

Draft Programme

Doing More with Less

How to adapt EU development and external action to new challenges?

Wednesday 1 February 2017

Permanent Representation of Malta to the EU, 25, rue Archimède, Brussels

- 16:30 **Key Challenges for the EU to make its ambitious external action and development agenda work**
- *James Mackie, Head of Learning and Quality Support Unit, ECDPM*
- 16:40 **Short reactions from discussants**
- *Philip Bob Jusu, AU Permanent Mission of the African Union to the EU*
 - *Linda McAvan, Chair of the Committee on Development, European Parliament*
 - *Tanya Cox, Senior Policy & Advocacy Manager, Plan International EU Office*
 - *Len Ishmael, Ambassador, Embassy of Eastern Caribbean States to the European union, Chair of the ACP committee of Ambassadors*
 - *Stefano Manservigi, Director General, DEVCO*
- 17:00 **Q & A and Discussion**
- 18:00 **Closure**

Concept note

Doing more with less. How to adapt EU development and external action to new challenges?

The European Union is going through an existential crisis. Pessimism about the economic future, the refugee and migration crisis, insecurity in the Neighbourhood, and Brexit have a major impact on Europe's external action and development policies. Inevitably this also has a major impact on the Partnership between the European Union and Africa.

There is no shortage in the EU of ambitious policies and strategies. The Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy, the new European Consensus on Development, the migration Trust Funds and the debate on the future of the EU-Africa and EU-ACP Partnerships all aim to contribute to "*do more, do it better and do it differently*".

However, the implementation of this ambitious agenda raises major challenges for 2017 and beyond: Will the EU be able to match policy and practice in a European context that is increasingly risk averse? How can the EU strengthen its coherence of its external action vis-à-vis Africa by reconciling better its value and interest agendas? How to rationalise overlapping instruments and a patchwork of competing agreements? Will the new leadership of the AU Commission be able to shape the continental economic and trade and political and security agendas? Will Europe and Africa be able to mobilise the necessary resources and means to tackle structural challenges such as youth unemployment, migration and the transformation of African economies?

The 2017 Challenges paper of the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) explores opportunities and possible steps that could be taken to make the ambitious agenda work, particularly in the context of the EU-Africa Partnership. The upcoming November 2017 5th Africa-EU Summit raises high expectations and will have to address major issues of common concern and interest. In preparation of the Summit a joint Communication of the EEAS and the Commission will be published in April 2017. This will explain the strategic interests of the EU towards Africa and will provide an opportunity to update Europe's vision on the partnership with Africa.

The seminar co-organised by the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) will provide a good opportunity to discuss some of the major challenges for 2017 for the EU-Africa Partnership.