# UNIDO BRUSSELS NEWSLETTER
## JULY 2021

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FOREWORD

Despite the extraordinarily challenging time, with the worldwide sanitary crisis, UNIDO – EU partnership remains strong, sharing the same vision to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development and growth, supporting the most vulnerable, especially women and youth, leaving no one behind.

In the framework of this robust cooperation, the EU, in 2020, allocated more than EUR 33 million to UNIDO. The largest financial contribution came from DG INTPA with 57% of EU financial contributions to UNIDO, followed by DG NEAR with 36% of EU financial contributions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly proved that international partnerships and cooperation are key to our recovery from the current crisis and will pave the way to a greener and inclusive transition for the future of a healthy planet and next generations. To this end, the United Nations, including UNIDO, and the EU share the common belief that sustainable and resilient recovery requires innovative solutions, which can be achieved by strong cooperation and partnerships.

During the UN Secretary-General António Guterres’ visit to Belgium on 23rd June, the president of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen confirmed the support of the European Union to the United Nations:

“We support you in your tireless work to strengthen multilateralism and to improve the rules-based order, globally, for all the topics we are dealing with together – be it peace and security, or the support for refugees, or overcoming the pandemic, but also fighting climate change.”

In this context, it is encouraging that several main events in the second quarter of 2021 saw significant input from the EU and international development society, including the European Development Days 2021 and the adoption of the next long-term EU budget: NDICI-Global Europe, officially adopted in June. With this new groundbreaking instrument, Europe has EUR 79 billion of funding that addresses priorities that are crucial for partner countries and the EU. These priorities will enable a greener, more inclusive, and resilient recovery, aligned with the UN agenda to achieve a recovery for the people and the planet in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

It is a pleasure to share with you several important highlights of European Union and UNIDO Liaison Office in Brussels activities.

The 10th edition of the BRO/EPR Newsletter will provide updates on the EU and Brussels-based partners as well as the recent strategies of the financial actors such as the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The echoes of the think tanks draw upon the expertise of academics. Life at UNIDO Brussels showcases the dynamic involvement in the international activities or conferences of the UNIDO liaison office in Brussels. The latest publications present the results of official studies from the EU institutions, for instance, the latest Eurobarometer survey. The agenda includes the upcoming international events in 2021.

I wish you a pleasant read,

Patrick Gilabert,
UNIDO Representative to the European Institutions and the Organization of ACP States
**HIGHLIGHTS**

### VISIT OF SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UN TO PRESIDENT OF THE EC

On 23 June, The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres visited the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium, welcomed by the European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen.

She congratulated him on his second appointment and stated: "The European Union and the European Commission always stand by your side. We support you in your tireless work to strengthen multilateralism and to improve the rules-based order, globally, for all the topics we are dealing with together. We are also supporting you on your reform agenda and very curious on what you call 'our common agenda' where we always volunteer to take a leading role."

António Guterres called on the EU to remain at the forefront for enlightenment: "The European Commission has been a strong supporter of the UN in all areas of our work. We count on the European Union to be at the forefront of the good battle for the values of the enlightenment, and the important EU contribution to global civilization."

Source: https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/

### UNIDO DIRECTOR GENERAL – ACP SECRETARY-GENERAL BILATERAL MEETING

On 11 May, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Director General Li Yong and Secretary-General of Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, had a bilateral meeting to discuss a strategic partnership between UNIDO and OACPS.

During the meeting, OACPS Secretary-General Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti expressed his gratitude for the work achieved together for more than 40 years to support human progress and prosperity in ACP countries through industrial cooperation and development.

Highlighting further collaborative opportunities between two agencies through pipeline projects, Director General, Li Yong, expressed willingness to strengthen cooperation through an OACPS-UNIDO Symposium in 2022.

This bilateral dialogue confirmed the significance of enhancing partnerships and reiterated the UNIDO’s support to the OACPS Secretariat and the Member States in the context of the Post-Cotonou agreement and the COVID-19 recovery.

*The news article can be viewed here.*
EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE – EEAS

EU COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

On June 10, President of the European Commission von der Leyen announced that, for the period 2021-2027, the EU pledged €700 million for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) to help transform education systems for more than one billion girls and boys in up to 90 countries and territories.

