



# Foreword: UNIDO-EU Cooperation post COVID-19



In January 2020, the United Nations (UN) launched the global consultation to mark its 75th anniversary. One million people have already raised their voice, with over 87% believing that global cooperation is vital to deal with today's challenges, and that the pandemic has made international cooperation more urgent.

Moreover, 75 years after its founding, 6 in 10 respondents believe the UN has made the world a better place. Looking to the future, 74% see the UN as "essential" in tackling the current problems.

Against this backdrop, UNIDO stands ready to enhance its cooperation with the European Union (EU) and partner countries to respond to the crises and build a better future together, while contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The long-standing and fruitful partnership between UNIDO and EU is multifaceted, and we share the same multilateral vision to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development and growth, while supporting the most vulnerable, especially women and youth, leaving no one behind.

This common vision translates into a tangible cooperation between the UNIDO and the EU in over 100 countries in Africa and around the world. This creates jobs, reduces poverty, hunger and inequality, while contributing to resource efficiency, clean energy and reduction of emissions and pollution.

Our mission to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development is more relevant than ever before. A successful UNIDO-EU partnership is essential to build a more sustainable and equitable post-COVID-19 world, where we mobilize our resources for a green, healthy, inclusive and resilient recovery, thinking about those hit the hardest in the low-income and least developed countries. ([unido.org/unido-eu](http://unido.org/unido-eu))

*Message from UNIDO Director General and  
EU Permanent Representative to the UN Vienna*



# Highlights: VON DER LEYEN COMMISSION – ONE YEAR ON

The **von der Leyen Commission** marked one year since it took office on 1 December 2019. With the mandate received from the European Council and the European Parliament, they have put forward a set of ambitious goals for Europe's future: (1) climate neutrality by 2050; (2) making the 2020s Europe's **Digital Decade**; and (3) making Europe stronger in the world with a more geopolitical approach.

In the first three months, they presented the **European Green Deal** and its first building blocks, an **industrial strategy** to define a new way forward for industry in Europe, they also focused on strengthening Europe's competitiveness on the global stage.

The coronavirus pandemic came and called for a truly European response. The Commission worked to organise a concerted and coordinated European response to the emergency and then acted swiftly and kicked off the recovery of the economy with "**NextGenerationEU**" as a centre piece of the most powerful long-term EU budget.

The Commission also proposed a fresh start on migration, building confidence and striking a new balance between responsibility and solidarity. The Commission adapted to the unforeseen and dramatic circumstances and worked to get Europe out of the crisis as fast as possible.

The twin green and digital transitions are now even more firmly at the core of their programme, with new resources to accelerate the transformation.

In the international arena, Europe has led the **Global Response against coronavirus**. 94 proposals have been agreed by and with the other EU institutions since 1 December 2019. The Commission is not just repairing the damage to EU economy; it is reshaping it for the next generation.

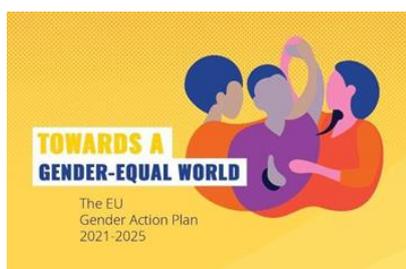


# EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE (EEAS)

## GENDER ACTION PLAN III - PUTTING WOMEN AND GIRLS' RIGHTS AT THE HEART OF THE GLOBAL RECOVERY

The European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security

Policy put forward ambitious plans to promote gender equality and women's empowerment through all external action of the European Union.



No country in the world is on track to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by 2030. The health and socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis are disproportionately affecting women and girls. To address this, the EU's new Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021–2025 (GAP III) aims to accelerate progress on empowering women and girls.

## EUROPEAN UNION AND AFRICAN UNION SIGN PARTNERSHIP TO SCALE UP PREPAREDNESS FOR HEALTH EMERGENCIES

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) launched a new partnership initiative to strengthen the capacity of Africa CDC to prepare for and respond

to public health threats in Africa. The four-year project 'EU for health security in Africa: ECDC for Africa CDC', funded by the EU, will also facilitate harmonised surveillance and disease intelligence, and support the implementation of the public health workforce strategy of Africa CDC. This project illustrates the engagement of the European Union to help scale up preparedness for global health emergencies and to strengthen support to health systems in Africa. Funded under the European Development Fund, the project includes a contribution agreement with ECDC of €9 million and a complementary grant to Africa CDC of €1 million to cover staffing costs. This agreement will come into effect on 1 January 2021.

