



# FOREWORD

*COVID-19 is the most important crisis since World War II, which calls for the most ambitious decisions to shape the future of multilateral cooperation for global recovery.*

*On 3rd February 2021, E. Macron, A. Merkel, M. Sall, A. Guterres, C. Michel, and U. von der Leyen declared:*

*“we believe that this one can be an opportunity to rebuild consensus for an international order based on multilateralism and the rule of law through efficient cooperation, solidarity, and coordination. In this spirit, we are determined to work together, with and within the United Nations, regional organizations, international fora such as the G7 and G20, and ad hoc coalitions to tackle the global challenges we face now and in the future.”*

*In that context, the United Nations, including UNIDO, is at forefront of the future of multilateral cooperation, giving UNIDO Liaison Offices a strategic role to position ISID in this novel political arena.*

*UNIDO Brussels Office work plan for 2021 is a response to this new environment and plan to deliver the following outputs:*

*1. UNIDO’s strategic objectives in relation to the 2030 Agenda with strategic positioning towards EU accomplished through High Level strategic meetings with EU/OACPS, EPR/BRO International*

*Policy Dialogues, EU International events, EU-UNIDO Flagship publication SOTIP 2022 and ACP-UNIDO flagship publication on best practices 2022.*

*2. Operationalization of the SDGs through strengthened partnerships with the EU, ACP and other partners in Brussels through High Level technical meetings with EU/OACPS, new partnerships developed, EU-UNIDO technical publications and ACP-UNIDO technical publications.*

*3. External relations with EU Member States, stakeholders and partners effectively managed, included EU non-MS*

*4. New avenues of financing with the EU and its partners explored and secured through meetings with DG INTPA, DG NEAR, EU Delegations, briefings with UNIDO HQs / FOs on EU priorities and programming, new UNIDO national/ regional/ global projects for EU funding 2021-2027.*

*UNIDO Brussels Newsletter aim at providing concise information on the European Union as a global player, as well as on the office concrete activities to advance our strategic objectives, we hope you will enjoy it!*

*Thank you.*

*Patrick J. Gilabert, Representative  
UNIDO Liaison Office Brussels*

# The European External Action Service (EEAS) turns 10 - A decade of EU diplomacy

Born out of the Lisbon Treaty which was signed in 2007 and entered into force in late 2009, the EEAS was formally launched on 1 January 2011, the date which officially marks its anniversary.

The launch of the EEAS on 1 January 2011 was a major step in the European integration process and in developing a common foreign policy.

In the decade that has followed, the EEAS – with all Delegations, missions and operations – has become an appreciated and acclaimed partner to all their interlocutors around the globe. They are the face of the EU in the world, working towards peace and security in a true team spirit. The past years have seen major and unprecedented shifts in international politics and the EEAS more than ever needs to prove its added value as a diplomatic service. Like all other players, they have to adapt to a world “order” that looks increasingly out of balance. Against this backdrop, the 10th Anniversary also offers an opportunity to look back at lessons learned – lessons that will provide guidance for the 10 years ahead.

The #EEAS10 campaign kicked off on 1 December 2020 with a live streamed online debate. The current High Representative, Josep Borrell Fontelles and two of his predecessors, Federica Mogherini and Javier Solana have reunited in an online discussion *The EU in a changing world – Staying on course in troubled*

*waters*. They reiterated their willingness to speak ‘the language of power’, working with others but going it alone when needed, and endorsing a mediator role in international conflicts.

On this special occasion, the Secretary-General of the UN, Antonio Guterres, delivered a [special message to the EEAS](#).

*“The EU has brought peace, prosperity and a better tomorrow. I know that the UN can count on the EU to continue to uphold universal values of peace and human rights, address climate change and work towards a more inclusive and sustainable world for all”.*



Ursula von der Leyen

@vonderleyen



Europe is truly ■ when its voice is heard in the 🌍. When its convening power is used for the common good. For 10 years, our External Action Service has worked to forge ■ place in the 🌍 making it a true geopolitical power. Thank you to the talented, committed @eu\_eeas staff

# EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE – EEAS

## KEY ELEMENTS OF THE EU-CHINA CAI

The EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI) will be the most ambitious agreement that China has ever concluded with a third country. The CAI will ensure that EU investors achieve better access to Chinese market, and that they compete on a better level playing field in China.

