

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

NEWS SUMMARY

19 October, 2015, Brussels

Policy Coherence for Development – EU Report shows clear progress

Today Neven Mimica, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development launched the 2015 Report on Policy Coherence for Development. It shows that the European Union has made good progress in Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) over the last two years.

Through PCD the European Union (EU) seeks to take account of development objectives in all of its policies that are likely to affect developing countries. Policy coherence focuses on five strategic areas which include trade and finance, food security, climate change, migration and security.

"Policy Coherence for Development becomes more important than ever in the context of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Formulating sound policies which take into account from the outset the impacts on developing countries will be central to the achievement of the new global goals. The EU has been a pioneer in this field, and since 2013 has made further noteworthy advances in areas such as agriculture, fisheries, trade and climate change. But more can and should be done. It is my personal commitment to take up this challenge." said Commissioner Mimica.

Speaking at the launch, in Berlaymont, Commissioner Mimica also highlighted that Policy Coherence for Development needs to be a key element for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted just a few weeks ago in New York.

His keynote address was followed by a panel discussion on the report and future PCD issues chaired by the Director General of DG International Cooperation and Development, Fernando Frutuoso De Melo. Representatives from the European Parliament, Member States, academics and Civil Society participated in the event.

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Background

The purpose of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) is to minimise contradictions and build synergies between different EU policies to benefit developing countries and increase the effectiveness of development cooperation.

PCD was first integrated into EU fundamental law in 1992 (Maastricht Treaty) and further reinforced in the Lisbon Treaty, making the EU a forerunner on the international stage in this area.

Since 2005, PCD has been a political commitment for the Commission, Council and European Parliament and in that year Council conclusions identified 12 main areas for PCD and requested the Commission to issue biennial PCD reports. In 2009 those areas were clustered into five strategic challenges - trade and finance, climate change, food Security, migration and security.

The latest report – the 5th edition in 10 years - covers both cross-cutting and thematic issues and presents examples of progress on policy coherence for development across different policy areas.

It covers the period 2013-2015 and following a wide and inclusive consultation process includes contributions from Commission services, EEAS and Member States. Regarding Member States, the results of an extensive survey of national implementation of policy coherence for development are reported.

The Council is currently preparing Conclusions on the 2015 PCD Report with a view to a rapid adoption.

For more information

More information on Policy Coherence for Development can be found on the website of the European Commission's Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO): http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/policy-coherence-development_en

The 2015 edition of the Policy for Coherence for Development report can be downloaded here: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/policy-coherence-for-development-2015-eu-report_en.pdf