## EU AND CUBA HOLD SECOND DIALOGUE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

On 20 November, the EU and Cuba held their second dialogue on advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Organised by videoconference, this dialogue, established under the EU-Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA), took stock of the progress that Cuba and the EU have made and challenges they face in pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The session gave special attention to three complex issues: (i) climate change, (ii) the path towards an inclusive, knowledge-based economy, and (iii) health systems and the development of biotechnology in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The participants also looked at how to align EU-Cuba cooperation activities more closely with the SDG agenda and at how to work together in multilateral fora to continue to monitor and further develop the global SDG agenda.

# DG DEVCO

## **NEW AFRICA-EUROPE FOUNDATION TO ENHANCE A COMMON VISION FOR A STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIP**

The Africa-Europe Foundation was established on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December by Friends of Europe and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, in partnership with ONE and the Africa Climate Foundation.

The opening ceremony was attended by various personalities from both continents, including the President of the Republic of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen. The Foundation is an independent forum, driving fresh policy thinking and strategic foresight across inter-connected sectors of cooperation.

The European Commission is working with a consortium made up of Friends of Europe, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation and Ipemed to establish five Strategy Groups on Health, Digital, Agriculture and Sustainable Food Systems, Energy, and Transport and Connectivity.

## **TEAM EUROPE: EU SEALS AGREEMENTS TO GENERATE €10 BILLION IN INVESTMENT IN AFRICA AND THE EU NEIGHBOURHOOD AND STIMULATE GLOBAL RECOVERY**

The European Commission took a major step forward in boosting investment in Africa and the EU Neighbourhood, helping to stimulate global recovery from the pandemic, by concluding ten financial guarantee agreements worth €990 million with partner financial institutions that complete the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD), the financing arm of the External Investment Plan (EIP).

Together, these guarantees are expected to generate up to €10 billion in overall investment. The guarantee agreements concluded on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November are the following:

- European Health Platform
- InclusiFi, AgreeFi
- Renewable Energy for mainly rural SSA
- European Guarantee for Renewable Energy
- EU Market Creation Facility
- Municipal, Infrastructure and Industrial
- Resilience Programme

## **EU'S LATIN AMERICA INVESTMENT FACILITY INCREASES ACCESS TO FINANCE FOR PEOPLE ON LOW INCOMES AND SUPPORTS GREEN MICROFINANCE**

The European Union's Latin America Investment Facility, or LAIF, has signed a financing agreement to provide 5.75 million euros in technical assistance to the Triple Inclusive Finance (TIF) programme in Latin America.

TIF will promote access to banking services to people currently lacking such access, and will support green microfinancing for micro-, small and medium enterprises in sustainable agriculture. In doing so, it will contribute to closing the banking gap in the region, particularly in rural areas, for low-income workers and for women, while fostering sustainable development in the farming sector.

## DG NEAR

### THE EU REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH ITS PARTNERS IN THE SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD

On the 26th of November 2020, the EU reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen its strategic relationship with its Southern Neighbourhood partners during the EU-Southern Neighbourhood Ministerial Meeting chaired by High Representative Josep Borrell, with participation of Olivér Várhelyi, Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement.

During this meeting, the EU officially kicked off the reflection process on the EU-Southern Neighbourhood partnership to ensure it better responds to today's challenges and opportunities, a process which will culminate with the adoption of the "Joint Communication on a renewed partnership for the Southern Neighbourhood" foreseen for the first quarter of 2021.



Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/>

### TEAM EUROPE STEPS UP DELIVERY TO ITS COVID-19 RECOVERY PACKAGE UP TO €38.5 BILLION FOR PARTNER COUNTRIES

Half of Team's Europe global recovery package to help partners address the COVID-19 pandemic, which has increased to €38.5 billion, has already been disbursed, showing the EU is delivering on

its commitments. The package, combining resources from the EU, its Member States, the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is supporting emergency needs linked to the pandemic, crucial health services, economic recovery and social support measures, for the short and long term.

### WESTERN BALKANS SUMMIT IN SOFIA: IMPORTANT STEPS TAKEN TO ADVANCE REGIONAL COOPERATION TO BOOST SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND CONVERGENCE WITH THE EU

The initiatives endorsed in Sofia on the 10th of November build on commitments previously taken by the region at the EU-Western Balkans Summit in Zagreb in May 2020. They will be supported by the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans adopted by the European Commission on 6 October 2020. This plan aims to mobilise up to €9 billion of EU grants to speed up the region's socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and to accelerate its economic convergence with the EU. In addition, it foresees a new Western Balkans Guarantee Facility, which can raise investments of up to € 20 billion.

