



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 14 May 2012**

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**DEVGEN 113  
POLGEN 73  
RELEX 393  
ACP 69  
WTO 159  
ENV 314  
PESC 538  
AGRI 272  
PECHE 145  
SOC 322  
ASIM 49  
RECH 127  
TELECOM 76  
TRANS 129  
ENER 145**

**NOTE**

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Dated: 14 May 2012

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Subject: Council Conclusions on Policy Coherence for Development

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At its meeting on 14 May 2012, the Council adopted the Council Conclusions at Annex.

## **Council Conclusions**

**on**

### **Policy Coherence for Development**

1. EU efforts on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) aim to enhance the coherence of EU policies with development objectives, in particular poverty eradication, as well as the impact of our external assistance. Further progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the general need for increased development effectiveness call for enhanced efforts by all stakeholders and for development-friendly policies in a broad range of areas beyond aid. Finally, PCD is essential for the credibility of the EU as a global actor, and hence, a strong EU leadership on PCD issues at high levels of all parts of the EU and in Member States is important.
2. The Council reaffirms all its PCD commitments and recalls the Treaty obligation to take account of the objectives of development cooperation in the policies which are likely to affect developing countries, and to pursue these objectives in the overall framework of the Union's external action. <sup>1</sup>
3. PCD is an important element in the Council Conclusions on an Agenda for Change<sup>2</sup>, which complements the EU development policy framework. It also underpins the Conclusions on the EU's approach to trade, growth and development<sup>3</sup>, as well as those on the global approach to migration and mobility<sup>4</sup>.
4. The Council reiterates its decision to focus in the immediate future on trade and finance, climate change, food security, migration and security<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 208, paragraph 2 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

<sup>2</sup> Council Conclusions on Increasing the Impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change, 14 May 2012, doc. 9369/12

<sup>3</sup> Council Conclusions on EU's approach to trade, growth and development in the next decade, 16 March 2012, doc. 7412/12

<sup>4</sup> Council Conclusions on the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, 3 May 2012, doc. 9417/12

<sup>5</sup> Council Conclusions on Policy Coherence for Development, 18 November 2009, doc. 16079/09

5. The Council welcomes the third biennial EU 2011 PCD report stating progress and providing useful insight into the EU and its Member States' efforts to promote PCD. The Council welcomes the increased engagement and capacity to enhance PCD of some Member States and calls on the EU and its Member States to further improve their approach to PCD, building on the findings and suggestions of the report. The Council especially notes the need for a more evidence-based approach and for improving coordination mechanisms and implementation within the EU institutions and the Member States. The Council invites the Commission to make proposals in this regard.
6. The Council reiterates that COREPER will continue to be the main forum for ensuring policy coherence for development, as already expressed in its Conclusions of 2006.<sup>6</sup>
7. The Council notes that close cooperation between the European External Action Service and the European Commission is necessary to ensure greater consistency of EU external action and PCD.
8. It will be important to further strengthen the dialogue on PCD with the European Parliament and Member States' parliaments, European and partner country civil society organisations as well as in international fora such as the new OECD international platform on PCD and the UN in order to raise awareness and to facilitate knowledge sharing and disseminate evidence and good practices on PCD.
9. The Council stresses in particular the need to include the issues of PCD systematically in the regular dialogue with partner countries to better assess the impact of EU policies at country level and the interaction with partner countries' policies. EU Delegations have a crucial role in this regard.
10. The Council looks forward to receiving in 2013 the fourth biennial PCD Report, which should include an independent assessment of progress, including qualitative and quantitative consequences and costs of policy incoherence. It encourages the Commission to build on the PCD Work Programme for 2010-2013<sup>7</sup> and, with a view to a more evidence-based approach, to further improve monitoring, implementation and follow-up. Relevant baselines, indicators and targets should also be developed including for measuring the impact of PCD in a way which demonstrates clear development results.

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<sup>6</sup> Council Conclusions on Integrating Development Concerns in Council Decision-making of 17 October 2006 (doc. 14072/06).

<sup>7</sup> Commission Staff Working Paper SEC(2010) 421 of 21 April 2010, doc. 8910/10 ADD4