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**Agricultural and food supply chain - unfair trade practices in business-to-business relationships**

**SYNTHESIS OF THE DOCUMENT:**

[Directive (EU) 2019/633 on unfair commercial practices in business-to-business relations within the agricultural and food supply chain](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32019L0633)

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DIRECTIVE?**

* It establishes a minimum list of **prohibited unfair trade practices** in buyer-supplier relationships in the agricultural and food supply chain, and sets out minimum rules for the enforcement of these prohibitions.
* It is intended to prevent large companies from exploiting small and medium-sized suppliers because of their weaker bargaining power, and to prevent the cost of these practices from falling on primary producers.

**KEY POINTS**

These rules protect small and medium-sized suppliers as well as larger suppliers with an annual turnover not exceeding 350 million euros. Protection is based on the relative size of the supplier and the buyer in terms of annual turnover. These suppliers are divided into 5 turnover sub-categories:

* up to 2 million euros;
* between 2 and 10 million euros;
* between 10 and 50 million euros;
* between 50 and 150 million euros; and
* between 150 and 350 million euros.

**Prohibition of unfair trade practices**

The Directive prohibits the following **unfair commercial practices** in all circumstances:

* [payment](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:mi0074) beyond 30 days, for agricultural and perishable food products;
* payment beyond 60 days for other agricultural and food products;
* short-term cancellations for perishable agricultural and food products;
* unilateral changes to the terms of a supply agreement by the buyer;
* payments required by the buyer that are not related to the sale of agricultural and food products;
* payments required by the purchaser for deterioration or loss of agricultural and food products when such deterioration or loss is not due to the negligence or fault of the supplier;
* the refusal of the purchaser to confirm a supply agreement in writing, despite the supplier's request;
* the unlawful use by the buyer of the supplier's business secrets;
* commercial retaliation actions by the buyer against the supplier if the supplier exercises its contractual or legal rights;
* compensation for the cost of investigating customer complaints related to the sale of the supplier's products despite the absence of negligence or fault on the part of the supplier.

The Directive prohibits the following **unfair commercial practices**, unless they have been previously **agreed upon** by the supplier and the buyer in clear and unambiguous terms

* the return by the buyer of unsold agricultural and food products to the supplier without paying for such unsold products or without paying for the disposal of such products, or both;
* the obligation of the supplier to make a payment for its agricultural and food products to be stored, displayed, referenced or made available in the marketplace;
* the request by the buyer to the supplier to bear the costs of any discounts on agricultural and food products that are sold by the buyer in the context of promotional actions;
* a request by the buyer to the supplier to pay for advertising or marketing by the buyer for agricultural and food products;
* the invoicing of the supplier by the purchaser for the personnel responsible for fitting out the premises used for the sale of the supplier's products.

**Complaints and confidentiality**

European Union (EU) countries designate **national enforcement authorities**. Suppliers can submit complaints to the enforcement authority in their own country or in the country of the buyer suspected of engaging in an illegal business practice.

Following a request, the enforcement authority shall take the necessary steps to ensure adequate protection of the complainant's identity and any other information whose disclosure would be detrimental to the interests of the complainant or providers.

**Power of enforcement authorities**

Enforcement authorities must have sufficient authority and expertise to:

* open and conduct investigations;
* Demand information from buyers and suppliers;
* conduct unannounced on-site inspections;
* order, if necessary, that a prohibited practice cease;
* impose fines and other equally effective sanctions and take interim measures against the offender;
* publish decisions.

EU countries can promote the voluntary use of effective and independent alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

EU countries shall ensure that enforcement authorities cooperate effectively with each other and with the Commission and assist each other in investigations with a cross-border dimension.

The [European Commission](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/european_commission.html) is assisted by the [Committee for the Common Organisation of Agricultural Markets](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/committees/cmo_fr) established by Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 (see overview [The Common Organisation of Agricultural Markets in the EU](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:0302_1)).

**SINCE WHEN DOES THIS DIRECTIVE APPLY?**

It must be incorporated into the national law of EU countries by May 1, 2021. The EU countries must apply the measures from November 1, 2021.

**BACKGROUND**

See also:

* [The Directive on Unfair Commercial Practices in the Agriculture and Food Supply Chain](http://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/brochure-utp-directive_en.pdf) (*European Commission*).

**MAIN DOCUMENT**

Directive (EU) [2019/633](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32019L0633) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on unfair commercial practices in business-to-business relations in the agricultural and food supply chain (OJ L 111, 25.4.2019, p. 59-72)

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Directive (EU) [2016/943](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32016L0943) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on the protection of undisclosed know-how and business information (trade secrets) against unlawful obtaining, use and disclosure (OJ L 157, 15.6.2016, p. 1-18)

Regulation (EU) No [1308/2013](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32013R1308) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organization of agricultural markets and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, pp. 671-854)

Successive amendments to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 have been incorporated into the original document. This [consolidated version](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:02013R1308-20190101) has only a documentary value.

