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Edition 4: July-September 2019

See online version at intranet/NewsletterBRO

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My Vision for Africa

Contribution from H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, 9th President of Malta, UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador and Champion for the Third Industrial Development Decade (IDDA III)

Africa has all the key ingredients for success. A young and entrepreneurial population; natural resources; rich ecosystems and economies full of potential. The international community must strengthen its endeavours to support African countries to exploit their potential and create necessary opportunities for the prosperity and wellbeing of its people.

Africa must overcome the challenges that are compromising its opportunities. If Africa overcomes such challenges it will be able to become a key socioeconomic player both regionally and globally. Such a vision can come to fruition through changes made within the African continent itself as well as through a change in perception and attitude by the international community. Africa should be effectively perceived and treated as an equal and strategic partner within the international community.

Africa needs to be supported on four fundamental fronts. I would like to briefly share some of my thoughts in this regard:

1) Education and employment should be at the heart of every strategy so that every African child and young person is empowered to acquire knowledge and expertise. Every government on the African continent should address key underlying causes for the lack of proper education for African children. Education is key to increase quality employment opportunities for young African people.

2) Democracy and the rule of law are fundamental for a just, equal society that functions well to ensure the enjoyment of human rights for all.

3) Diversity is to be celebrated. Africa is the epitome of diversity. Diversity enriches peoples and societies. Respecting diversity creates peace and strengthens human connection. Therefore respecting each other’s culture can bridge all differences and prejudices. Intercultural dialogue provides us with the recognition of many underlying similarities. Intercultural dialogue should thus be given priority.

4) Industrial development, trade, and business through genuine sustainable partnerships is what Africa needs. Africa does not need charity. Africa is a continent of opportunity. The international community must strengthen its trade and business ties with Africa for the African people and for all of humanity. Therefore initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area are extremely commendable and should be encouraged and supported by all in the international community.

This is my vision for Africa. A vision whereby the African continent will achieve its full potential for the benefit of all its peoples. I believe that a prosperous and peaceful Africa is a celebration of everything that unites us as one human family.
The European Parliament is in strategic motion

European Parliament Commissioner–Designate hearings timetable

The new Commission is set to start its work on November 1st. The European Parliament has laid out a tentative schedule for when MEPs will quiz Ursula von der Leyen’s picks for the next College of Commissioners, according to this timetable.

The plan will see six days of hearings. Based on their field of responsibility, the commissioner-designates will appear before their respective parliamentary committees to face a lengthy public and transparent questioning on their competencies and suitability.

This process means that last-minute changes could be made.

After these committee hearings, the Parliament as a whole will vote on whether to confirm the entire College of Commissioners during the week of October 23.

MEPs elect Ursula von der Leyen as the new European Commission President

With 383 votes in favour, the European Parliament elected Ursula von der Leyen President of the next European Commission in a secret ballot on 16 July.

She is set to take office on 1 November 2019 for a five-year term. There were 733 votes cast, one of which was not valid. A total of 383 members voted in favour, 327 against, and 22 abstained.

Parliament is currently comprised of 747 MEPs as per the official notifications received by member state authorities. The minimum threshold to be elected was 374 votes, i.e. more than 50% of its component members. President Sassoli formally announced the requisite number before the results were revealed in plenary.

Do you want to know more about how the Commission President and Commissioners are appointed? Click here
The New College Designate

The new College of Commissioners will be composed of 27 members. This includes the President of the European Commission, 8 Vice-Presidents – 3 Executive Vice-Presidents (EVPs), the High-Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) and 4 other Vice Presidents (VPs), as well as the usual Commissioners. The top priorities that von der Leyen outlined in her Political Guidelines are: (1) a European Green Deal, (2) a Europe fit for the Digital Age, (3) an Economy that Works for the People, (4) a Stronger Europe in the World, (5) Protecting our European Way of Life, (6) a New Push for European Democracy.

Frans Timmermans (Netherlands/S&D)
Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal Commissioner for Climate Action, overseeing and supported by DG CLIMA (Climate Action)

Role: 50% emission reduction target by 2030; lead international negotiations to increase climate ambition; protect biodiversity; zero-pollution ambition; circular economy.

