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

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

12.00 HRS  REGISTRATION AND LIGHT LUNCH

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

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

13.45 HRS  END OF EVENT
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