

Issue 5: December 2019

(October—December 2019)



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

UNIDO Brussels Office

Newsletter





Table of contents

The Brussels Office is responsible for enhancing UNIDO’s policy dialogue and cooperation with the **European Union Institutions (European Parliament, European Commission, European Council)** and other actors, including the **European Investment Bank**, the **ACP Group of States**, as well as with other development partners represented in Brussels, including Permanent Representations of Member States, international organizations, civil society (think tank, universities) and the private sector, plus the International Organization of Francophonie (**OIF**).

Edition 5: October-December 2019

See online version at [intranet/NewsletterBRO](#)

Editors

Natasha Zivkovic
Flora Demaegdt

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.

Photos: Shutterstock.com/ UNIDO Brussels Office

Highlights.....3

LIFE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION & PARTNERS

European Parliament4
European Commission.....5
Council of the European Union.....5
ACP Secretariat.....6



ECHOES FROM THINK TANKS

Jacques Delors Institute.....7
Friends of Europe.....7
ECDPM.....7

LIFE OF UNIDO BRUSSELS OFFICE

Retrospective October—December 2019.....8
Upcoming events.....12

UNIDO and the European Union State of the International Partnership 2020 Report

« UNIDO and the European Union cooperation builds on a solid long-term basis and has the potential to fully harness industrial development across the world. »

LI Young, Director General of UNIDO

« The EU and UNIDO share the vision that poverty eradication can only be achieved through strong, inclusive, sustainable and resilient economic and industrial growth. »

Stephan Klement, Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the EU to the International Organisations in Vienna

UNIDO Brussels Office recently produced a new flagship publication « UNIDO and the European Union SOTIP 2020 » that provides the state of the international partnerships between our two organizations !

The international community, including the European Union and the United Nations, is subject to changing global power dynamics. In this evolving environment, the EU has had a remarkably stable presence alongside UNIDO and has increasingly shaped a **unique cooperation portfolio** to support the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Overall, the **European Union is UNIDO's largest donor of voluntary contribution from governmental sources**, with a contribution to TC programmes of 16.9% in 2018 and 20.1% in 2019. In return, UNIDO is among the top 10 recipient organizations of UNDS support from the EU.

This biannual publication aims to document the continuous expansion of UNIDO-EU cooperation in **various thematic areas** such as private sector development, productive and trade capacity building, environment and sustainable energy, agribusiness and investments, productive youth employment, as well as research and innovation.

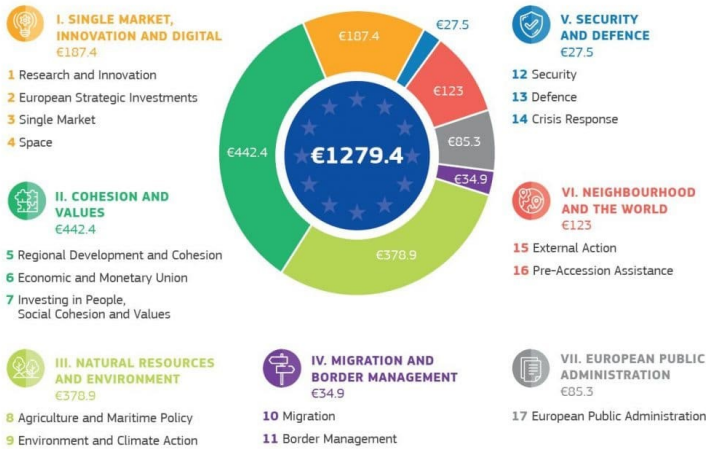
Light is shed on **UNIDO's main EU partners**, including the European Commission, European Parliament, Council of the EU, European External Action Service (EEAS), European Investment Bank, but also the ACP Secretariat, private sector, civil society and academia. It recognizes that cooperation on the ground requires strategic dialogues established between UNIDO and the European Institutions for a better alignment between the ground and the policy levels.