Jutta Urpilainen (Finland/S&D)
Commissioner for International Partnerships, Overseeing and supported by DG DEVCO (International Cooperation and Development)

Role: build sustainable partnerships; new comprehensive strategy for Africa building on the EU-Africa Sustainable Alliance; conclude Post-Cotonou negotiations; reach comprehensive partnerships with countries of migration origin and transit; ensure Europe’s financial assistance promotes the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs; ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; support civil society around the world; ensure EIP reaches its full potential; work

Josep Borrell (Spain/S&D)
High-Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) in charge of A Stronger Europe in the World, Overseeing and supported by EEAS (European External Action Service) and the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI).

Role: building a more geopolitically strategic, assertive and united EU; make sure the EU is able to react quickly and efficiently; foster better internal and external EU policy linkages; produce weekly foreign policy updates to the College; work towards a European Defence Union; strategically use external financial instruments.
European Commission

László Trócsányi (Hungary/EPP-suspended)
Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement
Overseeing and supported by DG NEAR (Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations)

Role: Western Balkans: keeping a credible perspective on future accession; keep promise to open proposals for enlargement negotiations with Republic of N-Macedonia and Albania; speeding up structural and institutional reforms. Turkey: work with HR/VP on relations with Turkey as a key partner. Eastern Partnership: put forward a set of long-term policy objectives for the Eastern Partnership by mid-2020; Deep and Comprehensive FTAs with Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova; Support Group for Ukraine. Southern Neighbourhood: review and update the priorities and Association Agendas with every partner; ensure coordination of relations with the EEA.

Phil Hogan (Ireland/EPP)
Commissioner for Trade
Overseeing and supported by DG TRADE (Trade)

Role: Level the playing field: lead the reform of the WTO; give impetus to WTO negotiations on e-commerce; strengthen Europe’s capacity to protect itself against unfair trade practices. Strengthen Europe’s global leadership: work towards mutually beneficial partnership with the US; step up negotiations with China on a Comprehensive Agreement on Investment; work towards a FTA between EU and Africa; conclude ongoing negotiations (Australia/N-Zealand,...). Trade for sustainable development and climate action: every new trade agreement will have a dedicated chapter on sustainable development; monitor implementation of climate, environmental and labour protections; help design Carbon Border Tax.

Margaritis Schinas (Greece/EPP)
Vice-President for Protecting our European Way of Life, supported by the Secretariat-General

Role: Skills, education and integration: building a Union of equality and diversity; harness full potential of culture and sport; work on education agenda; fill job skills shortages; improve migrant and refugee integration. Find common ground on migration: New Pact on Migration and Asylum, creating pathways to legal migration to bring in skills & talents, ensuring coherence of external & internal dimensions of migration.

Mariya Gabriel (Bulgaria/EPP)
Commissioner for Innovation and Youth
Overseeing and supported by DG RTD (Research and Innovation), DG EAC (Education, Youth, Sport and Culture) and JRC.

Role: Education, research and innovation: Horizon Europe; ensure investment for disruptive research and innovations; build European Research Area; ensure research, policy and economic priorities go together; triple Erasmus+ programme; work towards making European Education Area a reality by 2025; promote excellence and networking among universities.

Janusz Wojciechowski (Poland/ECR)
Commissioner for Agriculture
Overseeing and supported by DG AGRI (Agriculture and Rural Development)

Role: Conclude negotiations on a modern and simplified CAP post 2020 + implementation; contribute to a new Farm to Fork strategy for sustainable food; work on zero-pollution ambition; strengthen the system of geographical indications; develop a long-term vision for rural areas; promote Europe’s high-quality food standards.

* Full list and bios of Commissioners-Designate here
* Organizational chart: click here to view in PDF
Over the years, the EU has established a strong relationship with the UN. Co-operation takes place on a broad range of areas covered by the different UN bodies. The EU also participates in the annual UN General Assembly (UNGA).

A resolution adopted by the UNGA in May 2011 gave the EU the ability to speak during the assembly when pertaining to the 28 EU states, and invited the EU to intervene in the general debate at the opening of the General Assembly.

The EU external representatives - the President of the European Council, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the European Commission and the EU delegation - may therefore present the position of the EU and its member states at the UN.

In addition, the EU has obtained the right to orally present proposals and amendments, a possibility that no other observer has at its disposal, as well as the right to reply once to a speech regarding EU positions.