During the Summit, jointly hosted by Bulgaria and North Macedonia, the Western Balkan leaders welcomed the Plan and committed to implementing the reforms necessary to achieve its ambitious objectives.



Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/>

## DG AGRI

### COMMISSION WELCOMES THE POLITICAL AGREEMENT ON THE TRANSITIONAL RULES FOR THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP)

The Commission welcomed the political agreement between the European Parliament and EU Member States in the Council on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) rules for the transitional period of 2021-2022. These rules are based on the principle of continuity of the current CAP rules while also including new elements to ensure a smooth transition. This agreement also covers the integration of the European Recovery Instrument (ERI) funds into the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), allowing the farming and rural economies to recover and be resilient in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic.

The national allocations during this transitional period will be those agreed for the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework. In the meantime, the Commission continues to support the efforts to finalise the agreement on the next long-term budget and NextGenerationEU as soon as possible so that all new programmes can start on 1 January 2021.

### FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS TO PLAY KEY ROLE IN TRANSITION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Using resources from the European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD) financial instruments, including loans, guarantees and various financial schemes, provide better financing opportunities to farmers and the agri-food sector such as low interest rates and favorable lending conditions. The future CAP proposals include instruments that can be used to finance stand-alone working capital, investments, capital rebates and provide for combinations with grants and interest rate subsidies.

## DG CONNECT

### EU-FUNDED PROJECTS TO SUPPORT MEDIA FREEDOM AND PLURALISM IN THE EU.

Currently, there are 16 projects, either ongoing or in preparation, representing more than €17 million in EU funding.

These projects aim to map violations of media freedom, monitor media pluralism and freedom, defend journalists under threat and support collaborative journalism, cooperation and exchange of best practices.

The Commission wants to increase funding and ensure long-term support for these types of projects under the next Multiannual Financial Framework, which for the first time will have a dedicated envelope for media pluralism, journalism and media literacy under Creative Europe.

### WEB SUMMIT 2020: PRESIDENT VON DER LEYEN AND NINE COLLEGE MEMBERS PARTICIPATE AT THE WORLD'S LARGEST TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

The Commission has been represented at the virtually held Web Summit from 2-4 December, which brought together political, industry and societal leaders to discuss the future of the global tech industry. During this event, which usually takes place in Lisbon, the President and nine Vice-Presidents and Commissioners highlighted key EU policies, focusing on upcoming investments to shape Europe's Digital future for a transition that puts people first.



# EU PARLIAMENT & EU COUNCIL

## CLIMATE CHANGE: THE EU NEEDS TO BE BETTER PREPARED SO IT CAN BETTER ADAPT

The EU Parliament's Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety approved a resolution on adaptation to climate change, with 64 votes to 9 and 7 abstentions, providing input on the upcoming EU Strategy on adaptation to Climate Change. The resolution calls for a renewed and improved focus on adaptation, as it is crucial to prepare for a changing climate by building resilient societies that are able to minimise the adverse impact of climate change.

The EU Strategy on adaptation should be an opportunity to ensure EU countries are on track to meet the adaptation goal under the Paris Agreement, show EU global leadership in building global climate resilience through increased financing and promote EU science, services, technologies and practices for adaptation, MEPs say.

## G20 SUMMIT: G20 LEADERS UNITED TO ADDRESS MAJOR GLOBAL PANDEMIC AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES



Source: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/>

President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen represented the EU at the 15th G20 Leaders' summit hosted by Saudi Arabia on 21-22 November 2020.

The G20 leaders expressed their strong commitment to coordinated global action, solidarity, and multilateral cooperation. They committed to working together to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, restore growth and jobs, and build a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient future. At the end of the summit, the G20 leaders adopted the G20 Riyadh Declaration.



1. We, the G20 Leaders, meeting for the second time under the Saudi Presidency, stand united in our conviction that coordinated global action, solidarity, and multilateral cooperation are more necessary today than ever to overcome the current challenges and realize opportunities of the 21st century for all by empowering people, safeguarding the planet, and shaping new frontiers. We are committed to leading the world in shaping a strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive post-COVID-19 era.

Source: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/>

# OACPS

## POST-COTONOU: Negotiators reach new Political Deal

On the **3rd of December 2020**, the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the European Union (EU) reached a **political deal** on the text for a new Partnership Agreement that will succeed the Cotonou Agreement (due to expire on 29 February 2020 but extended until 31 December 2020 to enable negotiations to happen).