Details information on all **joint initiatives and projects** is also presented in a transparent and documented manner, following UNIDO's distinction between projects that aim at "creating shared prosperity", "advancing economic competitiveness", or "safeguarding the environment". The **successful achievements** presented in this report call for replication and scaling-up so that many other people can also benefit from UNIDO-EU action-oriented alliance in their everyday life and enjoy more prosperity and sustainability.



We wish you a pleasant [reading!](#)

Increased budget for EU external action in MFF 2021-2027



On 10 October 2019, the European Parliament adopted the resolution on the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework* and own resources: time to meet citizens' expectations ([2019/2833\(RSP\)](#)). This confirmed its negotiating mandate on the MFF figures, EU own resources, flexibility provisions, mid-term revision and horizontal principles, such as the **mainstreaming of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, climate and gender equality across all policies and initiatives** in the next MFF, as well as specific amendments to the proposed MFF Regulation and Interinstitutional Agreement. The EP now demands the launch of negotiations with the Council, without any further delay. Key takeaways:

* MFF sets the budget of the EU for the period 2021 – 2027 and determines how it will be allocated to its various programmes .

- ⇒ **increase of EU external action budget** by 30% from €94.5 billion to **€123 billion** for the period **2021-2027**. (with €89.2 billion for the Neighbourhood, Development, and international Cooperation Instrument)
- ⇒ Africa is and will remain one of the main priorities of the Union. Proposed allocation for dedicated funds to Africa are at least **€40 billion**.

ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly 38th session— Kigali (Rwanda)

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly was created out of a common desire to bring together the **elected representatives of the European Community - the Members of the European Parliament - and the elected representatives of the 78 African, Caribbean and Pacific states** that have signed the Cotonou Agreement. It recognizes itself as “the only international assembly in which the representatives of various countries sit together regularly with the aim of promoting the interdependence of North and South.”

17-21 November: At the 38th Session, a special focus was put on **climate change and food security, migration, sustainable growth and the post-Cotonou ACP-EU agreement**. The ACP-EU Assembly stressed the need to create jobs, and reasserted its support to the European Parliament’s proposal to increase the share of EU external action funding dedicated to climate action.

As a result of this dialogue, the **Assembly adopted a resolution on Sustainable industrialisation and digitalisation in ACP countries**. This responds to a call to “urgently implement strategies and policies and develop institutions for inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and digitalisation, so as to increase their integration in to the digital world economy through the production of goods and access to digital technologies for all, in particular for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)”.



The college of commissioners finally approved

For representation and democratic purposes, the new 27 commissioners can only take office in the European Commission once it has been given legitimacy by the European Parliament. After the series of **public hearings**, through which MEPs have tested the suitability of each commissioner-designate, MEPs finally confirmed the new von der Leyen Commission in Strasbourg on Wednesday the 27th of November, with **461 votes in favor, 157 against and 89 abstentions** (compared to 23 votes in favour, with 209 against and 67 abstention for the previous Juncker Commission).

Time to get to work for a greener EU !

The full college of commissioners started its five-years term on the 1st of December. **Female representation** in the Commission is the highest it has ever been: in addition to the President-elect, the current composition of the Commission comprises 11 female members and 15 male members.

Among the European Commission priorities, the **“Green Deal”** is expected to be a centrepiece of President-elect presidency. This ambitious package is conceived as a reallocation mechanism, fostering investment shifts and labour substitution in key economic sectors, while supporting the most vulnerable segments of society throughout the decarbonisation process. The deal’s four pillars would be **carbon pricing, sustainable investment, industrial policy and a just transition.**



**THE GREEN
NEW DEAL
FOR EUROPE**

« *The European Green Deal is our new growth strategy.* »

Extracts from the President-elect von der Leyen ‘s [Speech in the European Parliament Plenary on 27 November 2019](#))

“If there is one area where the world needs our leadership, it is on protecting our climate. This is an existential issue for Europe – and for the world.

The European Green Deal is a must for the health of our planet and our people – and for our economy.

The European Green Deal is our new growth strategy. It will help us cut emissions while creating jobs.

