UNIDO BRUSSELS NEWSLETTER
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Europe is looking into the future with renewed confidence and taking the leadership role to go out of the global health crisis. The State of the Union 2021 – Achievements 2020-2021 indicates the vision of the EU not only remains vaccination cover in Europe but also contributes to global solidarity by helping the world overcome the pandemic. On 15th September 2021, European Commission (EC) President Ursula von der Leyen delivered her annual speech on the EC’s achievement in the previous year, the action plan for the coming year, and future strategies.

The statements demonstrate a convergence between the EU’s perspective and UNIDO’s activities especially in regards to its strong focus on youth (year 2022 will be designated as European Youth Year) and to environmental protection. The latest UN IPCC report indicates that climate change is unequivocally man-made. The EU announced the target of at least 55% emission reduction by 2030 and it is the first major economy to present comprehensive legislation to get it done. As UNIDO is fully committed to inclusive and sustainable industrial development, the EU vision remains aligned with UNIDO’s promotion of youth employment through vocational training and parliamentary action on renewable energy.

Being part of the United Nations family, UNIDO remains a resilient and longstanding partner of the EU. “The European Union and our Member States are one of the main economic powers in the world. And we are also the leading sponsor of peace and sustainable development. We finance one-quarter of the regular budget of the United Nations,” reminded Charles Michel, president of the European Council at the UN General Assembly on 24 September 2021.

The financial contribution translates into tangible results, which are illustrated by fruitful policy dialogue and EU-funded projects. We are currently devoted to a flagship publication on UNIDO and the European Union: State of the International Partnership 2022. It will give an overview of the developing partnership and projects’ achievements across the globe.

We are pleased to share with you several recent activities of the EU institutions and Brussels-based partners through this 11th edition of the Brussels Office Newsletter. The first part highlights the “State of the European Union” speech of the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. The next part covers the recent updates on the EU institutions that are relevant to UNIDO’s mandate and activities.

As a long-standing partner, the OACPS section sheds light on the OACPS support for south-south cooperation and its commitment to multilateralism. The strategic financial actors provide insights on Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD), the European Investment Bank (EIB), and other development partners. The echoes of think tanks showcase the expertise of academics. “Life at UNIDO Brussels” briefs the dynamic interactions, key events, and international conferences co-organized by the liaison. The following section brings the latest EU publications on digital transformation, vaccination, and cluster initiatives. The final part contains the upcoming international events for your agendas.

I wish you a pleasant read,

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

PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION URSULA VON DER LEYEN ADRESSED A SPEECH ON THE STATE OF THE UNION ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2021

In her State of the Union address on 15 September 2021, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen outlined flagship initiatives which the Commission plans to undertake in the coming year. They will among others include:

- Continuing the vaccination efforts in Europe as well as strengthening the pandemic preparedness
- Speeding up global vaccination. Team Europe is investing one billion Euro to ramp up mRNA production capacity in Africa
- Making Global Gateway happen, connecting institutions and investment, banks and the business community and making this a priority for regional summits
- Working on closing the climate finance gap, together with our global partners
- Leading the digital transformation that will create jobs and drive competitiveness, while ensuring technical excellence and security of supply
- Defending European values and freedoms, and protecting the rule of law

She reaffirmed that “Our Union will be stronger if it is more like our next generation: reflective, determined and caring. Grounded in values and bold in action. This spirit will be more important than ever over the next twelve months.”

She emphasised the importance of the forthcoming European Green Deal, structured around legislative proposals on:

- Integrated water management – surface and groundwater pollutants
- Carbon removal certification
- The right to repair
- EU framework for harmonised measurement of transport and logistics emissions
- Reduction of the release of microplastics in the environment and restriction to the addition of microplastics to products

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/info/index_fr
EU ANNOUNCES €25 MILLION FOR EDUCATION IN CRISIS CONTEXTS AND €140 MILLION TO SUPPORT RESEARCH IN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Speaking at the Global Citizen Live event, President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, announced that the European Union is pledging €140 million to support research in sustainable food systems and tackle food hunger via CGIAR, formerly also known as Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research, and a further €25 million for Education Cannot Wait, a global fund for the education of children in emergencies and protracted crises, in particular girls, children with disabilities, minorities and other marginalized children.