By this agreement, China commits the EU market access in manufacturing, automotive sector, financial services, private hospitals, biological resources, telecommunication and cloud services, computer services, international maritime transport, air transport-related services, business services, environmental services, construction services, and employees of EU investors.

## BUILDING A CLIMATE-RESILIENT FUTURE, A NEW EU STRATEGY ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is already taking its toll in Europe and worldwide. The EU's new strategy on adaptation to climate change sets out the pathway to prepare for the unavoidable impacts of climate change by developing solutions and implementation.

*Climate-ADAPT*, the European platform for adaptation knowledge, will be enhanced and expanded, and a dedicated health observatory will be added to better track, analyse and prevent health impacts of climate change.

Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, Frans **Timmermans** said: *"The new climate adaptation strategy equips us to speed up and*

*deepen preparations. If we get ready today, we can still build a climate-resilient tomorrow".*



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

## HRC 46, EU STATEMENT: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

The EU welcomes the Secretary-General report on the impact of COVID-19 on the realization of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Mitigating the negative effects of COVID-19 on human rights is among the EU's priorities.

The EU welcomes the three OHCHR reports related to the rights of persons with disabilities. The EU and its Member States are fully committed to removing all barriers that still hinder access of persons with disabilities to work and to sport. This commitment is reflected at [the EU's upcoming Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021/2030](#).

The EU would like to thank the Chair-Rapporteur for the report on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with respect to human rights. The EU remains committed to engage at the UN level in order to achieve meaningful and tangible progress on Business and Human Rights.

# DG INTPA

## DG INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT BECOMES DG INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Directorate-General International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) officially became DG International Partnerships (DG INTPA) on 16 January 2021. The new title, mission statement and structure reflect the important role of international partnerships in shaping a stronger role for the EU globally, in eradicating poverty, advancing the SDGs and promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

DG INTPA accompanies partner countries on their path towards sustainable development, continuously adapting their support to the country's evolving needs and transitioning from bilateral assistance towards more targeted support as the situation improves. DG INTPA works in countries and regions in Africa; Latin America and the Caribbean (including the Overseas Countries and Territories); Middle East, Asia and the Pacific.



Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships>

## EU BOOSTS SUSTAINABLE COCOA PRODUCTION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE, GHANA AND CAMEROON

The EU announced that it will contribute €25 million to enhance the economic, social and

environmental sustainability of cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Cameroon. Concretely, the €25 million will fund parallel multi-stakeholder dialogue events at national and regional level in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Cameroon, involving government, private sector companies and civil society.

This funding strengthened the partnership between **Team Europe** and the three cocoa producing countries and aimed at ensuring a decent living income for farmers, halting deforestation and eliminating child labour.

## G7: EU TO SUPPORT COVID-19 VACCINATION STRATEGIES AND CAPACITY IN AFRICA

The President of the European Commission, **von der Leyen**, announced €100 million in humanitarian assistance to support the rollout of vaccination campaigns in Africa. This sum came on top of €2.2 billion provided by Team Europe to **COVAX**.

Commissioner for International Partnerships, **Urpilainen** said: *"Team Europe has stood by the side of our African partners from the onset of the pandemic and will continue to do so. We are strengthening health systems and preparedness capacities as well as we are now exploring support through the new NDICI and how to leverage investments in the local production capacities through the External Action Guarantee"*.



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

# DG NEAR

## NEW EU PROJECT TO SUPPORT READINESS FOR VACCINATION EFFORTS AND RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

The European Union in partnership with the World Health Organisation has launched a new regional project worth over €7 million to support safe and effective vaccination of the populations across the Western Balkans. This project will help prepare the region for the effective reception and administration of COVID-19 vaccines.

Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, **Várhelyi**, commented: *“With this new project, the EU continues to deliver on its commitment to support our partners in dealing with the pandemic since its start. The project comes on top of our €70 million package to support access to vaccines for the region and to procure the necessary equipment for the campaigns”*.



Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement>

## ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOGETHER FOR ALBANIA INTERNATIONAL DONORS' CONFERENCE

February 17, 2021 marked the one year anniversary of the International Donors' Conference “Together for Albania” organised in Brussels by the European Commission to

support Albania following the devastating earthquake of 26 November 2019.