At the core of it will be an industrial strategy that enables our businesses – big and small – to innovate and to develop new technologies while creating new markets. We will be global standard setters. This is our competitive advantage. And it is the best way to ensure a level-playing field.

*It is a generational transition towards climate neutrality by mid-century. **But this transition must be just and inclusive – or it will not happen at all.***

We must show our partners at the United Nations that they can rely on us, as a champion of multilateralism.

Because we know: Climate change is about all of us. We have the duty to act and the power to lead.”

Charles Michel at COP25

At COP25 in Madrid, the incoming European Council President Charles Michel expressed his dedication to make Europe become “the champion of the green transition”. With the ambitious amount proposed by the European Investment Bank to support the private sector with strategic sustainable investments with one trillion euros, half of the EIB's financing will eventually be dedicated to climate action and environmental sustainability by 2025. He also acknowledged the **EU commitment to support partners around the world.** In 2018 alone, he said, “the EU and its member states contributed 74.4 billion euros to development assistance with 21 billion for climate objectives”. To the question “What do we need to do?”, he called for a joint approach focused on **sustainable and affordable energy, energy efficiency, and circular economy**, three domains at the heart of UNIDO’s mandate.



This means that UNIDO can be confident in the way activities **fit with the priorities** of the Council of the European Union. More than ever, it seems to be a strategic timing for UNIDO to reach out to EU institutions and share its expertise in the transition towards inclusive and sustainable green growth.

9th Summit of ACP Heads of States and Governments in Nairobi



ACP Heads of States, representatives and delegations. Nairobi, Dec 2019

On 6-10 December 2019 in Nairobi – Kenya, Heads of State of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States met to consider the key developmental challenges faced by the six ACP regions. The 9th ACP Summit of Heads of State and Government, themed **“A Transformed ACP Committed to Multilateralism”** charted a course for greater sustainability and economic self-sufficiency. Organized every three years, it provides ACP leaders from the 79-Member States an opportunity to review major developments of interest and concern on the international scene in general, and in ACP States in particular.

In its opening remarks, ACP Secretary General **officially thanked the UN, including namely UNIDO**, for the continued support. UNIDO participation was greatly appreciated by ACP Secretariat and Member States and was invited to be part of the official pictures, alongside Heads of States.

The Summit was a great opportunity for UNIDO to **engage with strategic partners**, among which the African Union Ambassador to the EU, the Assistant to SG of ACP, and several representatives from the African private sector.



Most importantly, together with FAO DDG, UNIDO Representative met with **newly-elected EU Commissioner responsible for International Partnerships, H.E. Ms. Jutta Urpilainen**. She valued UNIDO-FAO commitment to work as One UN.



At the outset of the Summit, the new ACP Secretary General, H.E. Georges Rebelo Chikoti of Angola was elected and the Nairobi Nguvu Ya Pamoja Declaration *“A transformed ACP Committed to Multilateralism”* was adopted, making **reference to UNIDO’s mandate** in

several chapters, namely on improved commitments regarding: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change, Intra ACP Cooperation (socio-eco), Economic Development (para 49 importance of structural economic transformation and industrialization, 51 digital eco., 53 commits to joint actions with our partners at the international level), trade matters, and Development Finance.

Alongside the Heads of State Summit, the **ACP Business Summit** was also taking place. At the *ACP Business Village*, UNIDO delivered the closing remarks at the technical session 3 co-organised with **ITC**, on *“Inclusive Production and Commercial Alliances for Agriculture Value Chain Development in ACP Countries”*.



UNIDO was also given a large **stand at the Investment Village**, a crossroad to offer ACP stakeholders a space to network, share knowledge, best practices, innovative solutions and results.



Greening the European Union's trade policy



This note is the second in a series of publications that the Jacques Delors Institute has undertaken with the support of the European Climate Foundation in order to explore the inevitable changes in EU trade policy following the European elections last May. Inevitably, trade policy in the upcoming years and beyond will have to find its place in Europe's new "green deal". This note seeks to better describe the theses put forward by various schools of economics on the effects, more or less positive or negative, of the opening up of trade on the environment, mainly from a climate mitigation point of view. It concludes that the preservation of natural resources, as well as the fight against inequalities will require a real paradigm shift and far-reaching reforms aimed at our modes of production and consumption. Trade must accompany, facilitate and accelerate this change.

