

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate General for
International Cooperation and
Development



Director General

**EUROPEAN EXTERNAL
ACTION SERVICE**



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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for
Neighbourhood and Enlargement
Negotiations



Director General

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NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

Subject: Public consultation on the future of EU development policy

Dear colleagues,

You may be informed about the launch on May 30th of an open public consultation on the future of EU development policy through the revision of the European Consensus on Development. We would be grateful if you could (a) publicise the consultations within each of your countries; (b) contribute yourselves to the consultation with your own thoughts and reflections; and, if you have capacity, (c) organise outreach and stimulate a wider discussion locally amongst stakeholders.

2015 was a successful year for multilateral negotiations. We saw a range of important agreements (including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change) which together mean the international community is now collectively much better positioned to tackle our shared challenges. We are very grateful for the support given by Delegations in these processes, including for example, your outreach during the post-2015 negotiations.

All eyes are now turning to how we implement, monitor and follow-up on these important agreements. The EU wants to make the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development a success; both domestically and through our external policies.

The Commission Work Programme for 2016 foresees the adoption of an initiative outlining the approach to the internal and external implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The initiative will show the significance of the SDGs for Europe and map out the internal and external aspects of EU policies contributing to the implementation of the SDGs. A mapping exercise will help provide a general assessment of where the EU stands in addressing the goals and targets. The EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy, presented by HRVP Mogherini gives broad orientations for the EU to tackle security and global challenges, and refers to the 2030 Agenda.

In this framework, the Commission plans to present by November 2016 a proposal to revise the European Consensus for Development. Building on the experiences made on the 2005 EU Consensus, this will be a proposal for a shared vision and a shared action in development policy for the both the EU and its Member States which will help reshape respective policies and development cooperation to promote progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. A Roadmap¹ for this initiative has been published and a public consultation² launched in all official languages of the EU. The public consultation closes on 21 August 2016.

The Commission would welcome views from all our stakeholders. It would be helpful if you could publicise the public consultation locally, by whatever means is most efficient for you and appropriate to the local context.

Of course Delegations themselves will also have many useful experiences and reflections on development policy which can help inform our discussions in Brussels. We would also welcome your views. Delegations are welcome to look at the public consultation questions, decide on those they feel strongest about, and submit consolidated (e.g. one per Delegation) responses by the 21 August (using EUSurvey and identifying themselves through the respondent identification questions).

Delegations may wish to hold inclusive consultation events locally; for example, multistakeholder events with a wide range of actors, workshops or social media discussions. The 2030 Agenda gives us an excellent opportunity to change the nature of our dialogue with our partner countries. We would be interested in hearing the outcome of any such events and also how we might better support our partner countries as they move to implement this ambitious Agenda. A report will be published at the end of the public consultation synthesising all the inputs received.

This revision happens in a very delicate and complex moment for the Union and for the world. Its political importance to refine and reshape in depth the action of the EU in development as a key pillar of its foreign policy is clear.

We count therefore on your active contribution to make it a success. Thank you again for your support and look forward to hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to direct your questions or comments to DEVCO CONSENSUS CONSULTATION (EuropeAid-CONSENSUS-CONSULTATION@ec.europa.eu).

Thank you for your cooperation,

Stefano MANSERVISI

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¹ http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/roadmaps/docs/2016_devco_003_european_consensus_on_development_en.pdf

² http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/consultations/index_en.htm

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