



# STATE OF THE UNION

On 16 September 2020, the European Commission (EC) President Ursula von der Leyen delivered the annual “State of the Union” (SOTEU) address in front of the European Parliament (EP), presenting her vision for the European recovery from the pandemic. (All key documents here.)

She thanked Europe and its citizens for the resilience demonstrated in facing the pandemic, and praised the European socio-economic model, i.e. a “human economy that protects us against the great risks of life - illness, ill fortune, unemployment or poverty”.

The EC president called for the EU to lead the recovery efforts, within Europe and globally. The EC President made no reference to the SDGs or the 2030 Agenda, and the speech largely took a European viewpoint, with little mentioning of the global socio-economic crisis, growing inequalities etc. However, the speech outlined a vision for a sustainable future and the EU's continued commitment to global solidarity and multilateralism.

The main instrument for the sustainable recovery will be the recovery fund “Next Generation EU”. In her words, Next Generation EU is the opportunity to make change happen by design. The EU has the vision, plan and investment, and can now pass to action. In this sense, the EC

President sent a letter of intent to EP President and German Chancellor Merkel (EU Council Presidency) outlining the EC Plans for 2021.



The image shows a vertical stack of four tweets from Ursula von der Leyen (@vonderleyen). Each tweet includes her profile picture, name, handle, and the text of the tweet. The tweets discuss hate speech, migration, global response, and the Digital Decade.

- Tweet 1:** Ursula von der Leyen (@vonderleyen) · 16 set  
Hate is hate – and no one should have to put up with it. We put forward an action plan against racism. We'll strengthen our racial equality laws. We'll use our budget to address discrimination in areas like employment, housing or healthcare. We will get tougher on enforcement.  
161 replies, 710 retweets, 2,379 likes
- Tweet 2:** Ursula von der Leyen (@vonderleyen) · 16 set  
Next week, we will put forward the New Pact on Migration. We'll take a human & humane approach. Saving lives at sea is not optional & those countries who fulfill their legal and moral duties or are more exposed than others, must be able to rely on the solidarity of our whole EU.  
510 replies, 1,002 retweets, 2,612 likes
- Tweet 3:** Ursula von der Leyen (@vonderleyen) · 16 set  
The EU stepped up to lead the global response. With civil society, #G20, @WHO & others we brought more than 40 countries together to raise €16 bn to finance research on vaccines, tests & treatments for the whole world. This is the EU's unmatched convening power in action. #SOTEU
- Tweet 4:** Ursula von der Leyen (@vonderleyen) · 16 set  
We must make this Europe's Digital Decade.  
We need a common plan for digital Europe with clearly defined goals for 2030, such as for connectivity, skills and digital public services.  
And this is why we will invest 20% of #NextGenerationEU on #DigitalEU.



# EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE - EEAS

## "TEAM EUROPE" GLOBAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19: COUNCIL WELCOMES THE MOBILIZATION OF ALMOST €36 BILLION AND APPROVES CONCLUSIONS

The "Team Europe" package was launched on 8 April 2020 to support EU partner countries in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences. The financial support initially pledged was around 20 billion euro and combined resources from the EU, its member states, and financial institutions, in particular the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.



Source: EEAS Website

On 8 June 2020, the Council welcomed the mobilization of almost 36 billion euros through the Team Europe packages. The support of the European Union focuses on:

- responding to the immediate health crisis and the resulting humanitarian needs;
- strengthening health, water and sanitation systems, as well as partner countries' capacities and preparedness to deal with the pandemic;
- mitigating the immediate social and economic consequences, including support to the private sector with a focus on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, and government reforms to reduce poverty.

## CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The year 2020 marks a special anniversary for the United Nations: 75 years from the signing of the UN Charter in San Francisco.

In the last decades, the EU and the UN have been working hand in hand for peace, dialogue, and cooperation. The Covid-19 pandemic is once again showing how global challenges can be tackled and overcome only through global, coordinated action.

## JOSEP BORRELL: A CREDIBLE ENLARGEMENT POLICY IS AN INVESTMENT IN PEACE AND SECURITY FOR THE WHOLE OF EUROPE.

The Commission adopted on 6 October 2020 the Enlargement package and the Economic and Investment plan for the Western Balkans. The Enlargement package assesses the state of implementation of reforms and presents recommendations to the six Western Balkans partners on their continued path towards the EU. The major Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans aims to accelerate the long-term economic recovery of the region, support a green and digital transition, and foster the region's integration and convergence with the EU.