Read the paper [here](#) (November 2019)

"Time is running out"



"Time is running out," the conference's moderator, Friends of Europe Director of Insights Dharmendra Kanani, told the 7 November Brussels meeting, calling on Europe to "up its game". The window of opportunity to act to prevent the most damaging effects of climate change is fast disappearing, panellists agreed at the **2019 'Europe's Climate and Energy Summit'** hosted by Friends of Europe. The urgency of the climate crisis is impossible to brush off given this year's extreme weather events and the protests of thousands of students across Europe. This high-level event gathered energy and climate experts from all sectors, and initiated discussions on ambition, transition and money concerns related to the energy and climate challenges Europe is facing.

Read [Event Report](#) (November 2019)

Boosting EU climate finance:

Mitigate more without neglecting adaptation in poorer countries



Although global climate financing has increased by 60% over the period 2013-2018, this is not enough. Besides, more resources should be dedicated to climate adaptation, which has been neglected, in particular by European finance institutions. Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), including EIB and EBRD, allocated only 30% of their 2018 climate financing to adaptation. EBRD and EIB allocated as low as 11.8% and 7.6% respectively to adaptation in developing countries. The consequences of climate change, including droughts, floods, plummeting biodiversity and the loss of human lives, are undermining low-income and fragile countries' development prospects. This brief acknowledges that EU efforts to boost its climate action and finance should encompass not only the vital mitigation endeavour, but also greater attention to climate adaptation, as a means to foster climate justice and to achieve the SDGs also in low-income countries, and in Africa in particular.

Read the [briefing note](#) (December 2019)

HIGHLIGHT EVENT

- **Multilateralism at Work | EU - UNIDO Cooperation Panel discussion in Vienna**



14 November: In the framework of the “EU-UN 40 Years TOGETHER in Vienna | Multilateralism at Work” campaign, the EU Delegation in Vienna organised an evening with UNIDO, showcasing the impact of our partnership. The EU Head of Delegation, Ambassador Stephan Klement, delivered remarks about the EU’s role as a defender of multilateralism and UNIDO Deputy Director General, Hiroshi Kuniyoshi, elaborated on the EU-UNIDO partnership specifically. With the aim to make this work more tangible, the ambassadors of Ethiopia, Jordan and Sri Lanka presented EU-funded UNIDO projects that are being implemented in their countries. These concrete examples of successful multilateralism gave incentives for a lively debate with the audience of more than 150 people, including students, diplomats and UN representatives.

A summary of the event is available on [youtube](#).



UNIDO BRO for ONE UN

- **Reaching out to the Youth with the #Back2School Campaign**

16 October: We had the pleasure to participate in the public outreach initiative #Back2School organized by the UN Team in Belgium, together with the Belgian UN Associations. We gave a presentation on the work of the UN, with a special focus on climate action, to more than 300 committed high school students from the British School of Brussels .



- **UNIDO at UN day celebrations Flanders**

21 October: The Brussels Office held an information and promotional stand together with other UN agencies at the UN Day celebrations on the 21st of October at the Flemish Parliament. With more than 250 participants, this UN Day wanted to highlight the Flemish and Belgian expertise in the UN, and celebrate the 74th anniversary of the United Nations and the start of UN week.



- **Participation to UNWorking Group on MEPs**

In order to elaborate a joint strategy as “one UN”, most UN agencies represented in Brussels meet on a regular basis to share outcomes, views, and intentions regarding their engagement with the European Parliament. UNIDO also takes part in this UN Working Group for more synergies and efficiency in the dialogue with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs).