Directive [2011/7/EU](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32011L0007) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 on combating late payment in commercial transactions (OJ L 48, 23.2.2011, p. 1-10)

Please see the [consolidated version](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:02011L0007-20110315).

last modification 29.08.2019

**Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMS)**

**SYNTHESIS OF THE DOCUMENT:**

[Directive 2010/13/EU on audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32010L0013)

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DIRECTIVE?**

It aims to create a single market for audiovisual media services\* in the European Union (EU) and to ensure its proper functioning, while contributing to the promotion of cultural diversity and ensuring an adequate level of protection for consumers and children.

**KEY POINTS**

The European Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMS Directive) governs the EU-wide coordination of national laws covering all audiovisual media, from traditional television broadcasts to on-demand audiovisual media services\*.

Directive (EU) [2018/1808](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32018L1808) amends and updates the AVMS Directive, as part of the Digital Single Market Strategy, to:

* extend certain audiovisual rules to video sharing platforms and to audiovisual content shared on certain social media services;
* Ease restrictions on television;
* strengthen the promotion of European content;
* protect children and combat hate speech more effectively;
* strengthen the independence of national regulatory authorities.

EU countries must guarantee **freedom of reception** and are required not to hinder transmissions of audiovisual media from other EU countries. Stricter rules than those laid down in this Directive may be applied by countries in certain circumstances and according to specific procedures. National authorities should encourage co-regulation and self-regulation through **national codes of conduct**.

**Advertising**

Audiovisual advertising must be easily recognizable as such and must not

* use subliminal techniques;
* undermine human dignity;
* involve or promote discrimination of any kind;
* encourage behavior that is detrimental to health or safety;
* encourage behavior that is seriously detrimental to the protection of the environment.

Audiovisual advertising is prohibited:

* promoting cigarettes and other tobacco products, as well as electronic cigarettes and refill bottles;
* promoting alcoholic beverages and expressly addressed to minors, or encouraging immoderate consumption of such beverages, among a series of restrictions;
* promoting prescription drugs or medical treatments;
* exploiting the inexperience of minors, their credulity, or the special trust they have in adults, or presenting minors in dangerous situations without reason.

Sponsorship and product placement are also covered by additional requirements. In addition, broadcasters have more flexibility in terms of advertising time, with a new 20% limit for the period between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. and between 6 p.m. and midnight.

**Protection of children**

EU countries must take appropriate measures to ensure that programs that are likely to be "harmful to the physical, mental or moral development of minors" are only made available in such a way that minors cannot normally hear or see them, including through the choice of time of broadcast, the use of age verification tools or other technical measures proportionate to the harm that the program might cause. The most harmful content, such as pornography and gratuitous violence, is subject to the strictest measures.

Minors also benefit from a higher level of protection online: video-sharing platforms must put measures in place to protect them from harmful content.

Product placement is also prohibited in children's programming. Regarding advertising to children that inappropriately promotes foods and beverages high in fat, salt and sugar, EU countries should encourage the use of self-regulation and co-regulation through codes of conduct.

**Hate speech**

Audiovisual media services shall not contain any incitement to violence or hatred directed against a group of persons or a member of a group on grounds of discrimination such as sex, race, color, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age, sexual orientation or nationality, in accordance with [Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU](http://fra.europa.eu/fr/charterpedia/article/21-non-discrimination).

Any public provocation to commit a [terrorist offence](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:4322328) is also prohibited.

**Accessibility**

Providers are expected to work toward continuous and incremental improvement in the accessibility of their services for people with disabilities and are encouraged to develop action plans to achieve this.

EU countries should designate an online contact point to provide information and receive complaints regarding any accessibility issues. Emergency information made available to the public through audiovisual media services, particularly in situations of natural disasters, should be provided in a manner that is accessible to persons with disabilities.

**Video sharing**

Service providers of video-sharing platforms\* must put in place appropriate measures to protect minors from content likely to affect their physical, mental or moral development and the general public from incitement to violence or hatred, or public provocation to commit a terrorist offence.

These measures include, but are not limited to:

* mechanisms for users to report non-compliant content and effective procedures for handling user complaints;
* effective media literacy measures and tools, and the development of user awareness of these measures and tools.

With respect to restrictions on advertising and other content, video-sharing platform service providers have the same obligations as audiovisual service providers, due to the limited control they can exercise over the advertising on their platforms, which they are not responsible for promoting, selling or organizing.

**Promotion of European and independent works**

On-demand audiovisual media service providers must ensure that their catalogs contain a minimum of 30% European works and that they are sufficiently promoted.