COVID-19 has reversed much of recent progress in improving access to education and gender parity. Commissioner for DG INTPA, Jutta Urpilainen said: “Education has the power to transform lives and societies. The EU and Member States account for half of the global support to education and as Team Europe our contribution to the GPE will be a testimony that education must be at the heart of the recovery, with a particular attention to girls”.

Source: https://www.globalpartnership.org/

EU’S ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN FOR MOLDOVA

The European Commission announced, on June 2, an Economic Recovery Plan for the Republic of Moldova, which will mobilise up to €600 million in macro-financial assistance, grants and investments, supported by blending and financial guarantees. This new funding will be mobilised over the next three years to promote investment that underpin a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 crisis in the country.

The Plan builds on five pillars: public finance management and economic governance; competitive economy, trade & SMEs; infrastructure; education & employability; and the rule of law & justice reform.

TEAM EUROPE LAUNCHES NEW FINANCING PLATFORM TO SUPPORT HEALTH SECURITY AND RESILIENCE IN AFRICA

Von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, and Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank, on May 21, outlined a new initiative to boost financial and technical support to enhance health resilience and improve healthcare skills across Africa.

The Sustainable Healthcare Industry for Resilience in Africa (SHIRA) financing platform will enable political and development finance partners to coordinate and strengthen health security and resilience in Africa. The new financing platform for health security and resilience in Africa has been developed following in-depth discussions with African and European political and development finance partners. SHIRA responds to the clear need to mobilise and enable private sector investment that strengthens health security and resilience across the continent by developing manufacturing and supply capacity.
The European Commission (EC) and the African Union Commission hosted the Forum, along with the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The all-digital 2021 EU-Africa Business Forum, held on 16 and 20-21 April, brought together over 3,000 participants, including government representatives, business leaders and investors from Africa and Europe. Together they discussed how to accelerate the transition to green energy in Africa, widen energy access, and in doing so, create jobs and a sustainable economic recovery from COVID-19.

President Von der Leyen, stated: “The green transition is not only a necessity to fight climate change. It is the greatest economic opportunity of our times. The potential of the green economy in Africa is massive. Green investment is a shared European and African interest. It’s time to discuss how to mobilise more of it, especially ahead of COP26 and the EU-Africa Summit”.

You can watch the EU-Africa Business Forum here.

EU AND FAO CALL FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS

The FAO Director-General Dongyu and EU Commissioners for International Partnerships, Urpilainen; for Health and Food Safety, Kyriakides; and for Agriculture, Wojciechowski, spoke at the launch of the 2021 EU-FAO Strategic Dialogue. The EU and the FAO have agreed to increase joint efforts to transform agri-food systems, in order to make them more inclusive, efficient, resilient and sustainable.

The meeting looked forward to the upcoming United Nations Food Systems Summit in New York in September and the Pre-Summit in Rome in July, which will aim to spur transformative changes in the way the world produces and handles food.

FAO Director-General Dongyu said: “We underscore our continued determination to defeat hunger and poverty and to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through this Strategic Dialogue, we are entering into a new chapter of our relationship marked by the urgency to act in a coordinated manner to support the much needed agri-food systems transformation”.


TEAM EUROPE MOBILISES TO SUPPORT AFRICAN ECONOMIES

On May 18, European Commission President von der Leyen announced a Team Europe initiative in support of Africa’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, as she joined global leaders at the Summit on Financing African Economies hosted by French President Macron in Paris.

Working with African Partners, the initiative will mobilise substantial financing and technical expertise from the European Union and its Member States, under a Team Europe approach, to address key bottlenecks that hold back young entrepreneurs and small business owners across Africa from starting or expanding their businesses.
DG NEAR

EU AND EBRD SUPPORT CRISIS RECOVERY IN MOROCCO

The EU and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) are stepping up their support for businesses in Morocco with a €6 million loan to Lamatem, a Moroccan producer of high-end medical garments. The financing will help the company to increase its exports to the European markets.

Renaud Basso, EBRD President, said: “Our key priority is to support a green, long-term economic recovery across our regions. The strong cooperation with the EU allows us to do this: to improve people’s lives, have a tangible impact on the ground and to build back better. It is in this spirit that we support the Moroccan producer, Lamatem, in its goal to provide much-needed medical products to local and European markets”.

