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).

**Edition 3: April-June 2019**

See online version at intranet/NewsletterBRO

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**Photos:** Shutterstock.com/UNIDO Brussels Office
On 2 July 2019, the 28 Heads of State and Government meeting in an extraordinary European Council appointed the EU's highest officials.

The European Council elected Mr Charles Michel as President of the European Council. The President of the European Council is elected for the period from 1 December 2019 to 31 May 2022. The term of office shall be two and a half years and shall be renewable once.

The European Council adopted a decision proposing to the European Parliament Mrs Ursula von der Leyen as a candidate for the post of President of the European Commission. The candidate will need to be elected by the European Parliament by a majority of its component members. The vote of the European Parliament, meeting in plenary session, will take place on 15 July 2019. If successful the President will then have the summer to put a team together based on nominees from national capitals.

The European Council considered Mr Josep Borrell Fontelles as the appropriate candidate for the post of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The formal appointment of the High Representative by the European Council requires the agreement of the President-elect of the European Commission.

The European Council also considered Mrs Christine Lagarde as the appropriate candidate for the post of President of the European Central Bank. The European Council will take a formal decision on his appointment after consulting the European Parliament and the Governing Council of the European Central Bank.

The European Parliament has elected Italian socialist MEP David Sassoli as its new president. (see next page)
After proposed compromise deals collapsed, Germany’s defence minister has emerged from the shadows as the consensual option for the top job. Ms. von der Leyen would be the first woman to take on the Commission presidency, with responsibilities including proposing new EU laws, enforcing the bloc's rules and handling trade deals.

Born in Brussels, her family moved to Germany when she was 13. She studied economics at London’s LSE and medicine in Hanover before going into politics and she is fluent in English and French. A close ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, she has been a member of Mrs Merkel’s conservative Christian Democrats (CDU) since 2005.

The plenary session on 15-18 July marks the first opportunity for Parliament to elect the new President of the European Commission. Before the election, the candidate presents his or her political agenda and priorities for the next five years to Parliament. To be elected President, the candidate needs the support of an absolute majority of MEPs, thus obtaining democratic legitimacy directly from elected MEPs.

The full College of Commissioners will only be elected at the end of October, once the commissioners-designate have been vetted by a series of parliamentary committee hearings in late September/October to assess their competence, suitability and experience for the portfolios they have been assigned.

Do you want to know how the Commission President and Commissioners are appointed? Follow this link.
The President of the European Parliament elected with a vast majority

The European Parliament has elected Italian socialist MEP David Sassoli as its new president.

Mr Sassoli, an MEP from the Democratic Party, replaces outgoing conservative president Antonio Tajani in the EU legislature’s top role. The centre-left candidate won 345 votes in the second round of voting, ahead of right-winger Jan Zahradil who won 160 votes and Green Ska Keller who netted 119.

Mr. David Sassoli is a former journalist. In 2009, Sassoli left his journalistic career to enter politics, becoming a member of the centre-left Democratic Party (PD) and running in the 2009 European Parliament election, for the Central Italy district. On 7 June, he was elected member of the EP with 412,502 personal preferences, becoming the most-voted candidate in his constituency. From 2009 to 2014, he served as PD’s leader in the Parliament. In the European Parliament election of 2014, Sassoli was re-elected to the European Parliament, with 206,170 preferences. On 1 July 2014 Sassoli was elected Vice-President of the European Parliament with 393 votes, making him the second most voted Socialist candidate.

In May Europeans voted for a new EU Parliament - New Committees chosen

Despite what was announced, the new European Parliament will clearly be composed of a clear pro-EU majority in the House meaning that we can count on a constructive and engaged Parliament for the next institutional cycle. However, it also shows an increased level of complexity in the Parliament, with the two largest groups failing to reach 50% together. Therefore, to find a majority, at least three groups will have to agree on alliance to bring forward EU’s new strategy. (see: European Council section next page)

New Parliament means new Development Committee.

On Tuesday, 3 July Parliament adopted the composition of its standing committees and subcommittees during its constitutive plenary session.