It is thus nearly the end of the negotiation cycle that started in 2018. However, the **entry into force** of the Agreement, will only occur after it is **ratified by a minimum selection and number of Parties**.

Signature, provisional application, and conclusion of the agreement will require the approval by the Council based on proposals from the Commission. These proposals will be transmitted to the Council in early 2021, together with the negotiated text translated into all EU languages. Therefore, the application of Cotonou Agreement will be **further extended until 30 November 2021**, constituting its second prolongation, unless the new Agreement enters into force or is provisionally applied before that date.

## TIMELINE

**30/11/2021** New Partnership Agreement will enter into force

**Early 2021:** Proposals of EU Commission on the New Agreement to be transmitted to the Council  
**03/12/2020.** Political deal for the new Partnership Agreement is reached

## PRIORITIES

The new Agreement announces a more political cooperation between the EU and OACPS based on **six key priority areas** to address the main challenges throughout the upcoming decades. These are:

1. Human rights, democracy and governance
2. Peace and security
3. Human and social development
4. Environmental sustainability and climate change
5. Inclusive sustainable economic growth and development
6. Migration and mobility

The ratification process will then proceed throughout 2021. In the meantime, the Cotonou Agreement will be extended until 30 November 2021.

## QUALITY AND STANDARDS: GAME-CHANGERS FOR THE POST-COVID RECOVERY OF AFRICAN ECONOMIES?

UNIDO Brussels organized a webinar on quality and standards in the context of post-COVID-19 recovery of African economies. The discussion took place in the framework of the UNIDO–African Union joint celebration of Africa Industrialization Week 2020.

Mr. Oliveira Gómez, Assistant Secretary General of the OACPS in Brussels, warned that the COVID-19 pandemic had disrupted all economic and social processes. Value chains are being put in a very difficult position, hence the time for a paradigm shift towards more competitiveness based on “value propositions”.

# STRATEGIC FINANCIAL ACTORS

## EIB: PALESTINE: #TEAMEUROPE - EU, EIB AND THE NATIONAL BANK JOIN FORCES TO SUPPORT SMES

The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** supports the resilience of the Palestinian private sector with a USD 50 million line of credit extended to The National Bank (TNB) to be on-lent primarily to local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

This is the EU Bank’s first operation in response to the Covid-19 related emergency in Palestine, and it is part of the Team Europe Initiative to help mitigate the economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. The EIB financing comes under the Economic Resilience Initiative (ERI), which is part of the European Union’s response to the challenges in the Southern Neighbourhood, such as forced displacement and migration, economic downturns and political crises.

## EBRD: FLAGSHIP GREEN CITIES DOUBLES IN SIZE

Finance for the **EBRD’s** pioneering urban sustainability programme, EBRD Green Cities, is doubling in size with a further €950 million allocated to extend work over the next three years. Set up in 2016 with €250 million and expanded in 2018 by a further €700 million of EBRD funds.



Source: EBRD Website

## EIF SIGNS UP TO UNITED NATIONS PRINCIPLES OF RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

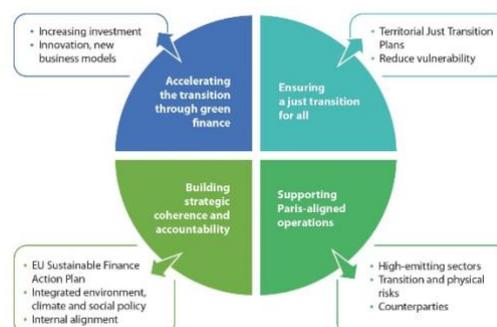
The **European Investment Fund** has joined the list of signatories of the UN-sponsored Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). PRI is recognised as the leading global network for investors committed to integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into their investment practices.

As a PRI signatory, the EIF will further enhance its ESG investment practices and processes. This cooperation is in line with EIF’s strong commitment to support the European Green Deal and the EU Climate Bank new level of ambition.

## EU MEMBER STATES APPROVE EIB GROUP CLIMATE BANK ROADMAP 2021-2025

the **European Investment Bank (EIB)** Board of Directors, composed of representatives from the EU member states, approved the Climate Bank Roadmap (CBR) that sets out in detail how the EIB Group aims to support the objectives of the European Green Deal and sustainable development outside the European Union.

The Climate Bank Roadmap comes at the end of a stakeholder engagement that included two major events in March and June and more than 200 written submissions to the Bank.