**SINCE WHEN DOES THIS DIRECTIVE APPLY?**

The original AVMS Directive has applied since May 5, 2010. The amendments introduced by Directive (EU) 2018/1808 have applied since December 18, 2018 and must become law in EU countries by September 19, 2020.

**BACKGROUND**

For more information, see:

* [Audiovisual Media Services](http://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/audiovisual-media-services-directive-avmsd) (AVMS) [Directive](http://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/audiovisual-media-services-directive-avmsd) (*European Commission*)
* [Digital Single Market](http://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/digital-single-market_fr) (*European Commission*).

**KEY TERMS**

**Audiovisual media service:** service providing to the general public, under the editorial responsibility of a media service provider, programs intended to inform, entertain or educate, by means of electronic communications networks, either on demand or by broadcasting.

On-demand **audiovisual media service:** an audiovisual media service provided by a media service provider for the viewing of programs at a time of the user's choosing and upon individual request on the basis of a catalog of programs selected by the media service provider.

**Video Sharing Platform Service means** a service offering user-generated programs and/or videos to the general public, which are not under the editorial responsibility of the Video Sharing Platform Provider, for the purpose of informing, entertaining or educating, via electronic communication networks and the organization of which is determined by the Video Sharing Platform Provider, including through automatic means or algorithms, in particular display, tagging and sequencing.

**MAIN DOCUMENT**

Directive [2010/13/EU](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32010L0013) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive) (OJ L 95, 15.4.2010, p. 1-24)

The successive modifications of the directive 2010/13/EC have been integrated into the original document. This [consolidated version](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:02010L0013-20181218) has only a documentary value.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Directive (EU) [2017/541](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32017L0541) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on combating terrorism and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA and amending Council Decision 2005/671/JHA (OJ L 88, 31.3.2017, p. 6-21)

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled "Europe's Digital Single Market Strategy" ([COM(2015) 192finalof](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52015DC0192) 6.5.2015)

[Charter of Fundamental Rights](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12012P/TXT) of the European Union (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 391-407)

Directive [2002/21/EC](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32002L0021) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 March 2002 on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services (Framework Directive) (OJ L 108, 24.4.2002, p. 33-50)

Please see the [consolidated version](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:02002L0021-20091219).

latest **changeEU countries' contributions to the EU budget**

The European Union (EU) has adopted rules on the modalities and procedure to be followed by EU countries for their contributions to the EU [budget](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/budget.html), which constitute the [EU's own resources](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/community_own_resources.html).

**ACT**

Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No [609/2014](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32014R0609) of 26 May 2014 on the arrangements and procedure for making available traditional own resources, the VAT-based own resource and the GNI-based own resource and on measures to deal with cash flow requirements

**SYNTHESIS**

The European Union (EU) has adopted rules on the modalities and procedure to be followed by EU countries for their contributions to the EU [budget](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/budget.html), which constitute the [EU's own resources](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/community_own_resources.html).

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS BY-LAW?**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| - — | It defines the rules setting out the modalities and procedures that EU countries follow to make available to the European Commission the EU's own resources. Own resources are **the main part of the revenue that finances the EU budget and include**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | - — | duties imposed on imports from third countries and taxes on sugar production within the EU; |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | - — | revenue from a share of the [value added tax](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:l31057) (VAT) collected by EU countries; |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | - — | the revenues derived from the gross national income\* (GNI) of each EU country. | |

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| - — | It also defines measures to meet cash flow requirements, if any. |

**KEY POINTS**

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| - — | The own resources must be made available to the European Commission to make the necessary payments as agreed in the budget. |

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| - — | EU countries must keep books of account and documentation relating to the own resources they collect and must be able to present them to the Commission at any time. |

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| - — | Each EU country must credit the own resources to the account opened for this purpose in the name of the Commission with its Treasury or the body it has designated. |

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| - — | EU countries must keep separate accounts for uncollected duties. They must provide information on these accounts and submit quarterly statements to the Commission. In doing so, the Commission is able to monitor the action of EU countries in the recovery of these own resources, including those implicated by fraud and irregularities. |

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| - — | In order to guarantee in all cases the financing of the Union's budget, the EU countries will make available to the EU, in the form of constant monthly twelfths, the own resources provided for in the budget. They will be able to adjust the amounts thus made available according to the real VAT-based own resource base and the relevant changes in GNI as soon as these are fully known. |

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| - — | The impact of changes in GNI data after the end of each fiscal year on the funding of gross reductions (reductions in certain EU country GNI-based contributions) should be clarified. |

**WHEN DOES THIS REGULATION APPLY?**

As of January 1, 2014.