Out of the record pledge of € 1.15 billion, the European Commission, EU Member States and the European Investment Bank brought €400 million for Albania's recovery, including €115 million in direct grants from the European Commission.

## EU SIGNS FINAL GUARANTEE AGREEMENTS UNDER THE EFSD GUARANTEE FOR THE EU NEIGHBORHOOD

The European Commission has concluded the deployment of the €1.549 billion European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD) Guarantee, by signing the remaining Guarantee Agreements. €519 million was contracted to finance initiatives targeting partner countries in the EU's Neighbourhood.

The EFSD Guarantee has the capacity to adapt to unprecedented changing conditions and will help the private sector in the EU's Southern and Eastern partner countries to better face the impact of the socio-economic crisis and to build more resilient economies.

# DG AGRI

## EU AGRI-FOOD PROMOTION POLICY BOOSTS COMPETITIVENESS OF THE SECTOR

The EU agri-food promotion policy is effective and efficient in supporting the policy's objectives. Furthermore, the objectives of the policy are relevant to stakeholders' needs and address market challenges, have a clear EU added value, but need to be better aligned with evolving societal needs and political priorities. These are among the key findings of the 'Evaluation of the impact of the EU agricultural promotion policy in internal and third countries markets' published on 11 January 2021 by the European Commission.

The evaluation found that activities funded under the promotion policy contribute effectively to increasing the sales and consumption of the EU products promoted in target markets. Moreover, the promotion measures being implemented at EU level demonstrated clear added value. As for the areas to be improved include improving the exchange of knowledge and experience between beneficiaries, the Commission's own initiatives, as well as improving coherence with other EU policies.

## FEMALES IN THE FIELD

The number of women in farming has been slowly increasing in recent years. The most recent data (Eurostat 2016) suggests that, on average, 29% of farms across the EU are managed by a woman. But this data masks some considerable differences between countries.

This International Women's Day, the EU is not only helping to make sure that Europe's rural areas remain competitive, vibrant and connected places to live, it is also working to make sure that the next generation of farmers and others involved in the field of agriculture

better reflects Europe's gender balance. Gender equality is also mainstreamed as a cross-cutting issue throughout the research and innovation programme [Horizon 2020](#), which aims at fostering gender balance in research teams; ensuring gender balance in decision-making; and integrating the gender dimension in research and innovation contact. Within Horizon Europe, the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-27) these commitments are strengthened.



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

## LONG-TERM VISION FOR RURAL AREAS: EUROPEANS SHARE THEIR VIEWS ON RURAL AREAS

Improved infrastructure, especially in terms of public transport, is amongst the most pressing needs for rural areas. Farming is seen as the sector contributing the most to rural areas.

The public consultation aimed at gathering input from European citizens and stakeholders to assess what the long-term vision on rural areas should focus on. A total of 2,326 respondents from all EU Member States participated in the public consultation, providing their views on rural areas today, aspirations for the future of rural areas as well as involvement of citizens in decision making and the vision itself. The findings of the public consultation were presented at the [rural vision week](#), hosted by the European network for rural development (ENRD) between 22 and 26 March 2021.

# DG CONNECT

## EU TO SET UP NEW EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS AND INVEST NEARLY €10 BILLION FOR THE GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION

The Commission proposed to set up 10 new [European Partnerships](#) between the European Union, Member States and/or the industry. The goal is to speed up the transition towards a green, climate neutral and digital Europe, and to make European industry more [resilient](#) and competitive.

Then ten Partnerships, some of which are building on existing [joint undertaking](#), are the following: Global Health EDCTP3, Innovative Health Initiative, Key Digital Technologies, Circular Bio-based Europe, Clean Hydrogen, Clean Aviation, Europe's Rail, Single European Sky ATM Research 3, Smart Networks and Services, Metrology.

## GENDER BALANCE, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS IN THE MEDIA AND AUDIOVISUAL SECTORS

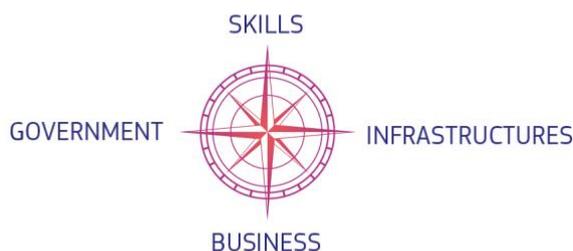
Gender balance and diversity are core EU values. In the framework of [the Creative Europe MEDIA programme](#), the Commission has started to work to improve gender balance and diversity in the media and in the audiovisual sector, by engaging with stakeholders and raising awareness, collecting data, and establishing networking.