The Committee on Development will have 26 full and 26 substitute Members. The constitutive meeting of the Committee, when the Committee Chair and Vice Chairs will be elected, is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 10 July in the afternoon in Brussels. The first regular meeting of the Committee will take place in the morning of 24 July and is set to discuss the state of play of development cooperation,
On 20 June 2019, the Council of the EU adopted the new strategic agenda for the EU for the years 2019-2024 which focuses on four priorities:

⇒ Protecting citizens and freedoms
⇒ Developing a strong and vibrant economic base
⇒ Building a climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe
⇒ Promoting European interests and values on the global stage.

The Finnish take over the presidency of Council of the European Union

From July 1st up to 31st December 2019, Finland has taken over the Council’s rotating presidency succeeding of Romania.

On the matter of development cooperation, the presidency’s agenda set to reinforce EU’s key role in global governance. This includes strengthening, and when necessary, reforming the rules-based multilateral system, with the United Nations at its core.

Finland also considers that it is important to maintain the EU’s leading role in development policy and humanitarian aid and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement in the EU and globally. Cross-cutting attention must also be given to mainstreaming gender equality and promoting the rights of women and girls.

Finland’s presidency believes that it is important to have Africa as the geographical focus of the EU’s development financing. Priorities include promoting trade and investment, which create jobs, with particular focus on women and young people. It is also important to support peace and security, sustainable development and climate action on the African continent. Hence why, the presidency pursue a more equitable, mutually beneficial and comprehensive EU-Africa partnership. A common objective should be an ecologically, economically and socially sustainable transformation to manage the external dimensions of climate change, population growth and migration as it is primordial to have Africa as the geographical focus of the EU’s development financing. Priorities include promoting trade and investment, which create jobs, with particular focus on women and young people. It is also important to support peace and security, sustainable development and climate action on the African continent.
A delegation from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States led by Henrique Banze, Assistant Secretary General of the Macroeconomics, Development Finance and Intra-ACP Programming, was in Paramaribo, Suriname from 28 to 30 May to carry out the last in the series of seminars with the National and Regional Authorising Officers across the six ACP regions.

The meeting aimed to provide a platform for the main stakeholders involved in the ACP-EU development cooperation in the Caribbean to provide an update of the programming and implementation of their National Indicative programmes (NIPs) and the Regional Indicative Programme (RIP), discuss critical issues and provide recommendations to improve the management of European Development Funds (EDF) resources.

During the meeting recommendations were made regarding the implementation of the projects financed through 11th EDF, which is jointly funded by the European Union (EU) and the ACP Group of States. There was also an exchange of views on the ongoing Post-Cotonou negotiations between the ACP Group of States and the European Union.

The meeting ended with the adoption of the Conclusion Report, which set out the points for attention and recommendations of the meeting. The main observations and conclusions arising from the Caribbean NAO/RAO meetings included:

- The implementation of projects uses complex rules and procedures that impede rapid implementation.
- Long delays in decision-making processes on the part of the EU, with some decisions being made only in Brussels. The issue of long waiting times also applies to countries that do not have an EU office in their country;
- Capacity building is required for NAO officials and EU Delegations, as well as private sector and community organizations in EU rules and procedures;
- Despite the cooperation, participants were concerned by several unilateral decisions taken by the EU, specifically mentioning the "blacklisting" of the Caribbean countries on the EU tax lists with all the negative consequences for these countries. This requires continuous joint consultation between the member countries and the EU;
- The prejudicial nature of the differentiation policy for small-island middle income States, which are vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters which has resulted in a drastic reduction of their NIPs under EDF 11 compared to EDF 10.
- ACP Secretariat provided information on the implementation of Intra-ACP Cooperation under the 11th EDF and the best means to access the available fund €600 million. The meeting proposed the establishment of a regional private sector association, in close consultation with other initiatives in the region including the CARICOM Secretariat.
- The EIB presented the possibilities for both the government and the private sector and was open to creative solutions to serve the local private sector.

