quality requirements for goods and services. An appropriate and internationally recognised Quality Infrastructure, based on a solid quality policy, supports both domestic and global producers and consumers in the cost-effective fulfilment and proof of their mutual quality needs and aspirations. It also stimulates industrial development, trade competitiveness, innovation and the efficient use of resources, while ensuring food safety and protecting human health and the environment. Within this framework, the interactive workshop, which targeted participants from LDCs and African countries, focused on best practices of quality infrastructure through quality policy development, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This workshop was organized within the framework of UNIDO’s cooperation with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and took place back to back with the Quality Infrastructure Forum on 4 April 2019, organized by UNIDO in cooperation with the African Union. Both events contributed to the objectives of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa 2016-2025 (IDDA III).
Upcoming events

Agenda

From 31st March 2019

Upcoming events

6-7 May  
**UNIDO at the European Business Summit**

13 May  
Launch of UNIDO Industrial Statistics publication in UN House

13-17 May  
**EU Green Week**

16th May  
UNIDO Info Point at DG DEVCO

19 May  
UN/UNIDO Brussels running the Brussels 20 Km

22-23 May  
Circular Economy Conference with European Commission (Dakar)

23-26 May  
*Elections for European Parliament & Belgian elections*

6 June  
UNIDO at Symposium on Competitive intelligence University of Liège

17-21 June  
**European Sustainable Energy Week**

20-21 June  
**European Development Days**

28-29 June  
*European Council Meeting*

30 June  
Third UNIDO Brussels Newsletter

1 July  
*Finnish Presidency of the Council of the EU*

2 July  
*Inaugural Plenary Session of the newly-elected Parliament*

3-5 July  
**Global Aid for Trade Review Geneva**

9-18 July  
*High Level Political Forum*

25-27 August  
*President of EC voted on by European Parliament*

17-18 October  
*European Council Meeting*

24-29 September  
74th UN GA NYC

30 September  
Fourth UNIDO Brussels Newsletter

24 October  
UN Day

3-5 October  
Bridge for Cities Event

3-7 November  
UNIDO General Conference UAE

20 November  
Africa Industrialization Day 2019

27-29 November  
UNIDO G-STIC event

31 December  
Fifth UNIDO Brussels Newsletter
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