ENERGY TRANSITION: COMMISSION ANNOUNCES THREE ENERGY COMPACTS AT UN HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE IN NEW YORK

At the UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy this week in New York, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, Frans Timmermans and Commissioner for Energy, Kadri Simson presented three Energy Compacts, in partnership with the International Energy Agency and the International Renewable Energy Agency. In their roles as Energy Access Champion and Just Transition Champion in this UN process respectively, the Executive Vice-President and the Commissioner highlighted the EU's willingness to lead the global efforts to reach universal energy access by 2030 and accelerate the clean energy transition, and showed concretely how the European Green Deal plays a role on the global stage.

EU ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL €119.5 MILLION SUPPORT TO DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR 2021

Following the 2021 International Democracy Week, the European Union has announced five actions worth €119.5 million to boost the strong European support to democracy and human rights around the world in 2021.

Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen said: “Democracy is essential for sustainable development and equal opportunities. This means strong democratic institutions, social inclusion and participatory societies. With these €119.5 million, we renew our commitment to global democracy. I am also proud that the EU will continue to support the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and to help empower local civil society organisations, democracy activists and human rights defenders, youth and women, around the world."

The EU is fully committed to protecting and empowering individuals, to building resilient, inclusive and democratic societies, and to promoting a global system for human rights and democracy. It will not stand idle in the face of eroding democracy and increasing levels of human rights violations, inequality, intolerance, prejudice and discrimination.

The measures announced September 20 will ensure EU support to civil society organisations, democracy activists and human rights defenders in 116 countries, with particular attention paid to women and youth. They will also help foster political cooperation at the highest level for defending democracy globally.
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT TIMMERMANS HOLDS HIGH-LEVEL CLIMATE CHANGE DIALOGUE WITH TURKEY

Executive Vice-President Timmermans received Murat Kurum, Turkish Minister of Environment and Urbanisation, in Brussels for a high-level dialogue on climate change. Both the EU and Turkey experienced extreme impacts of climate change during the summer, in the form of wildfires and floods. Turkey has also seen the largest ever outbreak of ‘sea snot’ in the Marmara Sea – overgrowth of microscopic algae caused by water pollution and climate change.

In the wake of these climate change-induced events, Turkey and the EU discussed areas where they could advance their climate cooperation, in the pursuit of achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. Executive Vice-President Timmermans and Minister Kurum exchanged views on urgent actions required to close the gap between what is needed and what is being done in terms of cutting emissions down to net-zero by mid-century, and thereby keep the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement within reach.

ENLARGEMENT REGION: EUROPEAN COMMISSION WELCOMES FINAL ADOPTION OF EU’S NEW €14 BILLION PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE BUDGET FOR 2021-2027

The European Commission welcomes the adoption on 15 September by the European Parliament of the new Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) for the period 2021-2027, following the Council’s positive decision on 7 September. This is the final step of the adoption process of this instrument, through which the EU will provide almost €14.2 billion to support candidate countries and potential candidates in key political, institutional, social and economic reforms.

Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, Olivér Várhelyi, commented: “Together, we shaped an instrument that has a great potential and sends a strong signal that the European Union is committed to support the enlargement region. IPA III is definitely an investment into the future.”

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/index_en

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/index_en
Budget support is essential in times of crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the newly launched report called Budget Support – Trends and results 2021, shows. According to the report, budget support has played a major role in the EU’s global response to the pandemic, allowing it to react quickly, coordinate with partners and maintain a strong policy dialogue – even in times of lockdown. It has helped countries mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the poorest and most vulnerable people by implementing public health, social protection and fiscal measures.