FIRST EU FUNDED VACCINES ARRIVE TO THE WESTERN BALKANS

Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Várhelyi travelled to the Western Balkans in May as the first COVID-19 vaccines, shared and funded by the European Union, arrived to the region.

The vaccines are funded from the €70 million package adopted by the Commission in December 2020 to help cover the cost of vaccines, secured under the EU’s advance purchase agreements for the Western Balkan partners. Austria has facilitated the sharing of these EU funded vaccines through legal arrangements with the producer and each Western Balkan partner.

In total 651,000 BioNTech/Pfizer doses will be delivered to the region in weekly instalments from the beginning of May to August. These vaccines will help to accelerate the vaccination campaigns, to ensure all frontline medical workers and some of the most vulnerable groups are inoculated.

A NEW EU AGENDA FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

On April 19, the Council approved conclusions affirming the EU’s determination to renew and strengthen its strategic partnership with its Southern Neighbourhood. The objective is to address common challenges, take advantage of shared opportunities and unlock the region's economic potential for the benefit of its people.
DG TRADE

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA LAUNCH STRATEGIC DIALOGUE AND ENGAGE TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The European Commission welcomed the launching of the Strategic Dialogue between the European Union and the Republic of Kenya, agreed on 21 June 2021, and the strengthening of the multilateral partnership between the EU and the East African Community (EAC) region. Both sides agreed to engage towards implementing bilaterally the trade and the economic and development cooperation provisions of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the East African Community.

The Commission has immediately begun work on a roadmap to ensure a swift implementation of the Dialogue which will strengthen EU and Kenya’s regional and multilateral cooperation; democracy, governance and human rights, including gender equality; peace, security and stability; trade and investment; social development; climate change and the green transition; and the digital agenda, among others.

In parallel, discussion were initiated to strengthen the EU-East African Community economic partnership and both sides agreed to engage towards implementing bilaterally the trade and the economic and development cooperation provisions of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the East African Community (EAC).

EU PROPOSES A STRONG MULTILATERAL TRADE RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The EU has submitted its proposal seeking the commitment of World Trade Organization (WTO) members for a multilateral trade action plan to expand the production of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, and ensure universal and fair access. With this proposal to the WTO, divided in two communications, the EU underlines the WTO’s central role in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and urges fellow WTO members to agree on a set of commitments, including on intellectual property rights.

COMMISSION REPORTS ON NEGOTIATING ROUND WITH FIVE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

As part of its transparency commitment, the European Commission published the report summarizing progress made during the latest negotiation round to deepen the existing Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with five Eastern and Southern African partners (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe).

The fourth round was held virtually from 13 to 16 April. The partners discussed food safety plant and animal health standards, customs and trade facilitation, mutual administrative assistance, rules of origin, trade and sustainable development, trade in services, investment liberalization and digital trade, and economic and development cooperation.

The next round is foreseen for July 2021 (exact dates to be confirmed).
DG AGRI

EVALUATION OF CAP’S IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREEN GAS EMISSIONS

EU greenhouse gas (GHS) emissions from agriculture fell by more than 20% since 1990 but have stagnated since 2010. Still, as agricultural production has continued to grow, the climate footprint per unit of output continued to improve. Nevertheless, a further reduction of emissions is needed to achieve the EU’s ambitious climate targets for 2030 (reaching at least a reduction of 55% of emissions by 2030 in the EU).

The CAP has helped reduce GHG emissions. There is potential to further increase carbon storage in EU soils. In terms of climate adaptation, it is mainly achieved through support towards diversity of crops and farming systems, investment support for adaptation to new climate conditions, limiting soil erosion and improving resilience to floods. These are among the main findings of the evaluation of the impact of the CAP in climate change and GHG emissions.

2020 A YEAR OF STABILITY FOR EU AGRI-FOOD TRADE

Over the course of 2020, the value of EU agri-food exports increased to €184.3 billion (a growth of 1.4% compared to 2019), while the value of imports rose to €122.2 billion (a growth of 0.5%). The resulting balance of trade for 2020 stood at a surplus of €62 billion, an increase of 3% compared to 2019. These are amongst main findings published in March 2021 by the European Commission in the monthly trade report for January-December 2020.

China, Switzerland and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region were the major growth destinations for EU agri-food exports in 2020. 2020 was a challenging year for EU agri-food exports, with values declining for spirits and liqueurs (by €1.58 billion), wine (by €1.2 billion), raw hides and skins (by €582 million), and cotton (by €413 million).