## EUROPE'S DIGITAL DECADE: COMMISSION SETS THE COURSE TOWARDS A DIGITALLY EMPOWERED EUROPE BY 2030

The Commission presented a vision, targets and avenues for a successful digital transformation of Europe by 2030. The Communication proposed to agree on a set of digital principles, to rapidly launch important multi-country projects, and to prepare a legislative proposal

setting out a robust governance framework, to monitor progress.

This [Digital Compass](#) includes four cardinal points: Digitally skilled citizens and highly skilled digital professionals; Secure, performant and sustainable digital infrastructures; Digital transformation of businesses; Digitalization of public services.



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

## COMMISSION WELCOMES AGREEMENT ON THE CONNECTING EUROPE FACILITY TO FUND GREENER, MORE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND ENERGY NETWORKS, AND DIGITALIZATION

The European Commission welcomes the agreement by the European Parliament and the Council on [the Connecting Europe Facility \(CEF\) proposal](#), worth €33.7 billion, as part of the next [long-term EU budget 2021-2027](#).

The CEF programme supports investment in Europe's transport, energy and digital infrastructure networks. It will support the twin green and digital transition, by contributing to the ambitious targets for the [European Green Deal](#) and the [Digital Decade](#). The digital strand of the CEF will also help develop and deploy innovative, secure and sustainable cross-border digital infrastructure, to enable digital networks and services to support Europe's vision in the [Digital Decade for 2030](#), building on the [2025 Gigabit Society goals](#).

# EU PARLIAMENT & EU COUNCIL

## FUTURE OF EUROPE: ENGAGING WITH CITIZENS TO BUILD A MORE RESILIENT EUROPE

European Parliament President Sassoli, Prime Minister of Portugal Costa and Commission President von der Leyen signed the Joint Declaration on the Conference on the Future of Europe.

This paved the way to launching a series of debates and discussions that will enable people from every corner of Europe to share their ideas to help shape Europe's future.

The Joint Declaration gave a non-exhaustive list of possible themes for the Conference. It mentioned health, climate change, social fairness, digital transformation, the EU's role in the world, and how to strengthen democratic processes governing the EU.



Source: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en>

## INVEST EU: EU PROGRAMME TO ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT

InvestEU continues EU efforts to boost investment in Europe, support the recovery and prepare the economy for the future.

MEPs approved the rules for the InvestEU programme for 2021-2027 during the plenary session taking place on 8-11 March. The programme succeeds the European Fund for Strategic Investment, established in 2015 as the core of the Juncker Plan to increase public and private investment in Europe. The new programme brings together financial instruments aiming to support investments that are crucial for economic growth.

## CONSEQUENCES OF COVID-19 ON AFRICAN CARIBBEAN PACIFIC AND EU COUNTRIES

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) calls on the EU to make COVID-19 vaccines a global public good that is accessible to all.

The ACP-EU JPA adopted a resolution calling on the EU and its member states to provide greater support to ACP countries, especially those with the most vulnerable populations and whose economies and health systems are most precarious.

To this end, the EU and the African Union would have to raise around €4 billion. Thanks to the EU's contribution and that of its member states, several ACP countries like Ghana, Rwanda, Malawi, Uganda, Fiji, Nigeria and Angola have already been able to benefit from immunization against COVID-19 through the COVAX scheme.

# OACPS

## TEAM EUROPE SUPPORTS ACP COUNTRIES TO ACCESS FINANCE THROUGH DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

On January 27, 2021, the European Commission, together with the OACPS, has signed a new initiative of €14.5 million with the UNCDF to unlock the potential of digital finance to benefit more than 600,000 women, youth and entrepreneurs across ACP countries.

The joint action will be implemented in different countries in Africa (Gabon, Niger, Malawi and Ethiopia) as well as in the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago and Eastern Caribbean States) and in the Pacific region (Vanuatu, Samoa, Timor Leste, Tonga and Fiji).