Budget support is a means of delivering effective aid and generating fast, tangible and durable results that back the EU partners’ reform efforts and help achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The report describes how the EU budget support helped 95 countries and territories, mainly, but not only, in responding to the pandemic in 2020. As a result, the last year’s disbursements neared €3 billion – almost double compared to previous years. This support fostered countries’ resilience, allowing them to focus on reforms in different sectors and preventing further economic and social setbacks.

Small businesses (MSMEs) will be key drivers in the recovery of global trade after COVID-19. To support long-term growth, the European Union has now endorsed free access to the International Trade Centre’s (ITC) Market Analysis Tools for all EU users – individuals, companies, organisations – until 31 December 2022, when the programme ends.

Since 2017, ITC’s Market Analysis Tools have already been free for all users in developing countries thanks to the EU support. The EU has been supporting ITC’s Market Analysis Tools under the EU project called International Market Information Tools as a Global Public Good. This aims at promoting the international transparency and availability of market information as a public good, as a means for MSMEs, in particular in developing countries, to increase their participation in the world economy and maximise the benefits thereof. Results from ITC’s Market Analysis Tools users’ annual survey indicate that the tools have helped companies worldwide achieve an overall trade impact of over €1 billion since the start of the project. Throughout that time, the number of users has grown from 600,000 to over 1 million, while more than 15,000 individuals have benefited from the associated training.
DG TRADE

COMMISSION PROPOSES NEW EU GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES

On September 2021, the Commission has adopted the legislative proposal for the new EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) for the period 2024-2034. The Commission is proposing to improve some of the key features of the scheme to better respond to the evolving needs and challenges of GSP countries as well as reinforce the scheme’s social, labour environmental and climate dimension.

The GSP Regulation is a unilateral trade tool that removes or reduces import duties from products coming into the EU from vulnerable low-income countries, supporting poverty eradication, sustainable development, and their participation in the global economy. The Commission's proposal makes the EU's GSP more focused on reducing poverty and increasing export opportunities for low-income countries. It aims to incentivise sustainable economic growth in low-income countries and offers new room for engagement on environmental and good governance issues.

The new GSP framework strengthens the EU’s possibilities to use trade preferences to create economic opportunities and to advance sustainable development. The modernised framework also expands the grounds for the withdrawal of EU GSP preferences in case of serious and systematic violations. Beyond the core human rights and labour conventions already covered, the proposal incorporates environmental and good governance conventions.

AN ASSERTIVE TRADE POLICY: EU’S DEFENCE MEASURES AGAINST UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES REMAINED EFFECTIVE IN 2020

The system for protecting EU businesses from dumped and subsidised imports continued to function well in 2020 thanks to the EU’s robust and innovative ways of using trade defence instruments (TDI), despite the practical challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is part of the European Commission’s new trade strategy, whereby the EU takes a more assertive stance in defending its interests against unfair trade practices.

Executive Vice-President and Commissioner for Trade Valdis Dombrovskis said: “The EU needs effective tools to defend ourselves when we face unfair trade practices. This is a key pillar of our new strategy for an open, sustainable and assertive trade policy. We have continued to use our trade defence instruments effectively during the Covid pandemic, improved their monitoring and enforcement, and tackled new ways of giving subsidies by third countries. We will not tolerate the misuse of trade defence instruments by our trading partners and we will continue to support our exporters caught up in such cases. It is crucial that our companies and their workers can continue to rely on robust trade defence instruments that protect them against unfair trade practices.”
DG AGRI

EU AGRI-FOOD TRADE SUSTAINS INCREASE, AFTER A SLOW START IN 2021

Despite a slow first quarter, the total value of EU agri-food trade (exports plus imports) for January-June of 2021 amounted to €157.1 billion, reflecting a 3% increase on the same period in 2020. Exports rose by almost 6% to €95.3 billion, while imports fell by 1% to €61.8 billion, giving a total agri-food trade surplus of €33.5 billion for the first half of the year. This is an increase of 21% compared to the corresponding period last year.

