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## **COVER NOTE**

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**From:** General Secretariat of the Council

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**To:** Delegations  
**Subject:** Meeting of the European Council on the Future of Social Europe  
(25-26 May 2018)

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Delegations will find the full text adopted by the European Council at the above meeting.

## **With regards to the ongoing environmentally induced migrant crisis**

The Council will develop an emergency package that consists of technical and financial resources to assist Bulgaria in the initial processing of environmentally induced migrants;

The Council proposes a short-term solution aiming at a distribution of the environmentally induced migrants temporarily among willing EU member states for the first twelve months. Member states who will not host these migrants will provide other forms of contribution, at the discretion of each member state. Member states are strongly encouraged to contribute in a manner they consider most appropriate; \*

The Council proposes a long-term solution which will include collaboration with the United Nations, relevant international organizations and other countries in order to establish permanent resettlement in the future host countries for all environmentally induced migrants involved;

The Council invites the European Commission to expand the definition of refugees to include the group referred to here as environmentally induced migrants.

The European Union Member states will work toward amending the Geneva Convention on refugees to establish a legal definition of the group referred to here as environmentally induced migrants.

\*The UK has an opt-out agreement for clause 2 as outlined above.

## **Normative Power Europe**

The European Union will continue to promote core values in the Post-Cotonou agreement, also in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals. The core values of Good Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights should be at the heart of EU development action in the African, Caribbean and Pacific states.

### **1. Good governance**

The EU recognizes that development goes hand-in-hand with good governance. The EU will continue to assist developing countries in strengthening their civil and political institutions. This includes assisting the transition to democracy, and supporting transparency and accountability of governmental institutions. The EU will also work with developing countries towards the elimination of corruption.

### **2. Rule of Law**

The European Council recognizes the importance of the Rule of Law in facilitating the flourishing of peaceful and stable societies. The EU is committed to providing support for proper law enforcement and capacity building in fragile states. The EU recognizes that respect of the Rule of Law is a vital building block on the road to a peaceful and inclusive society.

### **3. Human rights**

Human rights are universal value that the EU has promoted since its conception. The Council is committed to reducing inequalities in developing nations, subject to their cultural contexts. The EU recognizes that conflict and crises often originate from the breach of human rights.

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

The Post-Cotonou framework must align with the Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda) alongside the New European Consensus on Development and the EU Global Strategy. The framework will put special emphasis on the following SDGs (of equal importance):

- I. No Poverty (SDG 1)
- II. Education (SDG 4)
- III. Gender Equality (SDG 5)
- IV. Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8)

- V. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9)
- VI. Climate Change (SDG 13)
- VII. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16)

## **Decentralization**

The European Council endorses the new ACP Partnership framework that will consist of a three-tier system that includes EU - ACP core values, regional partnerships and thematic working groups.

### Tier One: EU - ACP Core Values

Tier one encompasses fundamental EU - ACP core values as an overarching agreement to which EU and ACP states will pertain. These values consist of: good governance, rule of law and human rights. The monitoring and evaluation of the above will be left at the discretion of the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO).

### Tier Two: Regional Groupings

Tier two comprises of the three ACP regions; Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Regional Secretariats will be established for monitoring and evaluative purposes. Public Affairs Office will be established for cooperation with other nations or regional organizations, which will come under the jurisdiction of the respective Regional Secretariats.

### Tier Three: Thematic Working Groups

Tier three is initially comprised of five thematic working groups (in no particular order) that each individual country may choose to join. These working groups consist of: Security and Migration, Economics and Trade, Sustainability and Climate Change, Development and Governance, Public Infrastructure and Services. Each working group will have a Head of Mission for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

The European Council mandates the European Commission to consider the possibility of integrating the African Union into the framework.

## **Budgetization and Prioritization:**

The Council's funding will be prioritized according to individual regional agreements and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals:

The Council will mandate the EU Commission to propose the new budgetization framework should include European development funding, where Member States' contributions are tailored accordingly to the capacity of each Member State.

## **ODA and Delivering Development**

The Council maintains as an aspirational goal, 0.7% as a percentage of member state GNI for ODA;

The Council urges to include the mainstreaming of technological innovation in development programmes;

The Council retains the use of budgetary support where appropriate, as per the previous Cotonou Agreement;

The Council will encourage private sector participation in funding development programmes;

The Council will promote a bottom-up multi-stakeholder partnership;

The Council will continue to promote the use of innovative financial instruments in its development programmes;

The Council will promote institutional building;

The Council proposes regional trade agreements, that promotes free and fair trade, based on the *acquis* of the previous Cotonou Agreement;