## YOUTH DEBATE COVID-19 WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS AT ACP-EU JPA YOUTH CONFERENCE

On February 25, 2021, 150 youngsters from Benin, Romania and Rwanda, the last three regions to host live Youth Conferences, were invited to debate remotely with Members of Parliament at the ACP - EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) Youth Conference on the COVID-19 pandemic.

The debate, with the theme of “**The COVID-19 pandemic and its implications and impact on youth**”, was an occasion for the youth to discuss their ideas on how to create a better future, in particular during the COVID-19 pandemic. The exchange of views also aimed to raise awareness among young people of the importance of the work and impact of the multilateral assembly and of local cooperation.

## AFRICAN FARMERS SAY THEY MUST BE TRAINED FOR FARM TO FORK

African farmers fear being left alone in making sense of and applying environmental standards required by the EU’s new food policy, said the voice of Kenya’s horticulture producers, who warned that without help, the new rules could jeopardise trade with Europe. The European Commission’s Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy aims to make the European food system more sustainable through a set of stringent targets.

In order not to affect their competitiveness on the global stage, European farmers have asked that imported products should meet the same environmental standards they have to comply with.

CEO of Kenya’s [Fresh Produce Consortium](#), Ojepat says that “*reciprocity is not one thing African farmers refuse but European farmers are getting subsidies directly from the EU. Adding that African farmers are not getting any training to raise their capacity to fulfil the F2F requirements*”.



Source: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture>

# STRATEGIC FINANCIAL ACTORS

## EIB BACKS COVID-19 BUSINESS SUPPORT, RENEWABLE ENERGY, INTERNET, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN INVESTMENT

In early March 2021, the Board of Directors of the EIB approved EUR 2.4 billion of new private sector financing that will improve access to finance by companies and entrepreneurs. This includes targeted credit lines managed by local banking partners that address challenges faced by businesses negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than EUR 7.9 billion of new EGF financing, expected to mobilise EUR 61.6 billion of new private sector investment has been approved and the first contracts signed in December 2020. The EGF was created by the EIB Group within weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic being declared, to help businesses recover from the pandemic, make new investments, and save jobs. Communities across Europe and beyond will benefit from EIB backed investment to improve transport, upgrade health and education, and unlock investment in cities.

## EIB: TEAM EUROPE PARTNERS WITH EQUITY BANK IN KENYA TO SUPPORT BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE

The European Union and the European Investment Bank, working together as Team Europe, are providing EUR 120 million (KES 15.8 billion) of new support for Equity Bank to enhance financing to Kenyan companies most impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The financing package will support access to finance at appropriate conditions for Kenyan SMEs, including in the agriculture sector, through €100 million loans from the European Investment

Bank to Equity Bank and €20 million of European Union (EU) grant support.



Source: <https://www.eib.org>

## CAPITAL INCREASE FOR EIF BOOSTS FINANCE FOR COVID-19 IMPACTED COMPANIES AND STRENGTHENS SUPPORT FOR GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE EU ECONOMY

The shareholders of the European Investment Fund (EIF) have approved a 64% increase in its total authorised capital from EUR 4.5bn to approximately EUR 7.4bn. With this decision, the General Meeting of shareholders – the European Investment Bank, the European Union represented by the European Commission and 38 public and private financial institutions – gave a strong signal to further extend EIF activity to support European businesses, in particular SMEs, through a series of innovative financial products. The EIF will be well equipped to continue pursuing EU policy objectives, help roll-out the InvestEU programme and in particular finance the green and digital transformation of the EU economy. In parallel, the EIF is well-placed to roll-out SME-focused activities including the EIB Group's EUR 25bn Pan-European Guarantee Fund, an initiative aiming to shield businesses against the damaging effects of the pandemic.

# ECHOES FROM THINK TANKS

## HOW EUROPEAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS CAN WORK BETTER TOGETHER FOR SUSTAINABLE AND GREEN (CO-)INVESTMENT IN TIMES OF COVID-19

The unprecedented scale of the crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic calls for greater empowerment of international, European and regional financial institutions for development, development finance institutions (DFIs) and public development banks. They all need to step up their efforts, to ‘build back better’, in a greener, more inclusive and gender-sensitive manner. The ECDPM paper suggests ways to do that, adjusting the current business model of financial institutions for development to align and coordinate European investments for development.