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

COMMISSION LAUNCHES PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON REVIEW OF THE PROMOTION POLICY FOR EU AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTS

In March 2021, the Commission launched a public consultation, which aims to gather views on different policy options designed to ensure that the future EU agri-food promotion policy will support the transition to more sustainable food systems and nudge consumers to balanced diets, whilst strengthening the global competitiveness of EU farmers and agri-food businesses.

In addition, the consultation will provide an opportunity to obtain feedback on different options to update the policy implementation, making it simpler and more effective for beneficiaries, implementing bodies and national authorities. The consultation is open for 12 weeks, from 31 March to 23 June 2021.
DG CONNECT

2021 JOINT EUCNC & 6G SUMMIT (VIRTUAL CONFERENCE)

The 2021 Joint EuCNC & 6G Summit, initiated this year, builds on putting together two successful conferences in the area of telecommunications: EuCNC, in its 30th edition, supported by the European Commission; the 6G Summit, in its 3rd edition, originated from the 6G Flagship programme in Finland, one of the very first in its area.

The conference, sponsored by the IEEE Communications Society and by the European Association for Signal Processing, focuses on all aspects of connectivity ranging from 5G deployment and mobile IoT to 6G exploration and future communications systems and networks.

It also encompasses related technological areas like components and devices for telecommunications, experimentation and testbeds, and applications and services. It will bring together cutting-edge research and world-renown industries and businesses, both conferences having attracted in last year more than 1200 delegates from all over the world.

The Publications Office of the European Union is organising the EU Open Data Days that will take place from 23 to 25 November 2021. This event will give you a unique opportunity to meet the open data community, share experience with experts in the field and explore successful data-driven projects.

This fully online event will start with EU DataViz 2021, a conference on open data and data visualisation, on 23 and 24 November. It will close with the finale of EU Datathon, the annual open data competition, on 25 November.

DIGITAL 2021: LEADING THE DIGITAL DECADE

On 1 and 2 June 2021, the EC and the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union hosted the Digital Assembly, which this year was dedicated to Europe’s Digital Decade. This high-level event focused on the EU targets for 2030 for the Digital Decade and on the Digital Europe Programme, a new €7.5 billion funding programme for the deployment of European digital projects.

On day 1, the focus was on the Communication “2030 Digital Compass: the European way for the Digital Decade”. The day 2 was devoted to the launch of the first financial instrument of the EU for European projects on digital, the Digital Europe Programme.
EU PARLIAMENT & EU COUNCIL

GLOBAL EUROPE: MEPs BACK EU EXTERNAL COOPERATION FUNDING INSTRUMENT WORTH €79.5 BILLION

The Global Europe fund will be used to support sustainable development in EU neighborhood countries, Africa, Asia, the Americas, the Pacific, and the Caribbean.

Parliament gave the green light to the setup of the new Global Europe instrument (the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – NDICI), confirming an agreement reached with the Council in December 2020.

Global Europe, which for the first time brings the majority of the EU’s various external cooperation funding streams under one umbrella instrument, will provide funding of 79.5 billion EUR (in current prices) for 2021-2027. It will be used to support sustainable development in EU neighbourhood countries, Africa, Asia, the Americas, the Pacific and the Caribbean.

The objective of this instrument is to provide financial assistance to support the European Union’s values, principles and fundamental interests worldwide. It aims to eradicate poverty, support democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights, sustainable development and the fight against climate change.

2021 JOINT G7 SUMMIT, CORNWALL, UK, 11-13 JUNE 2021

Charles Michel, President of the European Council, and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, represented the EU at this year’s G7 summit hosted in Carbis Bay, Cornwall.

During the three-day meeting the G7 leaders discussed a wide range of pressing topics, including COVID-19, pandemic preparedness and economic recovery; geopolitical challenges and foreign affairs; trade and development; promoting open societies and democratic values; and fighting climate change and protecting the environment.

The summit took place under the UK presidency of the G7, the overarching theme of which is ‘Building Back Better’ from the pandemic. The UK invited leaders from Australia, India, South Korea and South Africa to attend part of the meeting as guest countries.

At the end of the summit, the G7 leaders adopted a leaders' communiqué.