POLICY DIALOGUES & DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS

- **Engagement with Members of the European Parliament**

UNIDO BRO has been meeting with several Members of the European Parliament over the past 3 months, namely among others with Alicia Homs (Spain), Lina Galvez Munoz (Spain), Lukas Mandl (German), Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou (Greece), Marc Tarabella (Belgium), Louis Stedman-Bryce (UK), Helmut Scholz (Germany), Christophe Grudler (France). This strategic engagement aims at presenting UNIDO's mandate to democratically elected high-officials from all political boards and all nationalities, advocating for more inclusivity and sustainability in EU industrial policies, and increasing BRO's visibility across EU Institutions.



- **UNIDO at Mission Innovation 2020 Workshop, Brussels**

18 November: UNIDO was selected and invited, together with 30 other senior experts on energy, to contribute to the development of compelling visions for a potential second phase of Mission Innovation beyond 2020. The focus of this participatory discussion was on how to further enhance the mission *'to reinvigorate and accelerate public and private global clean energy innovation with the objective to make clean energy widely affordable.'*



- **Discussion with URs/UCRs on EU's international development cooperation priorities in East Europe, Balkan and MENA region and in Africa**

18 November: Patrick presented via video-conference the latest EU's international development cooperation priorities in East Europe, Balkan and MENA region at the UNIDO Field Representatives Workshop Arab and Europe & Central Asia Regional Divisions that took place in Cairo.

11 December: Patrick also took part in the *Regional Workshop Africa Division* for all UNIDO field representatives in the region, and delivered a comprehensive presentation of current EU-AFRICA Partnership and EU cooperation with UNIDO focusing on: (1) EU - UNIDO / EU-UN current partnerships ; (2) The new European Union 2019 – 2024 and Africa ; (3) Multi-annual Financial Framework : from 2014-2020 to 2021-2027. Positive signs from the incoming von der Leyen Commission was highlighted in the concluding remarks, such as the rhetoric focusing on 'partnerships with' rather than programmes 'for' and the emphasis on Africa being an "even greater priority" for the EU.

- **Visits from HQ**

19-21 November: Tally Einav, Executive Officer at the Office of the MD and Deputy to the DG, visited us in Brussels. Her 3 days mission consisted of engaging with key strategic EU partners from the Commission, meeting colleagues from other UN agencies, and attending the high-level conference “G-STIC”.

- **UNIDO – UNEP – European Commission policy dialogue on CTCN**

21 November: UNIDO together with UNEP co-hosted a meeting with the European Commission at the UN House to discuss further advancement on the Climate Technology Center Network (CTCN) initiative. This dialogue gathered the CTCN Director, representatives of UNEP Economic Division and UNIDO Energy Department, program officers, and officials from DG CLIMA and DG DEV CO. Key facts on the state of play, trends, opportunities and outcomes of the CTCN initiative were first mentioned. Then, the discussion revolved around the priorities of the European Commission (EC) climate agenda, and the potential synergies between the two UN agencies and the European institution.



The EC congratulated CTCN’s great work but also highlighted some of shared challenges including impact demonstration, resource mobilization, and visibility concerns. Among their recommendations to move forward, EC officials mentioned the necessary engagement with the private sector to leverage blended finance, a stronger geographical focus, a concern for job creation, and early coordination at all levels for better alignment .

- **Global Science, Technology and Innovation Conference (G-STIC) in Brussels**

20-22 November: The third edition of the Global Science, Technology and Innovation Conference brought together relevant stakeholders from the areas of Science, Technology and Innovation to discuss ways in which accelerating the transition to a wide-scale deployment of market-ready integrated technological solutions can impact Agenda 2030. Colleagues from Vienna (Tareq Emtairah, Nurzat Myrsalieva, Bettina Schreck, and Tally Einav) joined us on this occasion.



- **EU Ambassador in Vienna presents his credentials to UNIDO DG**

3 October: EU Ambassador in Vienna Stephan Klement presents his credentials to UNIDO DG Li Yong. He reconfirms EU commitment to further strengthen cooperation with UNIDO and stresses its importance for an effective rule-based multilateralism with UN at its core.