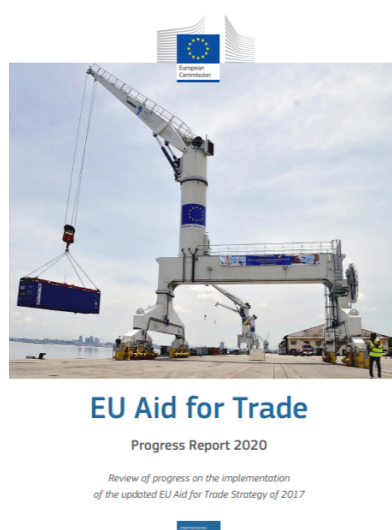


Source: EEAS Website

# DG DEVCO

## EU AID FOR TRADE PROGRESS REPORT 2020 PRESENTATION

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September a virtual presentation of the EU Aid for Trade Progress Report was held. The EU's Aid for Trade (Aft) strategy was adopted for the first time in 2007, in response to the Aid for Trade initiative launched by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 2005, which encouraged developing countries to recognise the role trade can play in their sustainable development. The EU's Aft strategy helps partner countries better integrate into the global trading system and take greater advantage of the poverty-reducing benefits of economic openness and enhanced trade efficiency. The EU Aid for Trade Progress Report 2020 reflects an important place of Aft in the development policies of the EU and its Member States, and the prioritisation of a stronger coherence between development, trade and investment instruments with a view to improve the economic, job creation and sustainability impacts. At the same time, €13.5bn of Aft volume from the EU and its Member states, comes €1bn short of the previous year. Efforts need to continue to keep the good share of ODA go to the Aft, not to lose the 1st world Aft donor status



Source: Publications Office of the EU

## AID TRANSPARENCY INDEX 2020: EFFORTS TO IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY IN EU FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BEAR FRUIT

The newly published 2020 Aid Transparency Index (ATI) highlights remarkable improvements made by the European Commission, demonstrating its continued commitment to transparency. In particular, the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) increased its score by over 10 points from 65.9 to 76.5.

Recent measures for improving transparency have significantly enhanced the EU's performance, including increased access to information such as policy documents and reports, as well as improved availability of budgetary and geolocalisation data.

Improving transparency in the EU financial assistance is an ongoing effort and is essential for ensuring accountability and supporting informed decision making.

## COVID-19: EU PROGRAMME PROMOTES DIGITAL SOLUTIONS TO THE CRISIS IN AFRICA

The European Union has announced a €10.4 million programme to promote digital solutions to fight the coronavirus pandemic and to improve the resilience of health and education systems in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. The programme will promote digital solutions to improve the continuity and quality of both education services through, for example, e-learning, and technical and vocational training. It will also promote digital solutions to enhance the quality and efficiency of health services, such as monitoring and surveillance in the targeted countries.



# DG NEAR

## UNEMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ISSUES ARE THE MAIN CONCERNS OF AFRICAN YOUTH

Working together with African countries is a priority for the European Union. During Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's first official visit to Ethiopia, she stressed the importance of a partnership of equals, and moving past decades of donor country-aid recipient relations.

Developing a partnership of equals implies understanding the challenges, interests and aspirations of African citizens. This has been the focus of a JRC report assessing the results of a recent Afrobarometer public opinion survey.



Creating sustainable economic growth and jobs is one of the pillars of the EU's Strategy for Africa ©Anton Balazh, adobe stock 2020

## DO ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS INFLUENCE COVID-19 OUTBREAKS?

While laboratory studies have shown that environmental conditions influence the spread of COVID-19, a significant impact of outdoor air pollution on the spreading or severity of the disease has not been demonstrated yet, following a recent JRC study.

The significance of the impact of environmental conditions on the COVID-19 pandemic has still not been established and their influence might have been overestimated in the statistical studies.

## SMARTER 2020 CONFERENCE WEBINAR SERIES: CONNECTING GRAND SOCIETAL CHALLENGES WITH LOCAL GOALS IN PLACE-BASED INNOVATION POLICY (ONLINE)

The SMARTER 2020 Conference has been transformed in a series of webinars taking place from September to December 2020.