The ACP Secretariat and the EU Organized a SIDE EVENT at the AID FOR TRADE Global Review on the 4th July at 11.00-13.00

WTO Geneva Room S1.
More information here

A delegation from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States led by Henrique Banze, Assistant Secretary General of the Macroeconomics, Development Finance and Intra-ACP Programming, was in Paramaribo, Suriname from 28 to 30 May to carry out the last in the series of seminars with the National and Regional Authorising Officers across the six ACP regions.
Sharpening EU leadership in plastics recycling

Excessive plastics pollution has become one of the common denominators of the climate breakdown. In 2017, the UN’s worldfirst Oceans Conference warned that by 2050, there will be more plastics than fish in the sea. Europe is still far from having the right recycling framework to achieve its 55% target by 2030. Currently, only 31% of plastic waste in Europe is recycled. Plastics are being produced at an alarming rate and have a severe impact on the environment as reuse is extremely limited. The consequences of intensive plastics production need to be monitored and taken into account. Europe must share best practices, form the right alliances and develop a robust recycling framework that encourages its industries to produce more responsibly. In fact, according to Jyrki Katainen, European Commission Vice-President «[EU] “Industry is ready to supply more than 11mn tonnes of recycled plastics by 2025, but there is only demand for 6.4mn »

Paris-Proofing the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework (EU MFF)

A carbon-neutral future, as envisioned by the European Commission in a recent communication « A Clean Planet for all » will require unprecedented changes to the EU’s economy and society. The EU budget, the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 (MFF 2021—2027), which is currently under negotiation has an important role to play: overall, the EU budget supports regional and sustainable development in the areas that are critical to achieving climate goals, including transport energy and agriculture. In this discussion paper, the author draws some lessons from the current EU budget cycle and investigates how it is hampered and even undermined climate efforts, including continued support for practices that contribute to global warming. The author also takes a closer look to the European Commission’s 2018 MFF proposal and concludes that, although several innovations concerning climate spending were introduced, there’s still a considerable risk that the new MFF will turn into a mis-

Refresh and reload: EU and Africa working together on research and innovation

The next European Union (EU) leadership 2019–2024 will need to ‘refresh and reload’ how Africa features in its priorities. Collaboration on Research and Innovation (R&I) offers a prime space for equal partnership that can contribute to sustainable development. But, in an unequal world, a narrative of equal partnerships can be counterproductive as much as assistance can set a patronising tone for relationships. Europe and Africa need to take many steps to escape from this. One such step for the EU could be to recognise African excellences and innovations alongside the numerous development challenges that persist on the continent. Regrettably, neither of these materialise to any degree of substance in Horizon Europe (the proposed next EU R&I framework programme) and R&I is left in a fragile space under EU development cooperation.

ECDPM discussion Paper 256, June 2019
The two days event is a leading annual platform where business, policy-makers, civil society and academia meet together to discuss the current trends and challenges in the EU and the world.

The 2019 theme was “Tomorrow’s Europe: Inclusive, Innovative and Interconnected”. UNIDO, upon invitation of the Belgian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, was particularly involved in the “EU-Africa Business Summit: Brussels Roundtable”, a special feature of the European Business Summit aimed at exploring public-private mechanisms to strengthen cooperation between the two continents, with emphasis on digitalization, energy and agriculture.

During the debate “Overcoming the Rural Urban Dichotomy: An Agricultural and Environmental Outlook” Mr. Philippe Scholtès, UNIDO’s Managing Director and Director for Programme Development and Technical Cooperation highlighted that “UNIDO’s Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) approach is an innovative multi-stakeholder partnership programme which aims to accelerate industrial development of Countries and is fully aligned with Countries’ development strategy; UNIDO has 3 ongoing PCPs in Africa, in Senegal, Ethiopia and Morocco and new PCPs are being developed to support the industrialization goals of Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Rwanda and Zambia”

Mr. Patrick Gilabert, UNIDO Representative to the European Union and the ACP Group, in the session on “UNIDO Action Plans towards an Inclusive and Sustainable Industry” emphasized the role the agency has in driving forward the major frameworks for industrial development in Africa.