EU REINFORCES ITS LEADING POSITION IN GLOBAL AGRI-FOOD TRADE

2020 marked another improvement in the EU's leading position among the world's biggest exporters of agri-food products. On the import side, the EU has become the third largest importer after the United States and China.

2020 was an exceptionally challenging, yet successful year for EU agri-food trade, which reached a total value of €306 billion: €184 billion in exports and €122 billion in imports. Both values represent a slight growth of 1.4% and 0.5% respectively, compared to 2019.

International trade has played a crucial role in mitigating the devastating economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and proved to be a central tool in enhancing resilience. The EU is the largest trading bloc and a wide-ranging network of free trade agreements (FTAs) underpins its position in world trade.

Janusz Wojciechowski, Commissioner for Agriculture, said: “Promoting open and fair trade is a political priority for the European Commission which greatly benefits our farmers. The success of agricultural trade is clearly linked to the Common Agricultural Policy, which supports competitiveness and innovation, and also to the excellent reputation of our products as being safe, sustainably produced, nutritious and of high quality.”
EU PARLIAMENT & EU COUNCIL

FUTURE OF EUROPE: EUROPEANS DISCUSS ECONOMY, JOBS, EDUCATION IN STRASBOURG

The first of the four European citizens’ panels met in Strasbourg on 17-19 September to discuss the economy, education, culture and the digital revolution.

A total of 200 people came to the European Parliament in Strasbourg for the start of a process that will allow them to formulate recommendations for EU policies in the Conference on the Future of Europe.

The panel members, selected randomly to represent the diversity of the EU, looked at a broad range of topics including the economy, jobs, social justice, education, culture, young people, sports and the digital transformation.

In his welcoming remarks, MEP Guy Verhofstadt, co-chair of the Conference’s executive board, underlined the historic nature of the event: "It is the first time that European politics will be developed not for the citizens, but by the citizens. Never before has this kind of democratic experience been organised at transnational, pan-European, level".

SPEECH BY PRESIDENT CHARLES MICHEL AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Below is a part of Charles Michel's speech of 24 September 2021. To read the full speech, please follow this link.

“The European Union and our Member States are one of the main economic powers in the world. And we are also the leading sponsor of peace and sustainable development. We finance one quarter of the regular budget of the United Nations. 30% of the total budget for peacekeeping. And half of all global development aid. It is a choice that is consistent with our vision of a world that is open and interconnected. We have values to promote, citizens to protect and interests to defend. And it is in this spirit that we are developing the strategic autonomy of the European Union, including in our security and defence capabilities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Transforming the world. Making it fairer and safer. And protecting the dignity of each individual. This is the United Nations’ pledge. Let us all live up to that promise – for all the Nadia Murads of this world and for the generations that will follow us. You can count on the European Union.”
OACPS

PRESENCE AND DISCOURSE OF THE OACPS DURING THE INTERNATIONAL SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION DAY

Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, Secretary General of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), on behalf of the OEACP, joins the international community to celebrate on September 12, the International Day of South-South Cooperation, which will be commemorated under the sign of, "Solidarity for a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable future".

Secretary General Chikoti emphasizes that today, more than ever, the world needs more solidarity, unity and collective commitment to combat the current health crisis and other global challenges such as climate change, growing inequality and rising poverty levels.

It is in this context that the Secretary General is pleased to note that the OEACP - which has a past and a future rooted in South-South and North-South solidarity and cooperation - has opened the OEACP Information Center on South-South and Triangular Cooperation since September 2020, as a new structure for coordinating and promoting South-South and triangular cooperation, through the management and sharing of knowledge, experiences, good practices and innovative "local solutions" for development.