## EU DIGITAL AUTUMN SCHOOL - PROTECTION OF PUBLIC SPACES FROM TERRORIST ATTACKS (ONLINE)

Public spaces are vulnerable. Terrorist attacks have shown a recurrent targeting of public spaces, so-called "soft targets". The EU supports national, regional and urban authorities and operators of public spaces in their effort to protect public spaces to:

- improve security and
- ensure that people can continue their daily lives.



Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/>

## DG TRADE

### EU-VIETNAM TRADE AGREEMENT ENTERS INTO FORCE

EU exports to Vietnam will be taxed less. This is the immediate effect of the entry into force of the EU-Vietnam trade agreement that will ultimately scrap duties on 99% of all goods traded between the two sides. Doing business in Vietnam will also become easier for European companies: they will now be able to invest and pitch for government contracts with equal chances to their local competitors. Under the new agreement, the economic benefits go hand in hand with guarantees of respect for labour rights, environment protection and the Paris Agreement on climate, through strong, legally binding and enforceable provisions on sustainable development.

### COMMISSION LAUNCHES INITIATIVE FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE COCOA PRODUCTION

The European Commission kicks off an initiative to improve sustainability in the cocoa sector. A new multi-stakeholder dialogue brings together representatives of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana – the two main cocoa producing countries accounting for 70% of global cocoa production – as well as representatives of the European Parliament, EU Member States, cocoa growers and civil society. The dialogue aims to deliver concrete recommendations to advance sustainability across the cocoa supply chain through collective action and partnerships. The new dialogue will be supported by technical assistance for cocoa producing countries.

## DG ENER

### EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL: NEW FINANCING MECHANISM TO BOOST RENEWABLE ENERGY

The European Commission has published the rules for a new EU Renewable Energy Financing Mechanism, to apply from the start of 2021. This Mechanism will make it easier for Member States to work together to finance and deploy renewable energy projects – either as a host or as a contributing country.

The renewable energy generated will count towards the renewable energy targets for both the host and the contributing Member States – with the split based on the share of investment. It offers an opportunity for Member States that are struggling to meet their climate targets to catch up, and to contribute to meeting the overall EU targets. This Mechanism also has lower transaction costs compared to other existing cooperation mechanisms.

### COMMISSION PUBLISHES ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL ENERGY & CLIMATE PLANS



Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/>

The Commission has adopted an assessment of the EU-wide impact of Member State National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) for 2021-2030. The assessment shows that the EU is already on track to surpass its current 2030 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 40%. The Commission sees this as a springboard for raising our ambition for 2030, as outlined in the Climate Target Plan.

# EU PARLIAMENT & EU COUNCIL

## AIDA COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO THE IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON THE EU ECONOMY

On the 18th of June 2020, the European Parliament set up a special committee on AI, mandating this committee to take a horizontal, long-term approach on the matter. The new Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age (AIDA) will be composed of 33 members and will have an initial duration of 12 months from the date of the constitutive meeting.



L014265\_JPG\_intranet.jpg © Shutterstock

Its mandate is to analyse the future impact of artificial intelligence in the digital age on the EU economy, in particular on skills, employment, fintech, education, health, transport, tourism, agriculture, environment, defence, industry, energy and e-government.

## EU BUDGET: PARLIAMENT PUSHES FOR NEW REVENUE SOURCES

As Europe recovers from the coronavirus outbreak, MEPs are insisting on the introduction of new revenue sources to cover the refinancing costs of the recovery instrument, prevent sharp reductions in EU budget expenditure and ensure the Covid-19 response does not become a burden for future generations.

Parliament is proposing new revenue in the form of environmental and financial levies. They include:

- A common consolidated corporate tax base
- Digital services taxation
- A financial transaction tax
- Income from the emissions trading scheme
- A contribution based on non-recycled plastic packaging waste
- A carbon border tax

## COUNCIL AGREES ITS POSITION ON THE NEXT EU COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The Council agreed its negotiating position on the post-2020 common agricultural policy (CAP) reform package. This agreed position puts forward some strong commitments from member states for higher environmental ambition with instruments like mandatory eco-schemes and enhanced conditionality. At the same time, the agreed position allows member states to have the necessary flexibility in how they would reach environmental goals. For instance, there would be a two-year pilot phase for eco-schemes and member states would enjoy flexibility on how to allocate funds under different green practices.

The reform of the CAP foresees that while more flexibility will be given to member states in shaping rules and funding allocations through the development of national strategic plans, they will be obliged to demonstrate a higher environmental ambition compared to the current period. The so-called "new delivery model" would favour performance over compliance: it would enable countries to choose the best tools and actions at their disposal (and also taking into account national specificities) to reach the agreed EU-wide objectives and standards.