The 2 days event welcomed a number of high level speakers, including Ministers from EU Countries, EU Institutions Representatives, African Leaders, CEOs from the private sector and paved the way for the debate for the EU-Africa Business Summit in Marrakech (November 28-29 2019). More here
TONY ELUMELU FUNDATION - 10 APRIL

Patrick Gilabert represented the Director General at a meeting on Africa’s Economic Transformation: “A Case Study on the Tony Elumelu Foundation Entrepreneurship Programme”, organized by the Tony Elumelu Foundation, at the Thon Hotel.

WHEN BRUSSELS MEETS NEW YORK CITY - 18 APRIL

Patrick Gilabert (Representative to the EU and Paul Maseli (Director, UNIDO New York), met in New-York to discuss synergies and opportunities between the two offices to support the SDGs.

LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEARBOOK ON INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS - 15 MAY

UNIDO Brussels organized the launch of the Yearbook on Industrial Statistics 2019 at the UN House in Brussels. UNIDO Chief Statistician Shyam Upadhyaya held a briefing on the topic of “Global slowdown of manufacturing and challenges for inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID)”

THE VEOLIA FONDATION AND UNIDO DISCUSS JOINT OPPORTUNITIES - 22 MAY

Ms. Virpi Stucki (PTC/PPF/PCD), Mr. Maximilien Pierotti (PTC/AGR/AIT) and Mr. Chaussinand Antoine (EPR/BRO) had a round of strategic meetings with the European Commission (DG NEAR, DG DEVCO) as well as with the Executive Director of the Véolia Fondation.

UNIDO REINFORCES PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FRENCH & BELGIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY - 6 JUNE

UNIDO was invited to actively participate to an annual event organized by the French/Belgian Chambers of Commerce and Industry on the theme "Economic and strategic intelligence in the face of the challenges of the 21st century". Mr. Antoine Chaussinand, International consultant UNIDO, moderated the round table "territory, cultural issues, geopolitics of SMEs".

UNIDO SPEAKS AT THE AFRICAN UNION AT A WORKSHOP ON AfCFTA - 12 JUNE

With the support of the African Union Commission’s Department of Trade and Industry, the Permanent Mission of the African Union in Belgium organized a sensitization workshop on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The workshop brought together over 60 participants from Europe and Africa, including representatives of embassies, civil society organizations, international organizations and African development partners.
For the seventh consecutive year, the UNIDO participated in the European Development Days (EDDs) to share best practices and successful experiences as well as innovative solutions that it implemented to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

“The EDDs are a unique opportunity for institutions like UNIDO to come together and share solutions and approaches to defeat the world’s plagues such as the ones caused by inequalities”, said Philippe Scholtès, UNIDO Managing Director. UNIDO intervened often, including at the High-Level panel “Education and employment opportunity for all”, or the Lab Debate “Partnerships for broad-based and inclusive economic development in ACP countries”, which stressed the importance of the private sector for the ACP Region, where high investments are required.

On the sidelines of the EDDs, bilateral meetings to find innovative solutions through the value of partnerships were held, where the UNIDO Managing Director met inter alia with Nikolaj Gilbert, Director for Global Partnerships at UNOPS; Luca Lazzaroli, Director General, Deputy Head of Operations at EIB; Viwanou Gnassounou, Assistant Secretary General at ACP; and Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, Former President of Malta and UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador.

The EDDs convened over 8,000 participants from across the globe, including representatives of European institutions, governmental bodies, international, national and regional authorities, and stakeholders representing industry, civil society and academia.
UNIDO also organized a LAB Debate on 19th of June on “How can digital technology support gender equality in the MENA region?”, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UN Women. Moderated by Monica Carco, Chief, Rural Entrepreneurship, Job Creation and Human Security Division, the session discussed and showcased how policy and regulation can best optimize incentives for market players to innovate, compete and invest along gender-sensitive technologies in the MENA.

The insightful panel discussions resulted with numerous recommendations, including the need for well-informed policies, data collection and monitoring of created impact. Equally important, making women part of the decision-making process, having more investments in technologies that are targeting women, and promoting women role models, particularly those in middle to top management positions, will play a significant role in limiting the gender-blind approach in innovation. Finally, designing and building up impact-driven public-private partnerships remain a key enabling modality to deliver concrete results.

