

# : Programme

## **sef: Policy Lunch** **From Shared Vision to Common Action.** **Realizing the SDGs in the EU's** **External Activities**

### **Brussels**

Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the EU  
Rue Montoyer 47, Brussels

**07 November 2016, 12.00 - 13.45 hrs.**

**Conference language:** English

### **Cooperating Partner**

CIDSE - International Alliance of Catholic Development Agencies, Brussels



### **Supported by**

Minister for Federal Affairs,  
Europe and the Media of  
North Rhine-Westphalia



#sefLunch

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## BACKGROUND

More than a year after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the call for an overarching EU strategy for implementing the 2030 Agenda is growing louder. But while there is still uncertainty about how the EU is going to answer this call in particular with regard to its internal dimension, the implementation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the EU's external activities is advancing. With the integration of the SDGs in the EU's Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy and with the ongoing Revision of the European Consensus on Development, the EU has set clear signals. In its Global Strategy, the EU promises a "joined-up" approach in its different policy fields, thereby underlining the integrated character of the SDGs. Furthermore, on 14 September 2016, the European Commission proposed a European External Investment Plan (EEIP) to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in cooperation with the private sector. The EEIP would bring together different European programmes in a single coherent framework and promises a comprehensive approach to risk-sharing instruments for investors.

Together with representatives from the EU and the European Parliament, as well as with experts from non-European countries and from civil society, we would like to assess the EU's activities so far and the next steps to be taken.

In particular, we would like to focus on the following questions:

- What would be important steps for the EU to live up to the promises of the Global Strategy with regard to the SDGs?
- How can the revised European Consensus on Development reflect the integrated nature of the SDGs?
- Which course does the finalization of the design of the EEIP take? Will it be able to live up to expectations?
- And is the current emphasis on the implementation of the SDG's external dimension not contradictory to the universal spirit of the 2030 Agenda - with the risk that the EU loses credibility with its international partners?

“Echoing the Sustainable Development Goals, the EU will adopt a joined-up approach to its humanitarian, development, migration, trade, investment, infrastructure, education, health and research policies, as well as improve horizontal coherence between the EU and its Member States. We will fight poverty and inequality, widen access to public services and social security, and champion decent work opportunities, notably for women and youth. We will foster an enabling environment for new economic endeavours, employment and the inclusion of marginalized groups. Development funds should catalyse strategic investments through public-private partnerships, driving sustainable growth, job creation, and skills and technological transfers. We will use our trade agreements to underpin sustainable development, human rights protection and rules-based governance.”

*A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign And Security Policy, p 26f.*

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**12.00 HRS      REGISTRATION AND LIGHT LUNCH**

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**12.30 HRS      WELCOME**

**Rainer Steffens**

Director, Representation of the State of  
North Rhine-Westphalia to the EU, Brussels

**Dr Gerd Harms**

Deputy Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the  
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn/Potsdam

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**12.40 HRS      ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

**Giacomo Durazzo**

Development Adviser, Sustainable Development, nexus Security and  
Development, Managing Directorate GLOBAL  
European External Actions Service (EEAS), Brussels

**Leida Rijnhout**

Programme Coordinator Resource Justice and Sustainability  
Friends of the Earth Europe, Brussels

**Jean Saldanha**

Senior Policy Advisor  
CIDSE - International Alliance of Catholic Development Agencies, Brussels

**Chair**

**Patrick Leusch**

CEO DW-Media Services GmbH, Bonn

Followed by discussion with the audience

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**13.45 HRS      END OF EVENT**

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