# OACPS

## BILATERAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN UNIDO AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES (OACPS)



The Director General Li Yong and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), Georges Rebelo Chikoti, agreed to enhance their partnership and to strengthen UNIDO's support for the OACPS Secretariat and Member States in the context of the Post-Cotonou agreement. As UNIDO is tasked to lead the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa 2016-2025 (IDDA III), UNIDO and the OACPS will work closely with over 30 partners to include social, economic and environmental dimensions in development. In the spirit of strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships, a Summit on Africa's Industrialization and Economic Diversification will take place in November 2020.

### NEW AFRICA-CARIBBEAN-PACIFIC/EU PARTNERSHIP: TALKS CONTINUE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL

The post-Cotonou chief negotiators held another negotiating session online to advance talks towards a new partnership agreement between the EU and the 79 countries of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS). The meeting brought together Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen and the OACPS' chief negotiator and chair of the

Ministerial Central Negotiating Group, Prof. Robert Dussey, who is also Togo's Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Togolese Abroad. The constructive discussions allowed negotiating teams to take stock of progress made, while better understanding each other's positions on the remaining open points. Further progress is expected in the coming weeks as talks will continue at technical level on a daily basis. For their part, chief negotiators are set to meet again by the end of July.

### FUTURE AFRICA-CARIBBEAN-PACIFIC STATES/EU PARTNERSHIP: "POST-COTONOU" NEGOTIATIONS RESUME AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL

The EU and the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), formerly named the ACP Group of States, resumed in June talks at the highest political level, a first since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, with the objective to advance talks towards the finishing line on the new 'Post Cotonou' agreement. The meeting has provided an important opportunity for the chief negotiators, Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen, and for the OACPS Professor Robert Dussey to build on the work, which has continued at technical level over the past weeks.

Welcoming this step forward in the negotiation talks, Commissioner for International Partnerships and chief EU negotiator, Jutta Urpilainen, said: *"The ongoing negotiations with OACPS countries remain a priority. Despite the disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the negotiations are progressing in the same cordial spirit that has guided our talks until now. I am pleased to see that we are getting closer and closer to the finishing line."*



# STRATEGIC FINANCIAL ACTORS

## THE EIB SUPPORTS EUROPEAN REGIONS AND CITIES IN THEIR RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS AND FOR A GREEN RECOVERY

Recognizing the key role of cities and regions in mitigating the pandemic's effects, the EIB approved exceptional measures to enable a faster approval and disbursement of new loans and allow more flexibility for the use and increase of ongoing loans.

To date, the EIB has approved nearly €25 billion in new financing for COVID-19-related investment to improve public health, strengthen public services and support affected companies. A number of these loans have been or will be directly signed with regional and municipal authorities.

## THE JOINT INITIATIVE ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY REACHES OVER A QUARTER OF ITS FIVE-YEAR TARGET AND SUPPORTS GROUND-BREAKING CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROJECTS

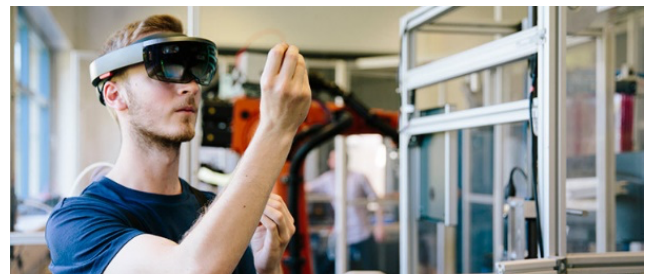
After its first year of operation, the Joint Initiative on Circular Economy provided €2.7 billion of long-term financing for projects that will help accelerate the transition towards a circular economy. This initiative launched by the six largest public financial institutions in the EU aims to finance at least €10 billion of investments to support the circular economy over five years (2019-2023).

Members of the initiative are the Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK - Poland), the Caisse des Dépôts Groupe (CDC - France), including Bpifrance, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP - Italy), the European Investment Bank (EIB), Instituto de Crédito Oficial (ICO - Spain) and KfW (Germany).

## EBRD PROMOTES INNOVATION IN GREEN TRADE FINANCE

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is joining this year's NTT DATA Open Innovation Contest as a partner in the search for potential collaborations with start-ups who have innovative ideas in the area of sustainable trade finance.