Source: https://www.consilium.europa.eu
OACPS

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE OACPS ON THE PASSING OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, H.E. DR KENNETH KAUNDA

It was with deep sadness that the Secretary-General of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), H.E. Mr Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, learned of the death of H.E. Dr Kenneth Kaunda, former President of the Republic of Zambia on 17 July 2021.

The Secretary-General paid tribute to a true Pan-Africanist who will be remembered as an architect of democracy in the African Continent. The late President Kaunda dedicated tireless efforts to bring down the strong walls of apartheid through his support for liberation movements around the Southern Africa Region.

H.E. Chikoti recalled with profound appreciation the late President’s dedication to service and humanity, as he championed efforts towards the fight against the HIV and AIDS pandemic as well as his support to refugees fleeing conflict.

The Secretary-General, in honouring President Kaunda’s legacy on the African continent and across the globe, reaffirmed the OACPS’ commitment to effectively continue his legacy to advance the ideals of justice, unity, equity, inclusion and peace, within its membership.

On this sad occasion, the Secretary-General, on behalf of the OACPS, extended his sincere condolences to the family of Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, and to the Government and people of Zambia. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

PRESIDENT UHURU KENYATTA TO VISIT OACPS SECRETARY-GENERAL TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE OACPS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POST-COTONOU AGREEMENT

Kenyan President Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, who is also the President-in-Office of the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), in the course of a three-day Presidential mission to Brussels, visited the Secretariat of the OACPS to meet with Secretary-General, H.E. Mr Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, and the OACPS Committee of Ambassadors on 22 June 2021.

During his bilateral meeting with Secretary-General Chikoti, the President discussed the ongoing organisational restructuring at the OACPS Secretariat, the role of the OACPS on the international scene, the implementation of the recently initialled Post-Cotonou Agreement and OACPS interventions to ensure access by Members States to COVID-19 vaccines.

Source: http://www.acp.int
STRATEGIC FINANCIAL ACTORS

EIB PRESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY AT G20 MEETING

The 2021 G20 Infrastructure Investors Dialogue brought together G20 Finance Ministers from Italy, the United States, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia, business and investment leaders, representatives of international organizations and academic to discuss solutions related to “Financing Sustainable Infrastructure for the Recovery”.

Also, strengthened public and private investment cooperation is key for sustainable and robust recovery. President Hoyer highlighted the unique role of the D20 Long-Term Investors Club sharing experience and guidance to enhance dialogue and understanding between long-term institutional investors, asset managers and public banks.

EBRD: EBRD AND GCF TO BOOST CLIMATE ACTION WITH NEW US$ 1BILLION PROGRAMME

Scaling up green financing, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) are strengthening their cooperation by launching the new US$ 1.01 billion “High impact programme for the corporate sector”. It will promote the uptake of low-carbon technologies in the industrial sector.

The programme will support the corporates in formulating a low-carbon pathway, along with a concrete action plan of realistic investment and a strategic review of their business model as part of their corporate climate governance undertakings. Overall, the programme is expected to reduce emissions by 17.2 million CO2 over a 20-year asset lifetime, which is equivalent to avoiding one year’s worth of energy-related CO2 emissions by a country like Croatia.

Together, the GCF and the EBRD are unlocking the necessary financial and technical forces to support green, transformational investments in developing countries.


THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK GROUP JOIN FORCES TO PROTECT THE OCEANS AND BOOST INVESTMENT IN THE SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY

The European Commission and the European Investment Bank Group, composed of the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund (EIF), announce increased cooperation to implement the new EU Sustainable Blue Economy policy.

European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius said: “There can be no Green Deal without a sustainable blue economy. To achieve a climate-neutral, circular and clean blue economy in the EU, we need to channel finance so that the projects contributing to the Green Deal can take off the ground.”
AFRICA DAY: THE AU’S ROLE IN AFRICAN AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS – PART 2

For Africa Day 2021, commemorating the founding of the African Union (AU)’s predecessor, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), ECDPM worked on African institutions and regional dynamics to share the thoughts on key processes shaping the AU’s role in African and global affairs, trade and movement in pursuit of a green recovery.

