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Foreign Affairs

Development

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President

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¹ • Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
 • Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
 • Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

ITEMS DEBATED

Current Affairs

EU development ministers were updated on the EU response to the latest developments in **Afghanistan, Ethiopia** and **Sudan**. Then they discussed the implications of the political situation for EU development assistance.

Next, ministers had an informal exchange of views with the Administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), **Samantha Power**.

During the informal exchange with USAID Administrator Power, EU ministers addressed the growing **immunization gap between developed and developing countries**.

Member states supported the idea of having Dr. Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, the EU representative in COVAX and co-chair of the COVAX Facility Shareholders Council, as the focal person to strengthen coordination among EU member states and accelerate efforts, especially in Africa.

Building on the joint commitment to **address the climate crisis through infrastructure development** confirmed by the EU and the US at the 15 June summit, EU development ministers and USAID Administrator Power discussed the need to identify specific projects for closer cooperation.

Water in external action

The Council then discussed the challenges and opportunities related to **water management**. The focus of the discussion was on **Central Asia**, where water scarcity is a geopolitical challenge and the source of instability and migratory pressures.

As a threat multiplier, water must be part of the EU's foreign policy. The EU will act united and in partnership with the regions heavily affected by climate change, such as Central Asia, to address the interconnection between water management, energy and climate change.

The Council also discussed the proposed **Team Europe Initiative on water, energy and climate in Central Asia**, ahead of the 17th EU-Central Asia ministerial meeting scheduled to take place in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) in June 2022.

Council conclusions

The Council approved conclusions on:

- [Water in diplomacy: Council confirms EU's commitment to enhanced EU engagement, press release 19 November 2021](#)
- [EU public sector expertise: a key asset at the service of the EU's partner countries](#)

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EU position for the EU- Kosovo Stabilisation and Association Council

The Council approved the text establishing the EU position for the fourth meeting of the EU-Kosovo Stabilisation and Association Council that will take place in Brussels on 7 December 2021. The text includes political and economic criteria, financial cooperation and the implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

ASEM13 Summit: approval of a non-binding instrument

The Council approved the text of the Phnom Penh Statement on the Post-Covid-19 Socio-Economic Recovery and the text of the ASEM Statement on the Way Forward on ASEM Connectivity, in line with the non-binding instrument procedure.

Decision on the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

The Council adopted an amending decision in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention in the framework of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The extension of the implementation period of the projects referred to in Article 1 of Decision (CFSP) 2019/97 to 4 February 2023 will not have any impact on financial resources.
