



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 19 May 2017
(OR. en)

9378/17

DEVGEN 102
ACP 49
RELEX 427
FIN 313
CADREFIN 60
COHOM 63
COEST 102
COLAC 41
COAFR 142
MOG 36
ASIE 15
COASI 59
WTO 115

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	19 May 2017
To:	Delegations

No. prev. doc.:	6498/17
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Subject:	2016 Annual Report on the implementation of the European Union's instruments for financing external actions in 2015 - Council conclusions (19 May 2017)
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Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on the 2016 Annual Report on the implementation of the European Union's instruments for financing external actions in 2015, as adopted by the Council at its 3540th meeting held on 19 May 2017.

**Council conclusions on the 2016 Annual Report on the implementation
of the European Union's instruments for financing external actions in 2015**

1. In 2015 the EU collectively provided more than half of the total Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing countries and the European Commission alone disbursed over EUR 10.3 billion from the EU budget and the European Development Fund. In this context, the Council welcomes the 2016 Annual Report on the implementation of the European Union's instruments for financing external actions in 2015 as instrumental to inform citizens and stakeholders on how the EU supports partner countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), thereby enhancing the transparency and accountability of the EU's external action. The Council also welcomes the extensive geographic and thematic scope of the report, which provides a useful overview of the EU's response to political developments and global challenges.
2. The Council recalls its previous conclusions on results-reporting¹ and welcomes the integration in the report of results based on the EU International Cooperation and Development Results Framework. This ensures a more comprehensive assessment of the institutional performance of the Commission and will make it possible to track progress over time. The Council calls on the Commission to continue to improve reporting quality including on results of ongoing projects.

¹ Council conclusions of 19 May 2014 (10044/14), 26 May 2015 (9145/15) and 28 November 2016 (14676/16) on improving results-reporting in EU external assistance and development cooperation.

3. The Council recognises the importance of reporting on progress against the Millennium Development Goals, the transition to the universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. In this respect, the Council welcomes the improved presentation of financial information, as well as the many concrete examples of the impact of EU aid that are presented through illustrative case studies.
4. The Council appreciates the reporting on the evolution of EU development policy and practices. It encourages the Commission to continue reporting on Policy Coherence for Development, Development Effectiveness, Joint Programming, Financing for Development, and the Development-Humanitarian nexus.
5. The Council calls on the Commission also to continue reporting on activities related to migration and development, including the progress achieved through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa adopted during the Valletta Summit in 2015.
6. The Council furthermore calls for continued reporting on EU activities related to international peace and security including urgent responses to political crises and contributions to civilian stabilisation missions. Likewise, the Commission should continue reporting on EU cooperation with key partners on global challenges in areas such as the climate agenda and economic development.
7. The Council encourages the Commission to continue reporting on activities related to climate change and environment and commends the Commission for comprehensively reporting on these issues.
8. The Council commends the EU's efforts in our immediate neighbourhood and its support to political and economic reforms, democratic transformation and stabilisation in the countries concerned as evidenced by both the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the adoption of a multi-annual enlargement strategy.

9. The Council appreciates the Commission's efforts and encourages the Commission to regularly report on gender-related activities that contribute to the implementation of the Gender Action Plan and encourages the Commission to continue its efforts to report where possible on sex and age disaggregated data in order to better show the distribution of EU results.
 10. The Council commends the Commission for comprehensively reporting on the budget support portfolio and experiences and encourages the Commission to continue reporting in detail on this as well as other aid modalities such as EU trust funds, delegated cooperation and blending, thus enhancing transparency of EU actions. Full transparency on development resources is crucial to support scrutiny and mutual accountability by a range of stakeholders, including citizens in the EU.
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