Poorva Karkare – it’s all about industrialisation

The AfCFTA also has the ambition to promote industrialisation through regional value chains, as building blocks towards the much-needed structural transformation and poverty reduction. Industrial policy is back in fashion and a topic of discussion in more and more policy circles. But just how compatible it is with regional trade liberalisation and the AfCFTA remains a crucial question, where national interests often come to dominate regional or continental ambition.

Source: ECDPM

AFRICA-EU GREEN TALKS – HIGH LEVEL EU-AFRICA GREEN INVESTMENT FORUM, LISBON

The Africa Europe Foundation is partnering with a broad range of high-level partners, including the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the Africa Union Commission, the European Investment Bank, the African Development Bank, and the Africa-Europe Energy Partnership in a series of ‘Green Talks’ in the lead up to the EU-Africa High-Level Green Investment Forum to be held in Lisbon on the 23 April 2021.

The ‘Green Talks’ aimed at sharing experiences, innovative approaches, and opportunities to mobilise capital and expertise to promote the Green Transition in Africa and in Europe.

Source: Friends of Europe

GTS – GREENING INTERNATIONAL TRADE THROUGH EU REGULATION AND STANDARDISATION

The fifth policy paper in Greening Trade series seeks to determine how, and through which instruments the EU can and must harness its market-power to ensure a higher level of supply chain sustainability at the international level, whether through regulation, improved controls, encouragement and supervision of voluntary approaches, or new strategies such as due diligence obligations to ensure the sustainability of supply chains, which have yet to be fully explored and developed.

From the UNIDO side, Bernardo Calzadilla and Nilgün Tas were consulted to provide inputs and their expertise for the section on international standardization.

Source: Europe Jacques Delors

ECHOES FROM THINK-TANKS

Source: https://www.ecdpm.org/talking-points
Life at UNIDO Brussels

Focus on Digital

29th – 30th April: To share recent updates on the activities and priorities of the EU in the field of Digital, UNIDO organized two internal virtual sessions on “Europe fit for Digital Age”. These briefings also explored the different channels of engagement for UNIDO to share its expertise, support the current work of the EU, and create synergies for a greater impact of digital transformations on sustainable development in the EU and beyond.

Meeting with OIF Ambassador in Vietnam

20th May: UNIDO Brussels Office had the meeting with the new Representative for Asia-Pacific at Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), Chékou Oussouman. The meeting was on a fruitful partnership with UNIDO and OIF for economic development in Vietnam and Cambodia, for the Economuc Forum of the XVIII Francophonie Summit in November 2021 in Djerba Tunisia.

Meeting with ITPO Italy

20th May: This meeting was to confirm the joining forces for investment and technology promotion to achieve SDGs in partnerships with OACPS Secretariat, supporting value chains through inclusive policies, investment promotion, and alliances in African Caribbean and Pacific States.

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

15th – 16th June: The Private Sector working group of the Sahel Alliance organized a technical workshop to discuss the realities and challenges of the cotton industry in Burkina Faso and to create synergies and formulate useful recommendations for this sector. This online event, organized under the leadership of UNIDO Brussels Office and the EU Delegation in Burkina, brought together more than 50 experts from the member institutions of the Sahel Alliance including development stakeholders (private, public) active in the cotton sector in the Sahel region. This interactive discussion will lead to the formulation of operational recommendations to stimulate concrete actions on the ground.
Meeting with OIF Ambassador in Vietnam

15th June: The meeting between UNIDO Brussels Office and OIF Ambassador to the EU in Brussels, S.E.F. Isidora Mara Niang, was to discuss the strengthening partnerships and UN/UNIDO’s support for Forum Francophone des Affaires, Groupe des Ambassadeurs Francophones de France, and Présidence arménienne du Sommet de la Francophonie.

European Development Days (EDD) 2021

15th June: For the 10th consecutive time, UNIDO contributed to the European Development Days (EDD), which took place on 15-16 June 2021 and was fully digital. More than 10,600 participants and 300 speakers joined the 90 sessions, 3 of them being co-organized by UNIDO.