This year, the EBRD is joining the contest as a partner for the first time by providing a challenge – to automate the assessment of its green trade finance transactions. The introduction of automated assessment based on publicly available and searchable databases of green technologies and materials will allow the EBRD to scale up its green trade finance over the coming years.



Source: <https://www.ebrd.com/>

## EBRD TO PLAY KEY ROLE IN NEW MULTI-PARTNER INITIATIVE ON COAL INDUSTRY TRANSFORMATION

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), whose Board of Governors last week approved a new five-year strategy that includes plans to make a majority of its financing green by 2025, is to lead the financing component of the new international Platform in Support of Coal Regions in Transition in Western Balkans and Ukraine.

# ECHOES

## FROM THINK TANKS

### UNDERSTANDING THE EU STRATEGY IN THE SAHEL

The August 2020 coup in Mali has once again demonstrated the instability of the Sahel. The region is affected by climate change and rapid population growth. Rivalries over access to livelihoods exacerbate grievances against states. Struggling to provide basic services throughout their territory and security at their borders, governments are competing with armed groups that have emerged from the failed regimes of Central Africa, North Africa and the Middle East. The instability in this region has direct consequences for the security of the European Union's neighbours and for the EU itself. In 2011, the EU adopted the Sahel security and development strategy. While it has contributed to notable progress towards integration and regionalisation, security challenges have impeded tangible achievements in preventing radicalisation and fostering inclusive development. The Sahel action plan, adopted in 2015 to provide an overall framework for the implementation of the strategy, comes to an end in 2020; its revision (or replacement) will need to take the EU's and Africa's new geopolitical interests on board.

### THE VON DER LEYEN COMMISSION'S SIX PRIORITIES: STATE OF PLAY IN AUTUMN 2020

In her statements to the European Parliament in July and November 2019, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen outlined the political priorities that would shape the Commission's work programme for the years 2019 to 2024. The 2020 Commission work programme, adopted before the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in Europe, mirrored these priorities. Without changing the overall structure of the six priorities, the spread of the novel coronavirus

(SARS-CoV-2) and its significant impact across Member States obliged the Commission, however, to focus on immediate crisis management. As a result, at the end of May, the Commission adjusted its work programme for 2020, prioritising initiatives that it considered to be essential or necessary for the EU's post-crisis recovery, in line with the Recovery Plan for Europe. The State of the Union debate provides the opportunity to take stock of the progress made thus far and to look ahead.

### THE FUTURE OF MULTILATERALISM AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The coronavirus pandemic of 2020 has exacerbated global geopolitical trends, including the struggle to uphold multilateralism in a climate of growing nationalism, protectionism and rising great power competition. At the same time, it has demonstrated the need for multilateral cooperation for the effective mitigation of cross-border threats, including health crises. Within this environment, the European Union (EU) has illustrated the relevance of cooperation. Beyond its internal strengthening, the EU has set the defence and reform of multilateralism as one of its key priorities under the current European Commission. This will require a more coordinated and autonomous EU foreign policy, a smart approach towards the escalating US–China rivalry, reinvigorated cooperation with major democracies, and mobilisation of the EU's foreign policy tools, widely defined. As coronavirus leaves parts of the world more fragile and vulnerable, it also precipitates the need for a reformed multilateral system 'fit for purpose' and able to address the challenges of the future.

# LIFE AT UNIDO BRO

## Meeting with Mr. Oliveira Gomez, Assistant Secretary General, OACPS

**22 October:** Follow up on the meeting between UNIDO DG and OACPS SG on 14 July 2020 and discuss next steps of engagement regarding the OACPS-UNIDO Symposium and Day.



## UNIDO Brussels Focus: the EU Green Deal

**21 & 22 October:** UNIDO Brussels Office organized a presentation on the European Green Deal. Two virtual sessions were organized to connect and discuss new EU trends and policies. With more than 50 participants, the Brussels Focus was a success.



The Program included an introduction by Patrick Gilabert, UR, UNIDO Liaison Office in Brussels and the presentation of the EPR/BRO Report “The European Green Deal: Europe’s new growth strategy” by Belen Casanas, UNIDO Liaison Office in Brussels. On this occasion, the UN Brussels Task Team on Green Deal, and Subgroup on

Sustainable Growth (co-lead by UNIDO and UNEP) was introduced. During the second session, this was done by Janyl Moldalieva, from UNEP Liaison Office in Brussels, who shared her expertise and her expectations for the future of the UN Working Group.

