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RELEX 752	COMPET 660
COASI 130	EDUC 264
ASIE 66	RECH 294
CCG 20	CULT 80
TRANS 276	WTO 96
COEST 369	OCDE 11
ASEM 9	AVIATION 130
ENER 383	FIN 669
CYBER 168	FISC 140
ENV 738	POLGEN 76
DIGIT 127	TOUR 29
CLIMA 318	MIGR 223
DEVGEN 127	COAFR 214
SUSTDEV 97	COLAC 65
ECOFIN 635	

'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	The Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)
Subject:	Global Gateway – State of play and deliverables of the first half of 2023

Global Gateway – State of play and deliverables of the first half of 2023

Global Gateway was launched in December 2022 to establish a new approach to EU's investments in partner countries – by matching EU funding with EU's strategic interests and partner's priorities. After setting up and operationalising the governance structures of Global Gateway in 2022, 2023 has been marked as the year of delivery for Global Gateway. Considering the magnitude of the strategy significant work related to the political steer of Global Gateway has been accomplished by COREPER and the Relex Counsellors – Horizontal Questions Working Party (Relex HQ WP) that met seven times under the Swedish Presidency. The work and deliverables of the Relex HQ WP have further demonstrated the significant added value and the key role this preparatory body plays to operationalise the Global Gateway strategy. The provision of political steer by Council will continue to be of key importance in identifying new Global Gateway initiatives and further implementation.

On 1 March 2023 COREPER held a discussion (based on document ST 6742/23) on challenges, achievements and priorities for Global Gateway. The discussion demonstrated high level of engagement and demand from delegations to set policy objectives on the further development of Global Gateway. Delegations highlighted several aspects to be tackled during the upcoming months: ensuring geographical balance of the Global Gateway flagship lists; preparing an investment package for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC); ensuring systematic follow-up on previous commitments, in particular for Africa; streamlining the narrative and strategic communication; ensuring proper involvement of private sector, including SMEs; ensuring inclusive MS representation in Global Gateway. In line with the COREPER guidance, Relex HQ WP expert level work during the first half of 2023 has resulted with the following deliverables:

1. **The list of Global Gateway flagship projects for 2023** (document ST 6738/23), endorsed by COREPER on 1 March 2023 after extensive consultations between delegations, the Commission and the EEAS. The list contains eighty-seven Global Gateway priority projects with milestones in 2023. It reflects the comprehensive EU offer to partners across the globe - both in terms of the sectors of activities as well as the countries and regions concerned. The list is not exhaustive in relation to activities under Global Gateway, but aims to serve as a tool for the EU and its Member States for strategic communication and visibility during 2023. The newly established flagship list process is deemed a good working method and will become a yearly exercise. The work on the list of Global Gateway flagship projects for 2024 has already started and has potential to be further developed on the basis of experience gained to ensure balance between geographical, thematic priorities and milestones that justify adding the project to the list.
2. **The Global Gateway Communication Strategy**, endorsed at the 21 April Relex HQ meeting. Joint approach to strategic communication and visibility of EU's positive Global Gateway offer has been a long-standing plea from delegations. High level political visits to promote Global Gateway in partner countries as well as involvement of EU delegations and Member States' bilateral representations have been singled out by the Member States, the as leading element of Communication strategy implementation.
3. On the basis of the Communication Strategy, EEAS has prepared regional lines to take to support Member States in their engagement with 3rd countries. EEAS developed one set of general and five sets of regional **Global Gateway narratives** (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central Asia, the Eastern Partnership, the Southern Neighbourhood) which were discussed on 16 June in Relex HQ and welcomed.

4. **EU-LAC Global Gateway Investment Agenda** has been endorsed at the level of Relex HQ WP on 21 June 2023. The Investment agenda is an important deliverable for 17-18 July EU-CELAC Summit. It is a representative, non-exhaustive jointly constructed package showcasing EU's involvement and political public commitment to boost sustainable investments of joint priorities in the LAC region. The Investment agenda contains a list of 120 examples of specific regional and national flagship projects with public policy objective and public funding intervention in key sectors such as energy, transport, infrastructure, digital, health, education and research. In a Team Europe spirit, most projects in the Investment agenda involve Member States. The list aims to strike a balance between existing projects in the pipeline that need to be advanced, and new projects that have been requested by partners. In line with the guidance provided by COREPER as well as the governance of Global Gateway, the Investment agenda has been extensively consulted with the partner countries as well as EU delegations and corresponds to the priorities they have identified.
5. **A follow-up to the EU-Africa summit commitments** from a Global Gateway perspective has been launched. The working party addressed the follow-up on 17 February, 17 March and 16 June and received information from the Commission. The overall summit follow-up was addressed in a joint session with COAFR working party. Considering the commitments to African partners were made in February 2022, delegations seized the opportunity to ask for acceleration of the process.
6. Relex HQ WP also addressed other policy aspects on further development and streamlining opportunities for EU private sector under the Global Gateway:
- The results of the Commission's **mapping of EU financial tools supporting the implementation of EU external policies** were presented on 12 May. The mapping provides an overview of financial tools supporting EU exports and selected EU development cooperation tools to explore a potential for a whole-of-government approach to external finance between EU's and Member States' public financial institutions.

- **EU investment opportunities in LAC and Indo-Pacific** were addressed on 21 April, on the basis of an in-depth study by Transport & Infrastructure Expertise Group (TIEG). The studies identify in particular potential Global Gateway investment opportunities for private sector.

Identifying ways to showcase Global Gateway as an attractive investment opportunity for EU private sector remains a priority area Relex HQ WP work and a cornerstone of the success of Global Gateway.