

## The future of EU External Action - towards integrated policy responses for global sustainable development?

*„ A joined-up approach is now needed not only in external conflicts and crises, but in all aspects of the EU's role in the world. This puts a premium on various actors and instruments of EU external action coming together to work in synergy. Vertical and horizontal silos hamper the EU's potential global role. And in a world of mounting challenges and opportunities this is a luxury we cannot afford. [...]“*  
(Federica Mogherini, 2015)<sup>1</sup>

### Background

The Juncker Commission together with the High Representative/Vice President Federica Mogherini have launched various strategy processes to reform both EU external and internal policies. These include the **Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy**, the Review of the Neighbourhood Policy, the Trade Review, and a Review of Europe 2020. A Review of the European Consensus on Development is under consideration. Different views exist as to how the Global Strategy should evolve and what its main focus should be. Intensified by the migration crisis and the recent terrorist attacks, some argue for a narrow strategy that focuses on the EU's immediate security and defence. Others argue for a comprehensive strategy for the promotion of global sustainable development that combines foreign and security policy with all areas of EU external action.

Globally, the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** provides a new normative frame for the EU and its Member States. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are universal goals that aim to guide national policies and international cooperation by all UN Member States and dissolve the artificial boundary between internal and external action. None of the SDGs - be they goals related to social development, environment, climate, governance, or peace and security - can be promoted by individual policy fields or institutions alone.

As of now, it is an open question **how and to what extent the EU Global Strategy and the EU's implementation of the SDGs can and should be linked**. The EU strongly supported the universal nature and also the thematic scope of the 2030 Agenda and is now also expected to lead by example and to pioneer in translating the SDGs into its domestic and external engagement. Such an approach not only requires political leadership, but also a fundamental reorientation of how internal and external EU action is organised and how coherence and collective action can be improved.

**The main aim of the high-level conference is to discuss and reflect upon the EU Global Strategy and related strategy processes against the background of the 2030 Agenda and to identify a concrete course of action, combining perspectives from foreign and security, development, climate, environment, migration and trade policies.**

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<sup>1</sup> "The European Union in a changing global environment. A more connected, contested and complex world". Brussels: EEAS

# Programme

1 March 2016 - Day 1

10:30 h-10:45 h

**Welcome**

10:45 h-12:30 h

**A vision for EU External Action 2020: Responding to internal and external reform pressure**

- What should EU external action look like in 2020 and what is needed from the **EU Global Strategy** to get there?
- What are the major institutional, political and instrumental stumbling blocks for **EU collective action** and integrated policy approaches?
- Is **Agenda 2030** a suitable instrument for fostering coherence across EU external (and internal) action?

**Moderation: Dirk Messner (Director, DIE)**

**Keynote speech:**

**Wolfgang Ischinger (Chairman, Munich Security Conference)**

**Panel debate:**

**Miguel Angel Moratinos (former Foreign Minister of Spain)**

**Prof. Sven Biscop (Director Europe in the World, Egmont)**

**Gesine Schwan (President Humboldt-Viadrina Governance Platform)**

12:30 h-13:30 h

**Lunch**

13:30 h-17:45 h

**Europe in crisis: tackling the wicked problems of prosperity, people and planet**

Europe is certainly in crisis mode. Its position as a global leader and its capacity to implement domestic reforms are severely undermined by centrifugal forces within Europe and a risk of disintegration. Against the background of the multiple domestic and global crisis, the EU is more than ever required to step up its engagement and to **strengthen vertical and horizontal coherence of its policies**. The drafting of an EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy provides a unique opportunity for the EU to reposition itself as a global leader and to foster greater unity and joined-up approaches in its external action.

Each of the sessions focuses on the following overarching questions: How can the EU overcome the stumbling blocks for better integrated policies? How do these areas need to be linked to and reflected in the EU Global Strategy?

- 13:30 h-14:45 h**                      **The security-democracy-migration nexus: How to combine the EU's interests with its values?**
- How can the EU reconcile its own political crises (Poland, Hungary, Greece) with its objective to promote democracy and human rights abroad? Can Europe still serve as a role model for democracy and human rights?
  - What can the EU contribute to address the causes of the current refugee crises in countries of origin, transit countries and countries of arrival?
  - Causing migration or fostering peace and inclusive societies? Trade-offs of EU policies (trade, security, democracy and human rights)
- Moderation: Kevin Watkins (Director, ODI)**  
**Input: Daniel Keohane (Center for Security Studies, ETH, Zürich)**  
**Policy Response: Colin Scicluna (Member of Cabinet Hahn, tbc)**
- 14:45 h-15:15 h**                      **Coffee**
- 15:15 h-16:30 h**                      **Managing transformation: the EU response to the climate challenge**
- What are the implications of the Paris Agreement for European climate policies, internally and externally?
  - How does the EU need to link its climate diplomacy and foreign policy action to ensure coherent responses to climate risks?
  - How can and should the Paris Agreement be embedded in the Global Strategy and the EU's implementation of the SDGs?
- Moderation: IDDRI**  
**Input: Dirk Messner (Director, DIE)**  
**Policy Response: Ingrid Hoven (Director General BMZ, tbc) and DG Clima (tbc)**
- 16:30 h-17:45 h**                      **The future of European trade policy - Between self-interest and global interests?**
- What does the implementation of the EU's trade review mean in light of the EU's wider foreign policy goals and the EU Global Strategy? How to combine values with interests?
  - How to make the EU's trade policy coherent with the SDGs? How to increase coherence of the EU's trade and investment policy with foreign and development policy for that purpose?
- Moderation: ODI**  
**Input: San Bilal (Head of the Economic Transformation and Trade Programme, ECDPM)**  
**Policy Response: DG Trade (tbc)**
- 19:00 h**                                      **Dinner with speech Lotte Leicht (Human Rights Watch, Director Europe, tbc)**

9:30 h-12:00 h

**Making the EU Global Strategy and the SDGs a success: required next steps**

- Putting it into practice: what needs to be done in 2016 with regards to the EU Global Strategy and the SDGs and by whom?
- What do Member States expect from the EU Global Strategy and how should it be linked to the SDGs in their view?
- What are the expectations of Member States towards joint European action and what are member states willing to contribute?

**Moderation: Simon Maxwell (ETTG Chair)**

**Input/Summary of Debate: James Mackie (Senior Adviser EU Development Policy, ECDPM)**

**Policy Input:**

**Thomas Bagger (Head of Policy Planning, Foreign Office Germany)**

**Nicolas Saran (Deputy Director for European Affairs, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, tbc)**

**DFID (tbc)**

**Felix Fernandez Shaw (Member of Cabinet Mogherini)**

**Public High-Level Panel**

12:15 h-13:00 h

**Light Lunch**

13:00 h-14:30 h

**The EU's Global Strategy: linking foreign and security policy with sustainable global development?**

**Moderator: Imme Scholz (Deputy Director, DIE)**

**Stephan Auer (Director of Multilateral Relations and Global Issues EEAS)**

**Teresa Ribera (Director, IDDRI)**

**Lotte Leicht (Human Rights Watch, Director Europe)**

**Karl Falkenberg (Hors Classe Senior Adviser EPSC)**