Source: EIB Website

# ECHOES FROM THINK TANKS

## A RENEWED TERRITORIAL AGENDA FOR THE EU

The main objective of the territorial agenda is to strengthen territorial cohesion, an EU principle that seeks to ensure the balanced development of the EU and reduce its regional disparities. Agreed in May 2011 and the culmination of a process begun many years earlier with the European Spatial Development Perspective, the Territorial Agenda 2020 has recently been renewed with a view to establishing a continued role for this initiative within the EU's new cohesion policy framework beyond 2020.

Aimed at ensuring the Europe 2020 strategy was implemented in line with the principle of territorial cohesion, the Territorial Agenda 2020 strived to promote the integration of the territorial dimension across many different policies. To deliver on this ambition, it established an action-oriented political framework based around six territorial priorities and a series of implementation mechanisms to make EU territorial cohesion a reality. However, with the territorial agenda a low political priority in past years, implementation remained weak, while the process itself was beset by challenges, such as fragile intergovernmental cooperation and a low level of awareness.

Spanned by two overarching priorities, a 'just Europe' and a 'green Europe', the renewed territorial agenda establishes a clear link with the European Commission's current priorities and its strategy for sustainable growth, the European Green Deal.

Source: [European Parliament Think Tank](#)

## US FOREIGN POLICY AFTER THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: ISSUES FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION

The election of the 46th President of the United States took place on 3 November 2020 amidst the unprecedented scenario of the coronavirus pandemic. The democratic candidate, Joe Biden, secured the electoral votes needed to become the next President of the United States. As usual, foreign policy did not rank highly amidst voters' concerns. However, for the European Union, the impact of the election of Joe Biden on US foreign policy will leave a substantial mark on the future course of transatlantic relations and of global cooperation. While foreign policy under the forthcoming Biden Administration is expected to depart from some of the key tenets of President Trump's 'America First' foreign policy, experts also point to a high possibility of continuity in areas such as trade and relations with China. However, on climate change, multilateral cooperation and support for NATO, expectations are high regarding a potential return to deep levels of transatlantic consensus and cooperation.

## EUROPE NEEDS A STRONG AFRICA, BUT WILL IT WORK TO ACHIEVE ONE?

The EU has ostensibly been trying to move towards a 'partnership of equals' with Africa for decades, but a donor-recipient relationship still largely dictates Europe's policy towards the continent. COVID-19 has worsened this power asymmetry, as many sub-Saharan African countries face crippling debt and collapsing public infrastructure. But the pandemic also offers an opportunity for Africa to break out of a cycle of indebtedness and aid dependency.

Source: [Centre for European Reform](#)

# LIFE AT UNIDO BRO

## Foreword: UNIDO continued leadership and ever-stronger partnership with the European Union in 2021

The European Union and UNIDO have worked together for many years to advance inclusive and sustainable industrial development worldwide. Bringing digital solutions to manufacturing processes, creating jobs for women and youth, greening trade and supporting economic diversification for people and planet.

As we come towards the end of 2020, a year of unprecedented challenges, the hard work needs to keep going. As a long-standing partner for digital transformation and green transition, UNIDO is a strategic partner to turn EU ambitions into realities. To walk the talk, the EU is contributing to UNIDO projects in more than 113 countries, on various thematic related to creating shared prosperity, advancing economic competitiveness, or safeguarding the environment. The outcomes of our cooperation surely contribute to global efforts to build back better.

To keep you informed on EU – UNIDO vibrant partnership, we have developed numerous initiatives to provide latest and exhaustive information from Brussels, most of them are available on UNIDO Brussels webpage. In addition, we have created the first edition of our “**Quarterly Snapshot to EU partners in Brussels.**” These short updates showcase key UNIDO highlights to the EU community.

The first *snapshot* include a message from UNIDO Director General, selected EU funded projects, most recent UNIDO publications and studies and key events for 2021, you can sign up for the UNIDO Brussels Snapshot – Quarterly updates to EU partners [here](#).

We trust that 2021 will be marked by UNIDO continued leadership and ever-stronger partnership with the European Union.

We wish you a relaxing and reinvigorating time.

Warmest regards,

Patrick GILABERT, Ph.D,  
Head UNIDO Office in Brussels, Representative to the European Union and the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)



## Enhanced Dialogue with EU Delegations in Albania, Moldova and Montenegro

**6, 19, 27 November:** UNIDO is strengthening its dialogues with the EU Delegations (EUDs) and the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) in Eastern European Countries for increasing long-lasting positioning in the area of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in light of the new cycle of the EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027.

In November 2020, UNIDO held virtual introductory meetings with representatives of the EUDs in **Moldova** (6 November), **Montenegro** (19 November) and **Albania** (27 November) aimed to present UNIDO country programmes (CPs) and explore cooperation avenues.