The European Union (EU) and its member states are well placed to help ‘build back better’ by building on their strategic approaches, (financial) institutions, instruments and initiatives. To unlock this potential, however, it is important to further strengthen the European financial architecture for development (EFAD), in particular by enhancing coordination, joint and complementary investments and approaches among European financial institutions and with other development actors and institutions.

Inclusive sustainable prosperity, through quality job creation and innovation, is one of the main pillars of the EU development policy. It takes even higher priority in the wake of the COVID-19 health and socio-economic crisis, which threatens the livelihood of millions of people, affecting even more harshly women, the poor and vulnerable people. Micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs), as the bulk providers of employment, are in the front line of the pandemic crisis, with the risk that their

liquidity constraints increasingly turn into solvency problems. The COVID-19 recovery requires countercyclical sustainable, green, inclusive and gender-sensitive investment on a massive scale.

Greater emphasis needs to be put on international support to accompany domestic efforts in particular in poorer countries, including by helping to mobilise sustainable private finance and investment, with the objective of building back better and greener in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. [Source: ECDPM](#)

## A STRONGER ALLIANCE: ENHANCING RESILIENCE, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP

As Africa and Europe seek to reset their partnerships, Friends of Europe is engaging with international partners across both continents to understand the long-term vision and the converging and diverging priorities at the heart of this new cooperation.

Africa and Europe have a shared interest and much to gain from one another in accelerating the progress of the global agenda for sustainable development, whilst working together to address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through its “Debating Africa-EU” series, Friends of Europe is focused on engaging its partners and the new EU College of Commissioners around their vision and priorities for EU-Africa cooperation. The seventh ‘In Conversation With’ took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2021 with the strategic focus on “A stronger Alliance: Enhancing Resilience, Peace, and Security in the Africa-EU Partnership”.

[Source: European Commission](#)

# Life at UNIDO Brussels

## Industry Facing Climate And Energy Transition

**13<sup>th</sup> January** : UNIDO BRO in partnership with the [United Nations Association \(APNU\)](#) in Belgium organized a webinar on "[Industry facing the challenge of the Energy and Climate Transition](#)". This video conference brought together experts from various backgrounds including advisors to the European Commission, policy-makers, scientists, and industrial experts. Mr. Philippe Scholtès, Special Advisor to the Director General of UNIDO and Mr. Patrick Nussbaumer, Industrial Development Specialist and Project Manager in the Energy Department at UNIDO, also took part in the discussion and presented UNIDO's work on energy in developing countries.



Watch full webinar [HERE](#)

## Alliance Sahel Private Sector Development Working Group Session On Youth And Work and Alliance Sahel High-Level Dialogue

**4<sup>th</sup> February:** UNIDO BRO organized in collaboration with other members of the private sector group of the Sahel Alliance, a Workshop on Youth and Entrepreneurship in the Sahel region. This round table discussion provided an overview of the urgency but also concrete solutions regarding youth employment in the Sahel.

**11<sup>th</sup> February:** In the framework of the Sahel Alliance's Private Sector Group, UNIDO BRO co-organized with DG INTPA and the EIB a virtual dialogue to listen to the voices of Sahel entrepreneurs and to better support the private sector in the Sahel region. The event also included speeches by Ms. Arancha Gonzalez Laya, current President of the Sahel Alliance General Assembly and Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation and Sandra Kramer, Head of Unit Africa at the European Commission (DG INTPA). The video conference featured 9 entrepreneurs from Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad who highlighted the challenges, opportunities and concrete solutions to support the private sector in the Sahel.



## BRO Meetings with the Regional Field Offices

### Meeting with Asia and Pacific Field Offices

**17<sup>th</sup> February:** This meeting gathered UNIDO Fields Offices from the Asia and the Pacific Region for an important knowledge sharing session in which UNIDO BRO informed the colleagues about the latest developments in the EU programming cycle. Country representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam joined the call.