PARTICIPATION TO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SUMMITS

- **@ GC18 Abu Dhabi “Industry 2030 – Innovate. Connect. Transform our Future.”**

3-7 November: At the 18th session of the General Conference of UNIDO in Abu Dhabi, UR held meetings with GC18 participants, including UNIDO Member States, private sector actors, and most importantly, representatives of the EU, both from the EUD in Abu Dhabi and from Vienna. UR highlighted that UNIDO TC programmes was of 34,6 M\$ (16,9%) in 2018 and 19,7 M\$ (20,1%) in 2019, indicating that the European Union is UNIDO’s strategic partner and largest donor of voluntary contribution from governmental sources. The photos below show, respectively, the CP signature for Madagascar with the President of Madagascar and UNIDO DG / the minister of Abu Dhabi and UNIDO DG / the EU Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.



- **@ Rencontres d’Affaires Francophones in Paris**



28 November: UNIDO was invited to lead a technical workshop for business leaders and country delegations on international resource mobilization and partnership with the United Nations System at the “Rencontres d’Affaires Francophones” in Paris, the largest multi-sector Francophone business meeting organized in France. UNIDO’s visibility was enhanced, through bilateral meetings with French private sector and media as well as strengthened partnership with well known institutions like OIF, ADEME, la Maison de l’Afrique, CIAN, French Chamber of Commerce, private sector AirFrance, IBM, Techso, Desjardins, and French media la Tribune, le MOCI, TV5Monde, le club de la presse.

ADEME, la Maison de l’Afrique, CIAN, French Chamber of Commerce, private sector AirFrance, IBM, Techso, Desjardins, and French media la Tribune, le MOCI, TV5Monde, le club de la presse.

- **AU Ambassador to the EU attended AID 2019 in Vienna**

20 November: Ambassador AWAD Sakine Ahmat, Permanent Representative of the African Union to the EU, insisted to travel from Brussels to attend UNIDO’s Africa Industrialization Day 2019. It was an honour to have him as a keynote speaker and panellist for this celebration on “Positioning African Industry to Supply the AfCFTA Market”.



- **EU-Africa Business Summit in Marrakech**

30 Novembre: UNIDO Managing Director Philippe Scholtes participated in a panel discussion on “Innovative EU-Africa public-private development partnerships” at the EU-Africa Business Summit, a yearly event meant to extend the longstanding EU Business Summit to include Africa and partnerships involving European and African firms. Through the testimonies of both Government and Industry, the panel showed how a careful alignment of commercial goals and development objectives can leverage substantial resources towards the Agenda 2030. At a second panel organized by the Environment Directorate of the EU Commission on “The Circular Economy and Green Industries in Africa”, UNIDO was able to give an overview of the organization’s experience related to the circular economy, while presenting concrete examples of its interventions as well as its work with relevant networks (RECPnet, PAGE...).





Agenda 2020

EU INDUSTRY DAY February, Brussels, https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/business-and-industry/eu-industry-days_en

GMIS 2020, 20-21 April, Hannover <https://www.gmisummit.com/register-for-gmis-2020/>

UN STI Forum, 12-13 May, New York <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/TFM/>

EU GREEN WEEK 2020, 01-05 June, Brussels https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/eu-green-week-2020_en

AFRICA – FRANCE SUMMIT, 04-06 June, Bordeaux <https://sommetafriquefrance2020.org/en/>

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS, 09-10 June, Brussels <https://eudevdays.eu/#firstPage>

EUROPEAN BUSINESS SUMMIT, 10-11 June, Brussels <http://ebsummit.eu>

EU SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK, 22-26 June, Brussels <https://eusew.eu>

BRIDGE FOR CITIES, October, Vienna

UNIDO – G-STIC 2020, November, Brussels <https://www.gstic.org/>

Africa Union (AU) – UNIDO AID, November, Brussels

Thanks for reading!

We wish you a joyful festive season and
a happy new year!



Telephone: (+32-2) 511-1690



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



Twitter: [@UNIDO_Brussels](https://twitter.com/UNIDO_Brussels)

If you wish to receive more information about this newsletter please contact Mr. Patrick Gilabert: p.gilabert@unido.org