The last OEACP Symposium on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, held on September 3, 2021 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, made recommendations for the expanded partnership for the empowerment of the new OEACP Center on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

STATEMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES (OEACP), H.E. MR. GEORGES REBELO PINTO CHIKOTI ON THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN MULTILATERALISM

On September 8, the Secretary General of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OASCP), H.E. Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, has declared that multilateralism is the most appropriate, if not the only, way to effectively address global challenges, including threats to peace and security, the fight against terrorism, violent extremism, organized crime and pandemics, as well as the current crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

The OEACP Secretary General made the statement at the first ever African Union-Caribbean Community (AU-CARICOM) Summit, which was held via video conference under the chairmanship of the current Chairman of the OEACP Summit of Heads of State and Government, H.E. Mr. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya. H.E. Mr. Chikoti emphasized the commitment of the OEACP to strengthen and promote multilateralism in order to enhance the influence of its members in the international arena and defend their interests while respecting the principles of subsidiarity, complementarity, proportionality and value-added.

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

AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT (AFD) FINANCES TWO NEW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN NORTHERN LAOS

Two grant agreements were signed in Laos on September 16, for a total of 9 million euros allocated by the French Development Agency. The first project aims to support the Laotian coffee sector towards quality production, while the second seeks to improve the resilience of communities through sustainable management of natural resources.

By the end of the project, the goal is that the targeted communities will be prepared and less vulnerable to climate change risks. Natural resources will also be better protected and shared through increased understanding and engagement of the people in these areas.

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021: UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTONIO GUTERRES APPLAUDS AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK’S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION

On September 23, six weeks ahead of this year’s global climate summit (COP26), African Development Bank President Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina on Thursday spoke out on the urgent need to finance climate adaptation. He called on the developed world to deliver on its promise of $100 billion per year for climate change.

The African Development Bank chief was commenting a day after United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres made his keynote address to the United Nations General Assembly – a speech in which the UN chief spoke of a planet “sleepwalking to disaster.” Guterres sounded alarm bells for a world buffeted by climate change, conflicts, and the global pandemic of Covid-19. He called for “coalitions of solidarity” to address inequality, instability, climate change and what he said was the planetary emergency of our time. The UN Secretary General lauded the great strides of the African Development Bank. “The African Development Bank set the bar in 2019 by allocating half of its climate finance to adaptation. Some donor countries have followed their lead. All must do so,” Guterres said. “My message to every member state is this: Don’t wait for others to make the first move. Do your part.”

EIB STRENGTHENS GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT FOCUS AND BACKS EUR 4.8 BILLION NEW FINANCING FOR ENERGY, TRANSPORT, COVID VACCINES AND BUSINESS INVESTMENT

The Board of Directors of the European Investment Bank (EIB) approved on September 15 plans to strengthen its global development engagement. The EIB Board of Directors also approved the bank’s proposal to set up a development branch to increase the impact of its activities outside the European Union. It underpins the EIB’s response to the call for action expressed in the “Council conclusions on the enhanced European financial architecture for development (2021)” adopted on 14 June 2021.

Source: https://www.afdb.org/en
ECHOES FROM THINK-TANKS

EU-AFRICA TRADE RELATIONS AND THE EPA PROCESS: RATIFICATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES FOR CAMEROON, CÔTE D’IVOIRE AND GHANA

Some member states of the European Union (EU) have not yet ratify the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). The first ones have already been concluded with some African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries in 2007. This is the case, for instance, for the interim EPAs with respectively Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana, which are considered in this paper.

These free trade agreements have generated controversial discussions for years and may not be perfect. But they have not only maintained, but also secured and improved the preferential access of these countries to the EU, vital for some of their major exports. The EPAs have not led to the feared negative impacts that some had predicted. Their potential benefits, however, are highly dependent on the way they are used and the reform dynamics and support measures that accompany their effective implementation.

The EU, with the EPAs and beyond, intends to stimulate local and regional economic transformation pathways by stimulating domestic production and promoting value addition for local, regional, and international value chains, in particular with the EU. In doing so, increasing attention is given to sustainability, inclusive and gender dimensions, as is the case for sustainable forestry and cocoa initiatives in Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana. Development assistance, in the form of not only traditional aid, such as technical assistance, but also blended finance and guarantees, as well as policy dialogues, multi-stakeholder engagement and improvement of the investment climate, are key pillars of the EU support.