### Meeting with Africa Field Offices

**1<sup>st</sup> March:** The BRO attended a meeting with UNIDO Africa regional divisions and Field Offices to discuss the current EU Programming Exercise 2021-2027. The meetings began with a presentation by the BRO, followed by a detailed discussion with the Country representatives attending namely: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

### Meeting with Europe and Central Asia Field Offices

**3<sup>rd</sup> of March:** The BRO met the Country Representatives of the Europe and Central Asia offices. Within the EU Programming Exercise, the BRO raised the importance of FOs as the drive and voice in the countries, and the importance of connecting with UNRCO and UNCTs. Also, UNIDO's engagement with the EU on a private basis (EU states, EU private sector, EBRD) has been discussed.

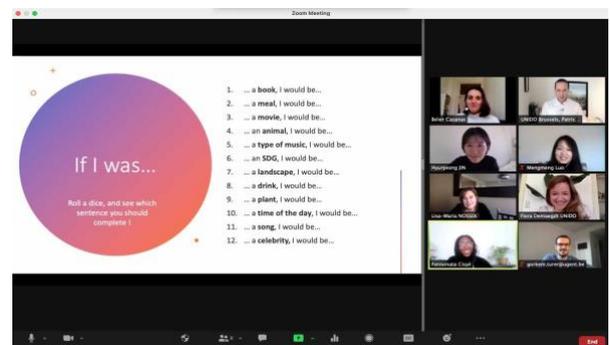
## UNIDO/INTPA B - Latin America Meeting

**2<sup>nd</sup> March:** This meeting between UNIDO and DG INTPA was the opportunity for the Brussels Liaison office and the Regional Coordination Division - Latin America & the Caribbean to inform the European Commission on UNIDO's activities in Latin America and the Pacific and explore potential synergies for future collaboration.



## Welcoming Session For New UNIDO BRO Interns (Hyunjeong, Görkem, Mengmeng)

**2<sup>nd</sup> March:** UNIDO Brussels Office officially welcomed Hyunjeong and Görkem into the team for the beginning of their internships. We started our virtual welcome coffee with some ice-breaker games, a general introduction of UNIDO, and more detailed discussion on all the exciting BRO activities they will be working on for the next six months.



## EU Industry Days - Local Events With ITPOs

**4<sup>th</sup> March:** *“Investment Promotion as driver of competitiveness and sustainable development - an introduction to UNIDO’s Investment and Technology Promotion initiatives”* was the first in a series of three events during the EU Industry Week 2021. This first event highlighted the long-standing cooperation between UNIDO and the EU. The session started with welcoming remarks and introduction from Mr. Weixi Gong, ITP Network Coordinator, Chief, ITP Division, UNIDO HQ Vienna and Mr. Patrick Gilibert, UNIDO Representative, UNIDO Office Brussels. Ms. Cecile Billaux, Head of Unit E2 – Micro-economic analysis, investment climate, private sector, trade and employment, DG INTPA also joined the discussion to explore the UNIDO – EU cooperation together with Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Managing Director, Directorate of Digitalization, Technology and Agribusiness, UNIDO HQ Vienna, and Mr. Oliveira Gomez, ASG to OACPS.



**10<sup>th</sup> March:** *“The digital future of sustainable industrial manufacturing in Italy and beyond”*. This second virtual dialogue, co-organized with ITPO Italy, in the framework of the EU Industry Week 2021 brought together representatives from UNIDO and the EU, as well as key figures from the private sector and academia. The panel addressed the Italian manufacturing sector’s shift to a digital economy in the new industrial strategy of the EU.

The event provided a platform facilitating knowledge exchange, highlighting the significance of promoting innovation and strategic partnerships in building resilience to the COVID-19 pandemic.



**24<sup>th</sup> March:** *“Investments and Technology Transfer from Germany as Driver for Economic Development in Europe and Africa”*. The 3<sup>rd</sup> multi-stakeholder discussion, organized with ITPO Germany, explored opportunities to establish effective and fruitful business collaborations between Europe, especially Germany, and Africa for green growth and sustainable development in the future. Through informative presentations from book authors and entrepreneurs, this panel discussion was an opportunity to learn more about the role of the private sector in advancing green growth, innovative financing ideas, and successful entrepreneurship stories.



## UNIDO And Music Industry Meeting

**11<sup>th</sup> March:** A meeting on Music Industry took place with the participation of UNIDO representatives and [Sound Diplomacy](#). The roadmap for promoting UNIDO projects in this sector is outlined as well as potential challenges and partnerships are identified. The meeting marked the potential of the Music Industry in achieving SDGs in the developing countries.