Every year the Council of the EU adopts the EU priorities at the UN and the UN General Assembly, taking into account the UN’s agenda and global issues. These priorities guide the EU's work for the year to come.

The Council adopted the EU priorities for the UN and the 74th UNGA (September 2019 - September 2020) in July 2019, they are available [here](#).

In recent years, the EU has intensified its engagement as a global player and is translating multilateralism into action. In the current global context, the EU seeks to reaffirm the added value and relevance of the UN and to prove that it delivers on its objectives to people around the world. Recognizing the importance of the UN at the core of effective multilateralism, the EU and its member states will focus on three mutually reinforcing priorities at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly:

- conflict prevention, peace and security
- a common positive agenda
- engagement on global challenges
ACP Ambassadors pay tribute to Stefano Manservisi

At a special Committee of Ambassadors (CoA) meeting on 5 September 2019, African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) ambassadors paid tribute to outgoing Director-General (DG) of International Cooperation and Development at the European Commission, Mr Stefano Manservisi. The ambassadors warmly reflected on their relationship with the outgoing DG and thanked him for his efforts with respect to their individual countries as well as for his leadership and guidance on the joint agreements brokered between the ACP and EU.

ACP SG at UN Meeting on Climate Action and Trade in Geneva

ACP SG called climate change "the most significant challenge to achieving sustainable development" at the UN Meeting on Climate Action and Trade in GENEVA on Sept 9. The Secretary General, Dr. Patrick Gomes called for increased efforts to deal with the impact of climate change, noting that the "painful reality" is that its adverse impacts are more severe in the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

New ACP/European Union Partnership: In Discussion in NYC

Meeting in New York today in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, the chief negotiators Commissioner Mimica and Togolese Minister Robert Dussey further specified the economic framework of future relations between African, Caribbean and Pacific countries with the European Union after 2020.
Echoes from Think Tanks

A greener and more inclusive European Trade Policy

The policy paper "A greener and more inclusive trade policy" (2/09/2019) published by the Jacques Delors Institute reports the challenges that new EU officials face when attempting to design a coherent and sustainable trade policy (such as the commercial war between China and the USA, the weakening of multilateralism, and the little consensus on a European liberalization agenda). The purpose of this paper is to make concrete proposals for the EU's next institutional cycle, which is currently at its height. It is the first of a series of publications on "Europe's new beginnings". The report highlights some of the most important elements of EU Policy on plastics recycling and the circular economy.

Download the report here

The impact of the global energy transition on MENA oil and gas producers

Endowed with half of the world's known oil and gas reserves, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is a cornerstone of the global energy architecture. This article argues that – together with the pressing need to create jobs opportunities for a large and youthful population – the possibility of the world moving more aggressively towards a low-carbon future should represent a key argument for the implementation of economic reform programmes.

Available following this link

Making climate funding work for agriculture at the local level

Billions of dollars in climate finance are flowing at levels previously unimaginable, yet the needs of the communities most vulnerable to climate change are oftenly not addressed. Agreed balances between mitigation and adaptation spending are not being met, and priority sectors – particularly the food and agriculture sector – are not receiving the funding needed to increase their resilience. Over 90% of countries’ Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) include targets within the agriculture sector; nevertheless, current levels of climate finance do not reflect this. This paper analyses the reasons why the European Union and its member states, the largest collective providers of climate finance, should reassess the distribution of their climate finance spending to reflect the priority sectors identified by developing countries. This paper suggests why African governments should more efficiently integrate climate adaptation planning into all development decisions, as well as fasttrack the co-financing of food-related elements in the NDCs and National Adaptation Plans.

Read more here

Read more here
DG MEETS EIB PRESIDENT IN LUXEMBOURG

12 July: UNIDO Representative to the EU institutions, Mr. Patrick Gilabert joined the UNIDO delegation to Luxembourg in a strategic UNIDO – EIB meeting between DG Li Yong and EIB President Werner Hoyer. It was an opportunity to discuss partnership prospects within the scope of IDDA3, Circular Economy, and PCPs.

UNIDO STRENGTHENS TIES WITH THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

In July, UNIDO was at the European Parliament in Strasbourg with the UN Brussels team, holding strategic meetings with new MEPs.

In September, UNIDO Brussels attended the first MEP committee meetings (Development, International Trade, Foreign Affairs, Environment, Industry and Innovation). Colleagues will soon receive more details on ongoing EP Committee activities via cyclical information notes.