Such a comprehensive approach is critical, not only for the implementation of the EPAs, but especially to accompany African own reform and transformation processes. This includes the African Continental Free Trade Area and other regional integration dynamics, as well as the response to the COVID-19 crisis, with the aim to build back better, greener and in a more sustainable, inclusive and gender-sensitive way.

WHAT IF A SUSTAINABLE CAP WAS RELYING ON A MORE GENDERED BALANCE DECISION-MAKING?

For the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), science is unequivocal about the urgent need for a radical change in the way we produce and consume food. Yet the most influencing policy behind this is criticized for not stimulating and encouraging the necessary transition towards sustainable practices in the sector. The recent reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and its disappointing outcomes is a perfect illustration of it and even more so given the blatant and increasing gap between citizens request for more sustainability, science reports and political reality.

On climate policies, research suggest that female representation leads countries to adopt more stringent climate change policies, could it be the same with the CAP? And therefore would a gender-balanced decision-making in CAP be a necessary ingredient of a sustainable food and farming system in the future? For more details, take a look at background note highlighting the link between gender equality and agriculture sustainability.
Life at UNIDO Brussels

UNIDO AT THE FIRST HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY (GACERE)

14th September: The EU teamed up UNEP and UNIDO to launch the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE). The high-level GACERE meeting gathered UNEP DG Inger Andersen, UNIDO DG Li Yong, and EU Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginijus Sinkevičius providing opening remarks.

MEETING AT IMREDD, FRENCH INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND RISK

16 September: Representative of UNIDO Brussels met with the director of IMREDD, Nice, France, a pioneering institute for new technologies and smart cities. After numerous exchanges with the students and a visit of the laboratories, Patrick Gilabert underlined the opportunities that a partnership with IMREDD, at the forefront of sustainable development, would bring.

UNIDO BRUSSELS REPRESENTATIVE’S MISSION TO UNIVERSITY OF CÔTE D’AZUR, FRANCE

16th September: Representative of UNIDO Brussels was invited by Maurille Larivière, President of Sustainable Design School, and Marianne Mensah of University of Côte d’Azur, (France) to share his expertise on inclusive and sustainable cities. The Sustainable Design School is an international establishment of higher education dedicated to sustainable design and innovation for humans, which is a unique model joining the sustainable development goals with industrial design. Mr. Patrick GILABERT exchanged with MSc Engineers for Smart Cities from the Innovation and Partnerships Institute.
**UNIDO BRUSSELS REPRESENTATIVE EXCHANGE WITH THE OACPS ASG**

**9th September:** Representative of UNIDO Brussels met with Mr. Escipión Joaquín Oliveira Gómez to discuss the strategic partnership for ACP structural economic transformation, industry and trade. Mr. Escipión Joaquín Oliveira Gómez is the Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Structural Economic Transformation and Trade, Reports for Duty of the Organisation of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (OACPS).

**Welcoming Session for New UNIDO BRO Interns (Swan and Vasili) and Farewell to Intern Mengmeng**

**15th September:** UNIDO Brussels Office officially welcomed Swan and Vasili into the team for the beginning of their internships. Swan Remaud has a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a master's degree in Intercultural Negotiation. Vasileios Livieratos holds a Specialised Master in EU Interdisciplinary Studies from Institut d'études Européennes, Université libre de Bruxelles and an MA in International Relations from the University of Utrecht. They will be of great support to the office, and based on their interests and profile, they will be tasked with specific activities that will help them acquire relevant skills in the next six months.