## Internal Training on “Building a Successful Partnership with the EU”



**1, 2 & 6 October:** UNIDO Representative to EU and Head of UNIDO Brussels Office Mr Patrick J. Gilabert was among the facilitators of the “Building a successful partnership with the EU” training, supporting colleagues from HQ and from the field in understanding and cooperating with the EU as a strategic partner, to mobilize and manage EU resources and support the exchange of experience among colleagues already working with the EU.

The overall agenda of the meeting included an overview of the EU-UN/UNIDO as strategic partner, an update on programming cycle and recent trends, a section on management and project implementation. The second part of the training focused on the future cycle and instruments, including MFF and NDICI and UNIDO strategic positioning and engagement.

## World Cotton Day 2020.



**6 October:** Celebration with the Cotton-4 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Chad & Côte d'Ivoire) *'The Cotton Road' programme: A driver of opportunities for women and young people.* UNIDO Brussels facilitated the participation of Ms. Carla Montesi, Director of Planet and Prosperity at the European Commission DG DEVCO. The event counted with the participation of the International Trade Centre, the World Trade Organization, the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP). Among the distinguished participants were H.E. Harouna Kabore, Minister of Trade, Industry and Handicrafts of Burkina Faso, and H.E. Assouman Shadiya Alimatou, Minister of Trade of Benin.

### Farewell to Aaron & Welcome to Fatoumata

**18 September:** UNIDO Brussels Office wants to thank and congratulate Aaron for his great job and his participation to the advancing work of UNIDO Brussels Office with its institutional partners.

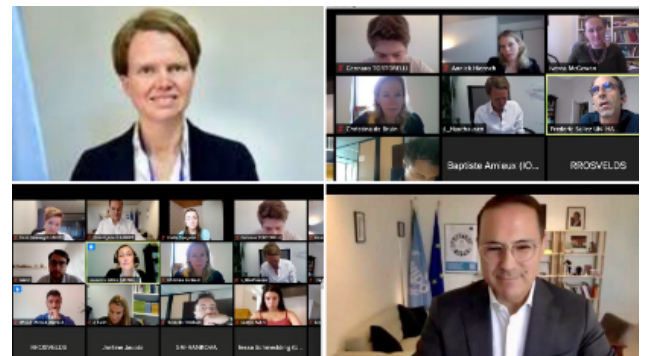
**5 October:** UNIDO Brussels Office is welcoming Fatouma into the team for the beginning of her internship.

## SDG Summit at Reeperbahn Festival Conference Digital



**17 September:** Head of UNIDO Brussels Office Patrick J. Gilabert contributed to the Panel Discussion "Programs and Frameworks: Creating Better Pathways to Engage Music in Development to Support Covid-19 Recovery".

### Launch of UNBT Working Group on Digital Age



**4 September:** UNIDO Brussels Office, together with UNESCO, will facilitate the continuous dialogue between 20 UN Agencies in Brussels, working together towards Digital Transition, sharing expertise and engaging with the European Union.



### Meeting with UNIDO Vietnam



**21 August:** The meeting was held to follow up discussion with Vietnam Mission to EU and prepare UN support in Standards and Quality Infrastructure to rip the benefits of the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement.

### Meeting between UNIDO BRO interns and UNIDO HRM Internship Programme.

**27 July:** The interns farewell meeting welcomed as special guest Ms Lucrezia Pala, HR Consultant, HRM, who shared UNIDO talent acquisition vision. UNIDO Brussels Office thanks the interns for their excellent work and contribution during this challenging time.

### Bilateral Discussion with the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States.



**22 July:** DG LI Yong and SG of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), Georges Rebelo Chikoti, agreed to enhance partnership and strengthen UNIDO's support for the OACPS and Member States in the context of Post-Cotonou agreement.

### Meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Suriname to the European Union.



**15 July:** Head of UNIDO Brussels Office Mr Patrick J. Gilabert met with H.E. Mrs Sieglien Burleson, Ambassador of the Republic of Suriname to the European Union. The outcome of the meeting was a decision to enhance UNIDO's partnership with Suriname in agro-industries, youth employment, renewable energy and quality standards.