Mr. Ciyong Zou, PFC Managing Director led UNIDO delegation in the above-mentioned meetings.

PFC/RFC/EUR will be following up this important initiative and in consultations with the UNIDO Liaison Office in Brussels, Strategic Relations and Resource Mobilization Division and technical directorates.

## DTA/AGR met DG DEVCO C1. (Rural Development, Food Security, Nutrition)

**10 November:** Led by Mr. Dejene Tezera, DTA/AGR Director, UNIDO delegation engaged with Mr. Leonard Mizzi and his team from DG DEVCO Rural Development, Food Security, Nutrition unit. The meeting identified areas of mutual interest and opportunities for future cooperation, as well as the opportunity to participate at the [2021 Food Systems Summit](#) convened by the UN Secretary General.

DTA/AGR and DEVCO C1. reiterated the commitment to partner and the need for a One UN approach with FAO and IFAD. Looking at African development as an EU-UNIDO common priority, Mr. Mizzi, highlighted that with respect to AfCFTA, much work is needed on standard setting and regional harmonization, given the low intraregional trade of agri-food products.



## UNIDO meeting with ALLIANCE SAHEL and membership to the Private Sector Group

**16 November:** An information session was held towards presenting UNIDO and UNODC upcoming joint integrated regional program in the Sahel region to the Sahel Alliance (SA) representatives in Brussels. Led by Mr. Jean-Claude Plana, PFC/RFC/AFR Senior Coordinator, UNIDO - UNODC discussed on the way forward to provide technical assistance on the ground in the G5 countries. Mr. Haye, Alliance Sahel coordinator raised the potential interest that a rapprochement with the Private Sector group of SA (a group led by DEVCO and EIB) could represent for the UN agencies present.

From this meeting, EPR/BRO organized and confirmed UNIDO's membership to the Alliance Sahel Private Sector Working Group, composed of leading organisations such as DEVCO, EEAS, EIB, IFC, AFD, ENABEL, GIZ.



## “Africa Industrialisation Week 2020” #AIW2020 EPR/BRO side event “Quality & Standards in the context of post-Covid recovery of African economies”

**19 November:** EPR/BRO webinar was held with:

### Moderator

P. Gilabert, EPR/BRO Representative

### Welcoming remarks

Dr. Calzadilla-Sarmiento, DTA Managing Director

### Keynote speech

Dr. Meintjies, CTA, UNIDO in South Africa

### Panelists

Ms. Montesi representative, Director, Planet and Prosperity (DEVCO.C)

Mr. Oliveira Gómez, ASG OACPS

Dr. Gadzikwa, Past President, ARSO

Ms. Zangar Labidi, Division Manager, Industrial Development Division, AfDB

Dr. Thiam, Economist, Value Chains Based Industrial Development Expert

Dr. Ron Josias, Chair, AFRAC

Read the article [HERE](#)

Watch full webinar recording :

Watch full webinar recording below:



## Smart Cities: UN-Habitat policy dialogue with UN and the European Commission

**23 November:** UN-Habitat organized a policy dialogue between EC services and UN/UNIDO agencies based in Brussels around the theme of the territorialization of the digital transformation, also called “smart cities”. The aim was to get an overview of main workstreams, initiatives and perceived challenges and to identify synergies.



## Meeting with FAO Liaison Office Brussels

**25 November:** Following the discussion with DEVCO C1 on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, Heads of Agency Patrick Gilabert, UNIDO Brussels, and Rodrigo De Lapuerta, FAO Brussels, met to discuss possible synergies with the objective to enhance future cooperation. 3ADI, Food safety and the joint Opportunities for Youth in Africa initiative were among the topics discussed.

## UN Brussels Task Force on Digital met with DG DEVCO and DG CONNECT

**27 November:** The UN Brussels Task Force on Digital, co-chaired by UNIDO Brussels, UNESCO Brussels and ITU Europe, facilitates UN in Brussels dialogue with the European Commission. In this context, UNIDO, UNESCO, ITU met Ms. Ms. Sylvia Viceconte, **DG CONNECT** and Mr. Thierry Barbé **DG DEVCO**.

More than 20 UN organizations were at the virtual table and exchanged on UN – EU digital policies and priorities. The European Commission representatives elaborated on EU approach and strategy for digital transformation.

Mr. Barbé expressed his appreciation for the Task force and assured the continuation of the dialogue and consultation with the group. The meeting proceeded with a question-and-answer section during which many enriching comments were made by UN colleagues. This meeting will be the beginning of a greater collaboration with DG DEVCO and DG CONNECT.