## UN Brussels Digital Task Force Meeting With ASG Spatolisano And Office Of The Tech Envoy

**19<sup>th</sup> March:** UN Brussels Digital Task Force was honoured to have the meeting with Ms. Maria Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, and Officer in Charge, Office of the Envoy on Technology, and her colleagues from the UN Headquarters in New York. In the context of the analysis work carried out by the Digital Task Force, this meeting helped better understand the current UN processes and [Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](#) for development at the global level. It will eventually allow aligning the work of the UN in Brussels with the global approach.

## UNIDO/INTPA G - Gender Meeting

**25<sup>th</sup> March:** This meeting between UNIDO and DG INTPA offered the opportunity for the Brussels Liaison office and UNIDO HQ Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Office to showcase what UNIDO does to incorporate gender mainstreaming into the development programs and to share the knowledge on gender approach and gender policies with the European Commission.

## UNIDO/INTPA E - Gold Mining Meeting

**25<sup>th</sup> March:** UNIDO BRO and HQ met with DG INTPA counterparts to discuss UNIDO's work on mineral extraction. Specific UNIDO projects were presented to The European Unit and afterwards a strategic dialogue took place. A fruitful dialogue took place with the DG INTPA units present namely: Unit E2 Micro-economic Analysis, Investment Climate, Private Sector, Trade and Employment and UNIT A2 Regional and Multi Country Programmes for Africa.

# RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE EU

## EU PUBLISHES EU4BUSINESS REPORT ON SME SUPPORT IN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

EU4Business is an umbrella initiative that includes all EU support to small and medium-sized businesses in the Eastern Partnership countries. EU4Business supports SME growth by improving access to finance and business development services, and by promoting better business regulation.

The report published on February 25, 2021 showed an extra €1.3 billion income for SMEs, which received support through the European Union's EU4Business initiative in 2019. Almost 80,000 companies in the Eastern Partnership countries received assistance and managed to create over 117,000 new jobs.

*"The 2020 report includes new indicators and dimensions for data gathering and comprehensive comparisons among instruments and countries",* EU4Business team leader **Hellyer** explains.



Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement>

## ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES CAN TRANSFORM THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND ITS VALUE CHAIN

The chemical industry is a cyclical, trade intensive industry with highly globalised supply chains. The chemical industry plays a particularly important strategic role for the economy, as it provides products and materials or solutions to virtually all its segments. At the same time, its global market share has shrunk significantly since 1998. Innovation and digitalization are essential for the European chemical industry to secure its business success and to retain its competitive edge, while at the same time posing challenges for chemical companies.

## CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN THE AFRICA-EU COOPERATION

With its publication of the European Green Deal, including a new Circular Economy Action Plan, the EU reinforced its ambition to transform its economy from the existing linear “make-use-dispose” model into a circular one. This report is a first step to identify how cooperation between Africa and the EU can be fostered and adapted to accelerate the uptake of circular practices and promote the shift to a circular economy.

## ACCELERATING THE 5G TRANSITION IN EUROPE

This study discusses why the 5G is integral to digitalisation efforts, and how its roll-out will be one of the most critical building blocks of the European digital economy and society in the next decade. The transformative properties of 5G technology are examined.

# AGENDA 2021

UNIDO BRO focus on Digital, April

Alliance Sahel Private Sector Group Workshop on Cotton Value Chains in Sahel, May

International Dialogue on Creative Industries for SDGs, May

OACPS Symposium, May/June (TBD)

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, 15-16 June, Brussels.

EU Sustainable Energy Week, 22-26 June

International Dialogue on Mining and Raw Materials: Best Practices, June

Africa – France Summit 2021, Montpellier, July

Summit on financing Africa's development, France, 2021

EU-Africa Summit, 6 October

EU SDG Summit, 11,12 and 14th 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: 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 Website](#)



## UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Telephone: (+32-2) 511-1690



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



Twitter: @UNIDO\_Brussels (in English)  
@ONUDI\_Bruxelles (en Français)

**Editors:** Patrick Gilabert, Hyunjeong Jin, Görkem Turer, Fatoumata Cissé

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