### Public Consultations of the European Commission

UNIDO Brussels regularly meets with other UN Agencies in Brussels to discuss and share intelligence on EU actions. In order to position UN priorities at the top of the political agenda of the European institutions, UNIDO Brussels, together with the UN Brussels Team, has submitted participated in three Public Consultations of the European Commission : on new EU strategy on adaptation to climate change; Digital Services as part of the European Digital Strategy; and EU 2030 Climate Target Plan.

# LATEST PUBLICATIONS

## The Green Deal: Europe's new growth strategy towards a climate-neutral EU by 2050 by UNIDO Brussels

The European Green Deal is an integral part of the Commission's strategy to implement the United Nation's 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. It is designed to protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, and protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts. It resets the Commission's commitment to tackle climate and environmental-related challenges, which the world must cope with today and in the future, including global warming, loss of biodiversity, and pollution.

The coronavirus pandemic has caused a temporary drop in worldwide greenhouse gas emissions. Thanks to the lockdowns, a reduction of the travel and the traffic occurred, the production processes were disrupted and people consumed less. As a consequence, some Member States might achieve the climate goal this year, in line with the 2030 climate targets. However, the EU still needs to invest in its long-term future in order to achieve its objective of becoming climate-neutral in 2050.



Source : UNIDO Brussels website

## Food 2030 pathways for action - Research and innovation policy as a driver for sustainable, healthy, and inclusive food systems

For European citizens, food is central to their way of life. Ensuring a sustainable food system is crucial in the European Green Deal. The Green Deal is a new and ambitious political initiative aiming to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where economic growth is decoupled from resource use. It also aims to put Europe firmly on a new path towards sustainability by accelerating the transition needed across all sectors. Horizon Europe, the next EU's research and innovation programme (2021- 2027) will be an essential part of the Green Deal toolkit to tackle climate change, achieve the UN sustainable development goals, and boost the EU's competitiveness. It entails strategic research and innovation (R&I) investments in digital infrastructures, clean energy, circular economy and smart transport systems, which, coupled with the Farm to Fork strategy will help build a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient Europe.

## EU steps up support for Africa's Central Sahel countries

The European Union, Denmark and Germany and the United Nations co-host a virtual Ministerial Roundtable on Africa's Central Sahel region, with the participation of donors and international organisations, as well as the countries concerned: Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The event will discuss longer-term perspectives for countries in the region to overcome the spiral of violence and humanitarian crises they are currently facing. It also aims at mobilising support for the region, especially as coronavirus pandemic increases humanitarian needs.

## AGENDA 2020

International Product Safety Week, 9-12 November, online event

Launch Event of the Pact for Skills, 10 November, online event

Annual Research Conference 2020 - Europe's quest for new models of sustainable growth and convergence, 13 November, online event

European Business Summit, 16-17 November, hybrid format (Egmont Palace in Brussels & online)

Brussels Focus on EU-Asia Partnership, 18 November, online event

Africa Industrialization Day, 20 November

SET Plan conference 2020: Making the SET Plan fit for the EU Green Recovery, 23-24 November, online event

Brussels Focus on EU's Digital and Industrial strategies: 'A Europe Fit for the Digital Age' and the EU's New Industrial Strategy, December, online event

## AGENDA 2021

EU Industry Days , February 2021.

EU Green Week 2021, 31 May – 4 June.

European Development Days 2021, 15-16 June, Brussels.

EU Sustainable Energy Week, 22-26 June.

**You have an idea? A recommendation?  
Anything you wish to share with us?**

Don't hesitate and reach at

Email : [Office.brussels@unido.org](mailto:Office.brussels@unido.org)

Tel: +32 2 5111 690

Website: [UNIDO Website](#)





## UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Telephone: (+32-2) 511-1690



Address: 37-40 boulevard du  
Régent, 1000 Brussels, BELGIUM



Twitter: @UNIDO\_Brussels  
@ONUDI\_Bruxelles

**Editors :** Patrick Gilabert, Alice Lucatello, Sophie Aubry, Fatoumata Cisse, Gennaro Tortorelli.

### **Disclaimer**

This newsletter was prepared without formal United Nations editing. The opinions, designations and material presentations do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNIDO Brussels office concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries. Designations such as “developed”, “industrialized” and “developing” are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. Mention of firm names or commercial products do not constitute an endorsement by UNIDO Brussels Office. Although great care has been taken to maintain the accuracy of information herein, UNIDO Brussels Office does not assume any responsibility for consequences which may arise from the use of the material.