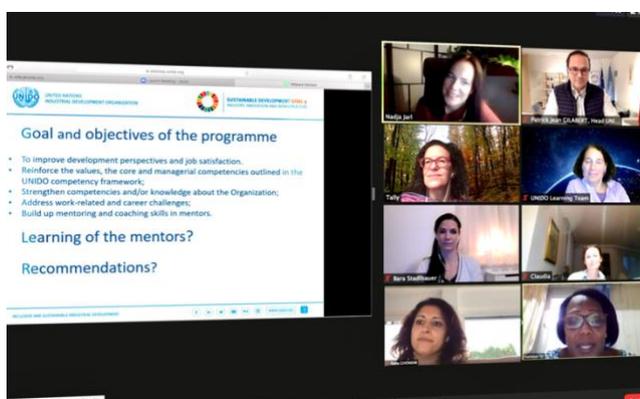
## 10<sup>th</sup> Dialogue of EU - China relations

**30 November:** EPR/BRO attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Dialogue of EU-China relations organized by Friends of Europe. The focus was on the actions and efforts of the two parties to ensure a global transformation. Europe's 'Next Generation EU' recovery plan commits the bloc to using the Green Deal as its growth strategy. Meanwhile China is moving forward with its 'New Infrastructure' plan, which will prioritise clean energy and renewables to turn recovery into opportunity.



## UNIDO Mentoring Program 2019-2020

**30 November:** This was the end of UNIDO Mentoring Programme 2019-2020, an innovative initiative where about 20 mentors will accompany colleagues (mentees) for a year.



## Tech-Skills, Water, Youth and Africa

**8 December:** UNIDO Brussels Office hosted the "Tech Skills for Sustainable Water Management & Youth Employment in Africa" webinar. The objective was to share knowledge about the implementation of innovative solutions to water challenges on the African continent through inter alia technical skills development, private sector engagement, technology transfer and digitalisation.

The speakers gave an overview of recent continental and country-specific challenges in the water and sanitation sector, and discussed how different public, private and development stakeholders have successfully addressed them. The outstanding panel featured Philippe Scholtès, Special Advisor to the Director General, USAID, Festo Didactic, the Moroccan National Office for Drinking Water, ENABEL, the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW), Veolia and the European Delegation in Senegal.

The key messages shared, included the importance of the delivery of demand-driven and innovative technical programs, the instrumental role that the private sector can play through Public Private Partnership modalities, and the value of alignment of activities among development actors.

Read the article [HERE](#)

Watch full webinar recording :



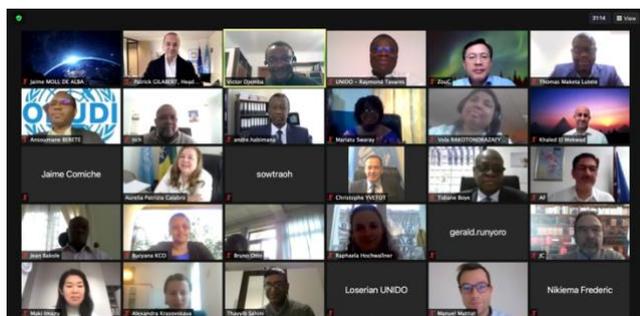
## Executive training on European lobbying, methods, tools

**09 – 10 December:** European lobbying, methods, tools and the international dimension of influence was delivered by Sciences Po Paris. The seminar featured senior executives from CEA-Tech Institutes, ENA, SUEZ and focused on establishing logics of influence. Methods and tools available on request.



## UNIDO Field Representatives, Regional Workshop Africa

**14 – 15 December:** EPR/BRO was glad to be part of the regional workshop on Africa. With 32 billion EUR to be programmed by the European Union in Sub-Saharan Africa in the next 7 years, EU Delegations are playing a leading role since 75% will be designed and programmed at the field level. The session on EU programming was the opportunity to present to UNIDO Field Representatives latest information and discuss on way forward.



## New Quality Infrastructure Programme discussed with OACPS

**15 December:** A new quality programme for ACP countries is being discussed with the Organisation of ACP States (OACPS) and DG DEVCO. Based on the lessons learnt and good practices identified within the previous programme in the field of technical barriers to trade (ACP EU TBT), the proposal will seek to consolidate on the gains made and advance the benefits through: (1) Enhancing regional quality and regulatory infrastructure (Q & RI) governance, (2) Strengthening the availability of value chain specific QI Services and (3) Promoting Quality Culture and Practices.

