

Diverging governance paradigms? EU and US views on global development

Brussels, 20-22 November 2017

Context

Global institutions are under increasing pressure to effectively deliver, given the complexity of challenges and the competition of diverging values and strategic interests. While the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) reflects undoubtedly a great achievement, it will be difficult to equally track the progress of the SDGs in the member states and to firmly react if the reforms fail. Moreover, ongoing crises such as a war-mongering North Korea or the failure to end violence in Syria highlight the necessity of reforms on the multilateral stage. Simultaneously, the international landscape of players is changing: not only the emerging economies in Latin America, Africa and Asia are turning into important actors on the global stage, but also civil society itself demands to become involved in global decision-making on an equal footing with governments and states. Moreover, as a key driver of growth and prosperity, the private sector plays an increasing role in setting the global affairs agenda.

Are the global institutions “fit for purpose”? Or is a structural overhaul needed to reflect the present political reality? If so, how should multilateralism be reinvigorated in an increasingly fractious global political environment? Are more unilateral actions required or are there other forms of international cooperation better able to provide sustainable solutions to global challenges?

On top of climate change and the increased flow of migrants and refugees worldwide, the EU and the US have to find responses to protracted conflicts in Africa and Asia. Moreover, both partners need to deal with the long-term instability in Latin America, address fragility, poverty and political radicalization, and effectively combat international terrorism. The vast array of these problems has not only broadened the global agenda, but also deepened the interlinkages between policy areas such as development, migration, security, climate change, humanitarian assistance and democracy support. With a sharp uptick in armed conflicts in recent years, the need to particularly understand the relationship between security and development has never been more important.

While the EU continues to promote an “effective multilateralism” guided by a “principled pragmatism” (*EU Global Strategy*) as the best way to agree on global rules, to contain power politics and contribute to a peaceful, fair and prosperous world, questions arise as to how the Trump administration will reframe the US’ role as a global and security actor. What course of engagement will the US follow to shape global governance, to keep a safe and stable world order and to promote sustainable development? Notwithstanding the different perceptions on a variety of global policy issues, detecting areas of joint concern for both the EU and the US could open new avenues for transatlantic cooperation.

Objectives of the event

The event will be joined by experts and policy analysts from American and European think-tanks as well as representatives from the UN, EU and US institutions. The goal is to enhance the exchange between representatives with different backgrounds from the EU and the US and increase the understanding between both sides on leading topics of the global development agenda. By better comprehending US interests and foreign policy rationales, a basis of common understanding may emerge. This can help analysts and policy-makers to envisage future prospects of transatlantic cooperation and to find common denominators in their development policies and beyond.

Format

The event will be organized as a roundtable discussion with American and European experts. The roundtable will be open and attended by invited guests of the Brussels-based community.

Draft Agenda

Monday, 20 November 2017

Morning Arrival of experts from the US and other European countries

20:00 Welcome Dinner

Keynote by **Michael Gahler**, Member of the European Parliament, and Chairman of the Delegation for relations with the Pan-African Parliament at the EP

Tuesday, 21 November 2017

09:00 Opening remarks

Panel 1: Reinigorating multilateralism, unilateral action or other forms of international cooperation

Today global institutions are under pressure, given the complexity of challenges, multifaceted crises and competition of diverging values and strategic interests. New approaches are required in order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in an increasingly fractious political environment. Are the existing institutions fit for this purpose? Are there other forms of international cooperation better able to provide tangible solutions?

Felix Fernandez-Shaw, Expert on sustainable development in the Cabinet of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Mrs Frederica Mogherini, European External Action Service

N.N. UN Representative

Caroline Nguyen, Managing Director Europe, Asia, Pacific and Latin America, Millennium Challenge Corporation

PD Dr Stephan Klingebiel, Head of Department of Bilateral and Multilateral Development Cooperation, German Development Institute
Dr Fraser Cameron, Director, EU-Asia Centre

Moderation: **Nico Lange**, Head of Office, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Washington

09:30 *Discussion*

10:30 Coffee-break

11:00 **Panel 2: Sustainable solutions for protracted conflicts, long-term crises and effective strategies for addressing fragility**

Protracted conflicts continue to destabilize states, societies and forcibly displace people worldwide. They pose multifaceted challenges to conflict prevention and the stabilization of post-conflict situations. How should the needs of displaced people and their host communities be addressed in order to provide sustainable peace solutions to conflict-ridden states and societies? In which way should policies and actors in conflict prevention, post-conflict stabilization, development and humanitarian assistance work more effectively together?