UNIDO Brussels Office wants to thank and congratulate our communication and public relation intern Mengmeng, a Chinese graduate student. She contributed to the visibility of UNIDO and its strategic partnership with the EU by developing innovative tools such as [@UNIDO-EU Partenrship on Flickr](https://www.flickr.com/photos/unidoeu/) and [UNIDO Brussels Media Bank](https://www.flickr.com/photos/unidoeu/).  

**UN BRUSSELS TEAM: HER MAJESTY QUEEN MATHILDE’S VISIT TO UN HOUSE IN BRUSSELS**

**23rd September:** Her Majesty Queen Mathilde of the Belgians visited the UN House in Brussels. As SDG advocate, she discussed the importance of international cooperation to achieve the SDGs and how to emerge stronger together from the COVID19 pandemic. After her visit to Liberia in 2010, she took this opportunity to pay a virtual visit to the United Nations in Liberia to discuss the work of the UN, including on mental health and human rights among young people.
CREATE, INNOVATE, RECOVER: DIGITALIZING CREATIVE INDUSTRIES IN AFRICA

23rd September: UNIDO, UNCTAD and Sound Diplomacy co-organized a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the digitalization of creative industries for a sustainable recovery in Africa. The webinar took place in the framework of the Global Services Forum Week "Services-led transformation in for the post-pandemic recovery" leading to the Ministerial Conference of UNCTAD 15 to be held on 3-8 October 2021. Speakers from the European Commission, the private sector in Africa, civil society, AR IPO, UNCTAD and UNIDO exchanged views and concrete initiatives on how international partnerships should support a fair and sustainable digital transformation of creative sectors.

UNIDO EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON DIGITAL AGRIBUSINESS

28th September: The UNIDO Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on digital agribusiness successfully took place. The EGM is intended to take stock of opportunities and pathways to advance digital agribusiness and to identify its relevance for UNIDO’s Member States with a focus on industrializing countries. The EGM has a dual purpose: i. Sharing information on the current status and trends on digital agribusiness, and ii. Providing expert opinion on UNIDO’s role and competitive advantage on digital agribusiness.

MEETING WITH THE UN BRUSSELS TEAM IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TASK FORCE ON DIGITALIZATION

29th September: The UN Brussels Task Force on Digitalization for the SDGs met in order to share intelligence on latest EU digital updates, and to prepare the "UN Brussels Team briefing on digital with EU partners" taking place on 4 October, during which a discussion will be held between the TF and all relevant partners from the EU working on digital for development (DG INTPA, NEAR, CNECT, EEAS, D4D Hub). Representatives of 15 different UN agencies in Brussels participated to the call.

Patrick sent a screenshot of yesterday’s meeting today.
EU PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DIGITAL PRINCIPLES

Unido contributed to the OneUN document for the EU public consultation on digital principles. It was submitted to the EU Commission on the 2nd of September and will influence the development of human centric approach to digitalisation.

If you have the space, you can add the nice image that you had prepared Swan.

UNIDO BRUSSELS FLAGSHIP PUBLICATION IS IN PROGRESS

UNIDO Brussels Liaison Office is currently collaborating with the communication agency Global Concept Consulting, for the publication “UNIDO and the European Union: State of the International Partnership 2022”. As a way to document the continuous expansion of UNIDO-EU cooperation, this biannual report will illustrate the strategic dialogues and bring the updated achievement of EU funded project across the globe. It will be published by December 2021. The 2020 edition is available here.

We already thank all colleagues from HQ and FOs who have contributed to the content of the brochure.
COMMUNICATION & VISIBILITY OF UNIDO BRUSSELS LIAISON OFFICE

UNIDO-EU partnership on Flickr
@UNIDO-EU Partnership Flickr account has been created by UNIDO Liaison Office in Brussels in April 2021. To visualize the UNIDO's strategic partnership and its global contribution, our Flickr currently consists of 24 albums for EU-Funded projects implemented by UNIDO and 18 albums for the EU-UNIDO relevant meetings and UNIDO's representation at international conferences, summits, etc. Images come from Twitter accounts, the UNIDO website, and project websites.

