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European Union

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#### OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	26 October 2015
To:	Delegations

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Subject:	Policy Coherence for Development (PCD): 2015 EU Report
	- Council conclusions (26 October 2015)

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Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD): 2015 EU Report, as adopted by the Council at its 3420th meeting held on 26 October 2015.

**Council Conclusions on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD): 2015 EU Report**

1. The Council confirms its political engagement to Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) and recalls the Treaty obligation to take into account the objectives of development cooperation in the policies which are likely to affect developing countries, as well as to pursue these objectives in the overall framework of the Union's external action. The recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also emphasises the importance of policy coherence for sustainable development. PCD is a crucial contribution to increasing the effectiveness of the EU's development cooperation and its contribution to global sustainable development. In this context the Council welcomes the fifth biennial PCD report as an important tool for monitoring progress made on PCD since 2013 both at EU level and in the Members States.
2. The Council reiterates the shared ownership and responsibility of all EU actors in implementing PCD. It therefore welcomes that the Commission and Member States have made considerable progress in embedding PCD in their policies and procedures particularly in the five priority areas of Trade and Finance; Food Security; Climate Change; Migration; and Security. In addition, the Council encourages Member States to continue their efforts, including by setting up the appropriate legal frameworks with regards to PCD as well as by developing and sharing national PCD action plans, also considering the 2030 Agenda.
3. The Council favourably notes the new institutional organisation of the Commission as a policy coherence instrument in itself. Furthermore, the Commission's Better Regulation Package contains revised Impact Assessments guidelines and a "Tool Box" for assessing potential impacts of future EU initiatives on developing countries at an early stage of the preparation of an initiative. The Council encourages the Commission to share its first experiences of the application of impact assessments when available and to present concrete proposals on how to advance coherence in all EU policy areas with a clear goal to contribute to sustainable development.

4. It is important that the Commission and the Member States strengthen their efforts for more systematic assessment of impacts of their policies, taking into account effects on sustainable development including human rights and gender and integrate the results of these assessments into their policies and programmes. Recognising that measuring the actual and potential impacts of policies and of progress on PCD is a challenging endeavour, the Council invites the Commission and the Member States to step up efforts with regards to PCD-related research as a means to measure progress. It also looks forward to the results of the first independent and comprehensive evaluation of PCD at EU level which will be crucial for providing further guidance in this regard.
5. Recognising the pivotal role of EU delegations and Member State embassies, the Council notes with satisfaction the establishment of regular monitoring and reporting of PCD issues by delegations and calls on the Commission, the EEAS and the Member States to further improve ongoing efforts.
6. The Council invites the Commission to continue developing effective and coordinated training tools so as to raise awareness across different policy actors and to help facilitate the sharing of good practices between Member States.
7. With the adoption of the landmark “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” the international community has emphasised the interlinked and integrated nature of the world we live in. To implement this agenda at the national and global level, all countries will take ownership and will need to consider how policies in all areas can contribute to sustainable development and act accordingly. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, will further guide and inspire the formulation of these policies and their implementation. PCD will be an important part of the EU contribution to achieving broader policy coherence for sustainable development.

8. In this context, the Council invites the Commission and the EEAS, in close consultation with other partners, to present concrete proposals on how to better integrate PCD into the EU approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and calls for this new approach to be mainstreamed across the EU institutions. Future PCD reporting should reflect the new approach and lessons learnt of implementation challenges and of past reporting exercises. The Council looks forward to the next PCD report.
  9. The new universal framework for sustainable development calls for more coherence between different policy areas and EU actors, requiring further coordination, dialogue and joint work at all levels within and between EU institution services, Council formations and working parties.
  10. Increasing awareness of the benefits of PCD is an important first step towards achieving the ambitious objective of PCD. It is important to enhance dialogue and facilitate the sharing of good practices with the whole range of stakeholders such as civil society, private sector and relevant international organisations, including the OECD. Furthermore, the European Year for Development and events relating to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represent excellent opportunities to better communicate about development cooperation and PCD to the general public.
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