Later in September, a delegation of MEPs participated in the UNGA SDG Summit, Climate Action Summit and Financing for Development High-level Dialogue held at the United Nations in New York (23 - 26 September 2019). On this picture, two MEPs Catherine Chabaud (FR) and Soraya Rodríguez (ES) in NYC.

CLOSER TIES WITH THE FRANCOPHONIE IN PARIS

25 July: A working session between the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) represented by The Quang Dong, Director a.i., and UNIDO Representative to the EU, Patrick Gilabert. Both teams discussed areas of enhanced cooperation at both institutional and technical levels.

26 July: Successful meeting with Mr. Stève Gentili, Chairman of the Board of Directors of BRED Banque Populaire and International President of the FORUM FRANCOPHONE DES AFFAIRES (FFA). Mr. Gilabert reemphasized UNIDO’s engagement in strengthening business partnerships with the French-speaking world.

UNIDO AT DG DEVCO!

18 September: The European Commission and UNIDO organized a lunchtime presentation on “Improving continental free trade patterns in Africa: the role of private sector development”. The presentation was at DEVCO’s InfoPoint, and featured Geo-Coordinator for Central and Southern Africa, Henning Reimann. UNIDO’s Industrial Development Officer Rafik Feki, UNIDO Industrial Development Officer Juan Pablo Davila Sanchez, and UNIDO Policy & Programme Officer Eduin Matta-Castillo also took the floor,
Life of UNIDO Brussels Office

UNIDO DDG JOINS THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN SEVILLA
25 September: Hiroshi Kuniyoshi Deputy Director-General, UNIDO Keynote Speaker at the Innovation for Industrial Transformation conference. Organised by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre's Directorate for Growth and Innovation in collaboration with the OECD's Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation.

UNIDO SHOWCASES BENEFITS OF INDUSTRY4.0
11 July: UNIDO Policy & Programme Officer, Mr. Eduin Matta Castillo, was the official speaker at the IcesMeetup, presenting how the agency supports the Structural Transformation of SMEs through Industry 4.0

UNIDO REPRESENTATIVE MEETS THE AMBASSADOR OF MADAGASCAR
5 July: For a stronger economic partnership with Madagascar, emphasis should be placed on vocational training, agricultural development, and regional integration.

UNIDO CELEBRATES FLEMISH DAY
10 July: UNIDO at Flemish day with Members of the Flemish Government, including H.E. Mr. Ben Weyts, Vice-Minister-President of Flanders.

TOP EU OFFICIALS IN DAKAR FOR UNIDO CONFERENCE
22 July: Strong EU participation to UNIDO High-Level Panel on "Circular Economy and Green Industries: Challenges and Opportunities for West African Countries" with Stefano Manservi, European Commission DG DEVCO, European Commission DG for Environment Mr. Calleja, Philippe Scholtes of UNIDO, Mansour Camara and Almoustapha Garba, Minister of the Env. of Niger.

UNIDO JOINS UNODC DURING WORLD DAY AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING
30 July: UNIDO Brussels supported the World Day against Trafficking together with UNODC Brussels in order to stop Human Trafficking

INFORMAL MEETING WITH FORMER WTO DG
3 September: UNIDO at Jacques Delors Institute’s conference «Time to green EU trade policy: but how?», with Pascal Lamy former Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
### Upcoming events

**From 1st October 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-8 October</td>
<td>Hearings of the Commissioners-designate at European Parliament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-18 October</td>
<td>European Council Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 October</td>
<td>UN Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 November</td>
<td>New European Commission takes office</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-7 November</td>
<td>UNIDO 18th General Conference UAE</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-13 November</td>
<td>Paris Peace Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 November</td>
<td>EU/UNIDO 40th Anniversary, Vienna</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 November</td>
<td>Africa Industrialization Day 2019, Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 November</td>
<td>Rencontres d’Affaires Francophones, Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-22 November</td>
<td>Global Sustainable Technology and Innovation Conference (G-STIC), Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-29 November</td>
<td>European Africa Business Summit—Marrakech, Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December</td>
<td>Fifth UNIDO Brussels Newsletter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to Ms. Natasha ZIVKOVIC (Canada) and Ms. Flora DEMAEGDT (France) who joined us on the 1st of September.

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