Bilingual Twitter account
Brussels office has currently 2 Twitter accounts both in English and French: @UNIDO_Brussels; @ONUDI_Bruxelles. We did a review of Twitter from May to July, which presented the results of the initial plan and come up with a few observations for Twitter communication strategies. Therefore, the Twitter account should feature three categories of information as illustrated in the following pictures: UNIDO Brussels’ contributions; UNIDO's activities around the world, and EU funded projects; EU institutions and other partners' updates.

UNIDO Brussels Media Bank
To visualize better the UNIDO-EU partnership, UNIDO Brussels Office developed a UNIDO Brussels Media Bank in the format of a website. There are 6 pages in total (Home; Our Office; Resource; UNIDO Brussels partnership; EU Funded projects; Contact), of which UNIDO Brussels partnership pages covers High level meetings; Selected UNIDO BRO Conferences; European Commission; European Parliament; European Investment Bank; Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States; Francophonie; Belgium.
LATEST EU PUBLICATIONS

A PATH TO THE DIGITAL DECADE: COMMON GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATED INVESTMENT FOR THE EU’S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION BY 2030

This report, dated 15 September 2021, deals with the digital transformation to 2030. A successful digital transformation in Europe by 2030 needs structured and close cooperation between the EU and Member States in order to boost European digital capacities and capabilities around four cardinal points: skills, public services, business and infrastructures. The proposed Path to the Digital Decade will establish an annual cooperation cycle and introduce a mechanism to coordinate investments between the Commission and Member States to reach the EU’s 2030 Digital Decade targets.

VACCINATING EUROPE AND THE WORLD

Europe is a world leader in producing, delivering and sharing vaccines with more than 70% of adults in the EU fully vaccinated. By 15 September 2021, Europe has shared half its vaccine production with the rest of the world, and more than 700 million doses were delivered across the EU, on a basis of fairness and solidarity.

Currently the main priorities are to accelerate vaccination globally by donating 200 million doses by mid-2022. This is in addition to the existing EU commitment to share 250 million doses by the end of 2021. The second priority is to ensure vaccination in Europe and the third priority is to strengthen pandemic preparedness. As underlined: "Investing in preparedness means ensuring that no virus will ever turn a local outbreak into a global pandemic. There is no better return on investment than that.

ACCELERATING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION THROUGH CLUSTER ORGANISATIONS AND DEVELOPING NEXT GENERATION OF CLUSTER-BASED INDUSTRIAL POLICIES POLICY

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a long-term impact on economic trajectories and on human and social capital across the globe. In particular, it has accelerated digital transformation and certain aspects of technology diffusion. The diffusion of new technologies into the broader economy and across industries takes time and requires organisational reconfigurations. Therefore, this report highlights the need to stimulate actions on technology development and digital transformation by cluster initiatives.

While cluster organisations will play a critical role to improve the business environment, the final goal of industrial policy should be to nurture real clusters as the economic phenomenon of concentrations of related economic activities. Renewed industrial policies at European level and across Member States and regions should aim at improving the key framework conditions to create critical mass and improve the innovation milieu in order to be able to compete globally.
AGENDA

2021 UNIDO Brussels Dialogue on Intelligence Economic, 8 October, 2021

The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) 2021, TBD

EU Sustainable Energy Week, 25-29 October, 2021

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

EU-JRC 8th European Conference on Corporate R&D and Innovation (CONCORDi), 22-25 November, 2021

Paris Peace Forum, 11-13 November, 2021

Summit on Africa Industrialization and Economic Diversification, Niamey, Niger, November, 2021

UNIDO General Conference – 19th Session, Vienna, 29 November – 3 December, 2021

EU-Africa Business Summit, 29-30 November, 2021

OACPS – EU (post-Cotonou) New Partnership Agreement enter into force, 30 November, 2021

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

EU-Africa Summit, February, 2022

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

Don’t hesitate and reach at Email: p.gilabert@unido.org

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