## UN Brussels Heads of Agency welcome Mr. Stefano Sannino, new Secretary General, EEAS

Mr. Stefano Sannino worked as EEAS Deputy Secretary General for Economic and Global Issues since February 2020. Previously, he was the Ambassador of Italy to Spain and the Italian Permanent Representative to the European Union. Mr. Sannino also served as Director General for Enlargement in the European Commission. He will start as of 1 January 2021.



# LATEST PUBLICATIONS

## From the EU publications office

### **EVALUATION SUPPORT STUDY OF THE EU AGRICULTURAL PROMOTION POLICY, INTERNAL AND THIRD COUNTRY MARKETS**

This report examines the European Union agricultural promotion policy targeting internal and third country markets. The study takes as its starting point the Regulation (EU) No 1144/2014 and focuses on assessing the particular changes in implementation and scope as compared to its ruling under Regulation (EU) 3/2008; an increased budget and co-financing rates; broadened scope (measures supported, eligible beneficiaries and products); simplified administrative processes, and more focus on third country markets.

The study analysed secondary data, complemented with primary data collection to examine the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value for measures supported to date. Although it is too early to confirm the full effects and effectiveness of measures implemented, they appear well aligned with the objectives. Meanwhile, the reformed policy design has overall been positive, with the exception of the monitoring and evaluation design, where improvements are needed.

The relevance of the general and specific objectives of EU agricultural promotion policy and activities supported are confirmed. As is the EU added value, the internal coherence and coherence with national policies.

The EU agricultural promotion policy is also consistent with other related EU policies. However, it will be important to ensure that this remains the case, taking into account the Commission's renewed emphasis on environment with the Green Deal, for example.

### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN EUROPE: A CROSS-COUNTRY ANALYSIS AND 39 COUNTRY PROFILES**

Against the backdrop of these recent EU-wide developments, this EEA publication stands out through its environmental lens. The objective of this analysis is to equip its readers with up-to-date cross-country analysis as well as individual country profiles which give insight into the focus and prioritisation of environmental action across Europe, as well as country-by-country insights.

It shows both the convergences and divergences towards environmental sustainability in Europe. The converging environmental focus points to the overall environmental challenges that persist in Europe, whereas diversification indicates emerging challenges or different geographical needs and political priorities in countries. Innovative approaches and good practices in the country profiles reflected here may also be inspirational. Secondly, the geographical scope of this publication includes 33 EEA member countries and 6 cooperating countries.

# AGENDA 2021

## EU Presidency trios 2020-2021:

Germany (July–December 2020), Portugal (January–June 2021), Slovenia (July–December 2021)

European Union Delegations Programming Exercise 2021 – 2027, global, January – July

L'Industrie face au défi de la transition énergétique et climatique, EPR/BRO-APNU conference, 13 Janvier

EU Industry Week, Europe, January-March

EU Industry Days, Brussels, 22-26 February

Alliance Sahel Private Sector Group, 2021 Round Tables, Brussels, February

UNIDO - OACPS Symposium, 2021

UNIDO – EU High Level Meetings, 2021

UN STI Forum, side event EPR/BRO-STOA, New York, 4-5 May

EU Green Week 2021, Brussels, 31 May-4 June

European Development Days 2021, Brussels, 15-16 June

EU Sustainable Energy Week, 22-26 June

Africa – France Summit 2021, Montpellier, July

Summit on financing Africa's development, France, 2021

EU-Africa Summit, 6 October

Paris Peace Forum, 11-13 November

Summit on Africa Industrialization and Economic Diversification, Niamey, Niger, November

UNIDO General Conference - 19th Session, Vienna, 29 November-3 December

OACPS – EU (post-Cotonou) New Partnership Agreement enter into force, **30 November**

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Africa Caribbean Pacific - European Union, 2021

XVIIIe Sommet de la Francophonie, Djerba, Tunisie, 2021

## EU Presidency trios 2022-2023:

2022-2023 trios: France (January-June 2022), Czech Republic (July–December 2022), Sweden (January-June 2023)

**You have an idea? A recommendation?  
Anything you wish to share with us?**

Don't hesitate and reach at Email : [Office.brussels@unido.org](mailto:Office.brussels@unido.org)

Website: [UNIDO Brussels Webpage](#)



## UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Telephone: (+32-2) 511-1690



Address: 37-40 boulevard du  
Régent, 1000 Brussels, BELGIUM



Twitter: @UNIDO\_Brussels  
@ONUDI\_Bruxelles

**Editors:** Patrick J. Gilabert, Alice Lucatello, Fatoumata Cisse.

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