



Council of the
European Union

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RELEX 1064
ACP 194
COHAFA 136
WTO 323
ONU 163
OCDE 9

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Council Conclusions on the 2014 Annual Report on the European Union's development and external assistance policies and their implementation in 2013

At its meeting on 12 December 2014, the Council (Foreign Affairs/Development) adopted the Conclusions set out in the Annex to this note.

Council Conclusions on the 2014 Annual Report on the European Union's development and external assistance policies and their implementation in 2013

1. The Council welcomes the 2014 Annual Report on the European Union's development and external assistance policies and their implementation in 2013.¹ The report represents a key contribution to strengthening accountability and transparency. It serves to communicate and demonstrate the focus on results of the EU development policy.
2. The Council appreciates the comprehensiveness of the report's geographic and thematic overviews, including reporting on fundamental values, and the focus on progress in the achievement of the EU's long-term development objectives as well as on how the principles set out in the Agenda for Change have been translated into development strategies and interventions.
3. The Council notes the important progress made on joint programming that emerges as a core element of the EU's contribution to aid effectiveness agenda, and stresses the need to specifically report on lessons learned in future reports.

¹ Doc. 12570/14.

4. The Council welcomes the continued efforts in the domain of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD), where a wide range of actions is reported, including at country level, and in particular regarding the strengthening of the evidence base, awareness raising and training.
5. The Council shares the emphasis given to reporting on cooperation with non-state actors and local authorities as well as on the role of the private sector and would welcome more extensive reporting on public-private cooperation in the future. The efforts to report on the implementation of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States are positively noted.
6. The Council encourages the Commission to include more specific information in the next annual reports on budget support programmes, including trends in disbursement, share of general budget support and sector budget support programmes in the main financial instruments. Reporting should include how partner country's commitment and record on democracy, human rights and rule of law have been taken into account in decisions to provide budget support. It should also inform on how the need to provide and protect the provision of vital basic services, particularly to the poorest and the most vulnerable, as outlined in the Council Conclusions on budget support of May 2012,² was taken into account, and how the three new types of budget support have contributed, in the medium/long term, to poverty reduction, sustainable development and improving governance in these partner countries.
7. The Council calls on the Commission to review progress, in the next annual report, on the achievement of MDGs, drawing lessons for the transition to SDGs.
8. The Council invites the Commission and the EEAS to focus more, in future annual reports, on the prevention and fight against corruption, the comprehensive approach to external conflicts and crises and the EU support for sustainable change in transition societies. The Council would also welcome reporting on delegated cooperation.

² Doc. 9371/12.

9. A continued focus should be maintained on the compliance with the commitment to devote at least 20% of EU aid to support social inclusion and human development and 20% of the EU spending on climate-relevant actions, including sustainable energy, building a low-carbon, resource efficient economy, as well as sustainable agriculture, resilience and adaptation.
 10. The Council calls on the Commission to strengthen the reporting on gender equality. A spotlight on EU action to unlock the potential of girls and women would be appreciated.
 11. The Council firmly reiterates the need to further improve reporting on outcomes and the impact of EU development assistance, for all aid modalities, to better link objectives and results, and is looking forward to improvements that will derive from the EU Development and Cooperation Results Framework for the forthcoming annual reports.
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