Lab debate I: Building new partnerships to globally support EU priorities on the circular economy: The SWITCH to Green experience with SMEs establishing circular business models

Lab debate II: Can the Future of Skills Be Green and Gender-Inclusive? How the public and private sectors are teaming up to empower young female champions in technical and vocational trades in Africa

Lab debate III: To Solve Water Scarcity, Every Drop of Knowledge Matters: Innovative, Sustainable, and Scalable Solutions in the MENA Region

UNIDO at Networking Lunch on EU Green Week Special Event organized by Huawei

8th June 2021: UNIDO was invited to attend in person a networking lunch organized by Huawei Technologies and the European Commission. 30 experts gathered outdoor on the terrace of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, for an onsite physical event in the framework of the 2021 European Green Week. A panel debate with the Brussels Times was held on “Greener together: delivering Zero Pollution in practice”
Presentation to Master Students

18th June: UNIDO Brussels Office virtually welcomed master students in the Master of Public Management at University of Potsdam. The online meeting took place within the framework of University of Potsdam’s Digital Study Tour to Brussels. Ms Demaegd presented UNIDO, the activities of the Brussels Office, day-to-day tasks, and engaged in an interactive discussion on job opportunities at the UN. The online meeting served as a great opportunity for master students at University of Potsdam to get familiar with the UNIDO and SDG 9 related issues.

UN Brussels Digital Task Force Plenary Meeting

17th June: A UN Brussels Digital Task Force plenary meeting took place to review this year’s main activities and key achievements of the 5 workstreams. Task Force members discussed the next steps for using and disseminating Background Paper, UN Brussels Team Paper on Digitalization for SDGs, preparation for follow up meetings with the EU, and participation in the consultation on the Digital Principles from June until September 2021, among other concerns on how to best support the EU in developing a Digital Strategy that leaves no one behind.
LATEST EU PUBLICATIONS

EUROBAROMETER: EU CITIZENS STRONGLY SUPPORT COOPERATING WITH PARTNER COUNTRIES AND YOUTH TO REDUCE POVERTY

The latest Eurobarometer survey on development cooperation shows that almost nine in ten EU citizens believe it is important to partner with countries outside the EU to reduce poverty.

One of the key findings from the survey is the increased concern about health, that has been identified as the most pressing challenge for the future of developing countries by 36%, 5 points more than in 2019.

On relations with Africa, more than four out of five (81%) EU citizens say that the EU should strengthen its partnerships with African countries to create jobs and ensure sustainable development on both continents.

FUTURE TRANSITIONS FOR THE BIOECONOMY TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND A CLIMATE NEUTRAL ECONOMY

The updated EU Bioeconomy Strategy aims to develop a sustainable and circular bioeconomy for Europe, strengthening the connection between economy, society, and the environment, thereby addressing global challenges such as meeting the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals and the climate objectives of the Paris Agreement.

This report (i) analyses the existing capacity and needs for an improved bioeconomy modelling to integrate all three dimensions of sustainability and (ii) provides recommendations for developing new and improved models that are better suited to assist policy making.

UNDERSTANDING TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE AND SKILL NEEDS, A PRACTICAL GUIDE BY CEDEFOP

This practical guide published by CEDEFOP aims to inform analysts and policy-makers about available skills anticipation methods used to navigate through the uncertainty of changing technologies and skill demands. The practical guide focuses on conventional skills, intelligence methods of surveys and forecasting.
AGENDA 2021

UNIDO Vienna Energy Forum, 5-7 July
High-level political forum on sustainable development (convened under the auspices of ECOSOC), 6-15 July

49th Industrial Development Board, Vienna, 12-15 July

Africa – France Summit 2021, Montpellier, July

UNIDO - EU Policy Dialogue on Creative Industry in Africa, September

The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) dialogue, September

European Sustainable Development Week, 20-26 September

Expo 2020 Dubai, 1 October 2021 - 31 March 2021

EU-Africa Summit, 6 October

EU Sustainable Energy Week, 25-29 October

XVIIIe Sommet de la Francophonie, 20-21 November Djerba, Tunisie, 2021

EU-JRC 8th European Conference on Corporate R&D and Innovation (CONCORDi), 22-25 November

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, 2021

EU-Africa Business Summit, 29-30 November

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

ACP – EU joint parliamentary assembly Africa Caribbean Pacific - European Union, 2021

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

UNIDO’s IDR 2022 launching in EU (Belgium, Luxembourg, France), TBC

UNIDO and the EU: State of the International Partnership SOTIP 2022, launching of flagship report in EU (Belgium, Luxembourg, France), TBC

UNIDO – OACPS Day and Symposium 2022, Planned