Numerous side meetings as well as a private presentation to Member State’s Missions on the results of the project Promoting Women’s Empowerment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in the MENA Region (Phase I) were organized by the Brussels Office.

We invite all colleagues to reach out to UNIDO Brussels Office as early as January 2020 and be part of the next EDDs!
UNIDO AT THE 20KM OF BRUSSELS 2019 - 19 MAY

The Brussels 20 km run has been held on Sunday 19 May (10:00 am) and has taken runners on a journey through Brussels most beautiful monuments and parks. Patrick Gilabert and Antoine Chaussinand joined the run as part of the ONU Team which included UN colleagues from UNOPS, UNICEF, UNHCR.

UNIDO AT EU SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK - 19 JUNE

UNIDO participated for the second year in a row at the European Union’s Sustainable Energy Week 2019 (EUSEW) in Brussels, Belgium. Climate Change Expert Cassandra Pillay took an active part throughout the week to numerous conferences. The EUSEW is a flagship event organized by the European Commission to bring awareness about renewable and efficient energy use across Europe.

VUB PHD CONFERENCE - 20 JUNE

At the VUB UN Career Day, Mr. Patrick Gilabert discussed with 47 international Ph.D. Candidates from the VUB VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT Brussels.

UfM—EU INITIATIVE FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION MEETING- 26 JUNE

UNIDO at the European Union Initiative for Financial Inclusion (EUIFI). The EUIFI main aim is to extend financing to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), including support to innovative start-ups, in the Neighbourhood South. The EUIFI is an European commission initiative in partnership with four leading European finance institutions (EFIs), namely: the European Investment Bank (EIB); the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); KfW; and Agence française de développement (AFD).

LAUNCH OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME - 28 JUNE

The new “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment) programme was inaugurated in the presence of high-level representatives from Eastern Partner countries, European Union Member States, European Union institutions and international partners, including UNIDO Project Manager, Carolina Gonzalez. The six Eastern countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine - are committed to actively implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other international commitments, including those tackling climate change under the Paris Agreement.
## Upcoming events

### Agenda

From 1st July 2019

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>1 July</td>
<td>Finnish Presidency of the Council of the EU</td>
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<td>2 July</td>
<td>Inaugural Plenary Session of the newly-elected Parliament</td>
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<td>3-5 July</td>
<td>Global Aid for Trade Review Geneva</td>
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<td>12 July</td>
<td>UNIDO-EIB teams meet in Luxembourg</td>
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<td>16 July</td>
<td>UNIDO meets the new EU MEPs in Strasbourg</td>
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<td>9-18 July</td>
<td>High Level Political Forum NYC</td>
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<td>25-27 August</td>
<td>President of EC voted on by European Parliament</td>
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<td>24-29 September</td>
<td>74th UN GA NYC</td>
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<td>30 September</td>
<td>Fourth UNIDO Brussels Newsletter</td>
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<td>24 October</td>
<td>UN Day</td>
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<td>3-5 October</td>
<td>Bridge for Cities Event</td>
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<td>17-18 October</td>
<td>European Council Meeting</td>
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<td>3-7 November</td>
<td>UNIDO General Conference UAE</td>
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<td>20 November</td>
<td>Africa Industrialization Day 2019</td>
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<td>28 November</td>
<td>UNIDO at Rencontre d’Affaires Francophones, Paris</td>
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<td>27-29 November</td>
<td>UNIDO G-STIC event</td>
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<td>28-29 November</td>
<td>European Business Summit—Marrakech, Morocco</td>
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<td>31 December</td>
<td>Fifth UNIDO Brussels Newsletter</td>
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After 6 months of intense support to UNIDO Brussels activities and UNIDO colleagues around the world, Federica Regoli (Italy) and Dimitri Pinzi (Belgium) will finish their internships. We wish them all the best and great success in their future endeavors! Ms. Natasha ZIVKOVIC (Canada) and Ms. Flora DEMAEGDT (France) will join us on the 1st of September.

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