Stefano Tomat, Head of Division for Prevention of Conflicts, Rule of Law / SSR, Integrated Approach, Stabilisation and Mediation, European External Action Service

Michael Doran, Senior Fellow, Middle East Security, Hudson Institute

N.N. UN Representative

Volker Hauck, Head of Programme Security and Resilience, European Centre for Development Policy Management, Brussels

Cindy Huang, Senior Policy Fellow, Center for Global Development, Washington

Moderation: **Dr Roland Freudenstein**, Policy Director, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Discussion

12:30 Lunch

14:00 **Panel 3: Developing paths towards energy transition**

Although the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement was a huge blow, the future path of US energy policy seems as of yet to be undetermined. Leading US states such as California refused to follow Trump's political course. Moreover, green energy projects have become increasingly attractive for private investment on both sides of the Atlantic.

At the same time, despite the EU's leading role in climate protection, not all member states are aligned with the EU's ambitious climate goals. Moreover, negotiations about the Emissions Trading System (ETS) seem to be ineffective. Under these circumstances can the necessary global emission reduction be achieved? What are the economic and security benefits of a clean energy transition for the EU and the US?

Isaac Valero Ladrón, Member of Cabinet of Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete, European Commission

Maria Belenky, Director of Policy and Research, Climate Advisers, Washington

Nicolas Loris, Expert on Energy Economics, Coal, Oil, Natural Gas and Renewable Energy, Heritage Foundation, Washington

Dr Karsten Wildberger, Chief Operating Officer – Commercial and Member of the Management Board of E.ON SE

Andrzej Blachowicz, Managing Director of Climate Strategies, London

Moderation: **Christian Egenhofer**, Senior Fellow & Head of Energy and Climate programme, Director of Energy Climate House, Centre for European Policy Studies

14:30 *Discussion*

15:30 Coffee-break

16.00 **Panel 4: The future of global democracy assistance and human rights support**

President Trump's budget plans, proposing severe cuts to foreign aid, will have a particular impact on US democracy assistance and human rights support. The EU Global Strategy outlined democracy as a main pillar and value to be promoted in external relations. However, recent EU Communications provide some ambiguity about the importance and real significance of democracy support in the EU's external actions. What will be the consequences of the newly developed concepts and strategies in supporting civil society under repression from authoritarian regimes, in addressing violations of democratic norms and in reducing the shrinking space abroad?

Paul Grove, Clerk for Majority Staff, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs in the Senate Committee on Appropriations

Jean-Louis Ville, Acting Director for People and Peace, DG DEVCO, European Commission

Jan Erik Surotchak, Regional Director Europe, International Republican Institute

Frank Priess, Deputy Head of European and International Cooperation Department, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Berlin

Scott Hubli, Director of Governance Programs, National Democratic Institute

Moderation: **Andrew Bradley**, Director of the Office of International IDEA to the European Union

16:30 *Discussion*

17:30 Closing remarks and end of the event

20:00 Dinner

Wednesday, 22 November 2017

9:00-10:30 **Concluding Panel: Redefining development cooperation**

The EU is presently overhauling its development cooperation strategies and instruments to design more effective multilateral frameworks, policy coherence, aid effectiveness and innovative ways of financing. Will the revised concepts generate more legitimacy, better delivery and new ideas to pave the way for cooperation beyond aid? What will be the consequences of Brexit on European aid and development funds? At the same time, President Trump is pushing for drastic reductions in foreign aid. What will be the effect of this decision on the US development cooperation and its programs? What will happen to the key partners for implementation? Would a stronger reconciliation of development goals with US strategic interests provide a solution for this dilemma?

Stefano Manservigi, Director-General, DG DEVCO, European Commission

Bill Steiger, Chief of Staff, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Gudrun Kopp, Political Board of European Network of Political Foundations, Former Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Dr. Len Monica Ishmael, Former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Embassies of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to the European Union

James M. Roberts, Research Fellow for Economic Freedom and Growth, The Heritage Foundation, Washington

Moderation: **Sabina Wölkner**, Programme Director, Multinational Development Policy Dialogue, Brussels

Discussion

10:30-11:30 **Wrap-up session: Joint concerns, divergent governance paradigms? Avenues for transatlantic cooperation**

Perspective from the EP Development Committee:

Bogdan Wenta, Member of the European Parliament

Moderation: **Sabina Wölkner**

Followed by a meeting with **Klaus Welle**, Secretary-General of the European Parliament and a half-day visit to Bruges.

19:30 Closing dinner

Thursday, 23 November 2017

Departure of the participants