**BACKGROUND**

Regulation (EU, Euratom) No [609/2014](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32014R0609) is one of the three legal acts making up the so-called "own resources" package associated with the EU's [multiannual financial framework](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/multiannual_financial_framework.html) - the Union's budget for the period 2014-2020. The other two acts in this package are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - — | Council Decision [2014/335/EU, Euratom](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:0601_3) of 26 May 2014 on the system of the European Union's own resources |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - — | Council [Regulation (EU, Euratom)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:0601_4) [No 608/2014](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:0601_4) [608/2014](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:0601_4)of 26 May 2014 laying down implementing measures for the European Union's system of own resources. |

For more information, please [visit the European Commission's website on EU own resources](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/resources/index_fr.cfm).

**KEY TERMS**

**Gross National Income (GNI):** the sum of the incomes of the residents of an economy during a given period.

**REFERENCES**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Act** | **Entry into force** | **Application date** | **Deadline for transposition in the Member States** | **Official Journal** |
| Regulation (EU, Euratom) No [609/2014](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32014R0609) | With Council Decision [2014/335/EU, Euratom](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32014D0335) | 1.1.2014 | - | [OJ L 168, 7.6.2014, p. 39-52](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2014.168.01.0039.01.FRA) |

**RELATED ACTS**

Council Decision [2014/335/EU, Euratom](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32014D0335) of 26 May 2014 on the system of the European Union's own resources ([OJ L 168, 7.6.2014, pp. 105-111](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2014.168.01.0105.01.FRA))

Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No [608/2014](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32014R0608) of 26 May 2014 laying down implementing measures for the system of the European Union's own resources ([OJ L 168, 7.6.2014, pp. 29-38](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2014.168.01.0029.01.FRA))

last modification 16.09.2015

17.05.2019

**Guidelines on the effect on trade concept**

**SYNTHESIS OF THE DOCUMENT:**

[Guidelines on the effect on trade concept in Articles 101 and 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52004XC0427%2806%29)

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE GUIDELINES?**

* [Article 101](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=celex:12016E101) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) (formerly Article 81 of the Treaty establishing the European Community (TEC)) prohibits cartels\* and practices that prevent, restrict or distort competition (vertical\* and horizontal\* agreements), with certain exceptions (specified in paragraph 3).
* [Article 102](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=celex:12016E102) TFEU (ex Article 82 TEC) prohibits abuses by companies in a dominant position.
* Both articles apply only where it can be established that the agreements and practices may ***appreciably* affect trade between European Union (EU) countries**.
* These [European Commission guidelines](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/european_commission.html) aim to explain and establish the methodology for applying the concept of **effect on trade** between EU countries in competition cases, reflecting the case law of the [European Court of Justice](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/eu_court_justice.html).

**KEY POINTS**

* With respect to **Article 101 TFEU**, if the agreement as a whole may affect trade between EU countries, EU law applies to the entire agreement, including those parts of the agreement which, taken in isolation, do not affect trade between EU countries. Where the contractual relations between the same parties cover several activities, these activities, in order to be part of the same agreement, must be directly related and form part of the same overall trade agreement. If this is not the case, each activity constitutes a separate agreement.
* In the case of **Article 102 TFEU**, it is the abuse that must affect trade between EU countries. Conduct that is part of a general strategy pursued by the dominant undertaking must be assessed as to its overall impact. Where a dominant undertaking adopts various practices in pursuit of the same objective (e.g. practices aimed at eliminating or foreclosing competitors), it is sufficient for Article 102 to be applicable to all the practices forming part of that general strategy if at least one of them is capable of affecting trade between EU countries.
* The guidelines focus on three main areas and are intended to provide clarity:
  + the **concept of trade between EU countries**, which is not limited to traditional cross-border trade in goods and services. It has a broader scope that covers any international economic activity, including establishment\*. The concept assumes that there must be an impact on cross-border economic activities involving at least (parts of) two EU countries;
  + the concept of **"capable of affecting"** has the role of defining the nature of the required impact on trade between EU countries. According to the standard test developed by the Court of Justice it must be possible to envisage with a **sufficient degree of probability**, on the basis of a set of objective legal or factual elements, that the agreement or practice may have an influence, direct or indirect, actual or potential, on the pattern of trade between EU countries. Where the agreement or practice is capable of affecting the structure of competition in the EU, the case falls under EU law;
  + the concept of **"appreciability"**: the effect on trade criterion incorporates a **quantitative element** that limits the applicability of EU law to agreements and practices that are likely to have effects of a certain size. The appreciability can be assessed in particular by reference to the position and importance of the undertakings concerned on the relevant product market. This assessment depends on the circumstances of each individual case, including the nature of the agreement or practice, the nature of the products concerned and the market position of the undertakings concerned.
* The Commission considers that, in principle, agreements **cannot** appreciably affect trade between EU countries when two conditions are met simultaneously:
  + the parties' **combined market share** on a relevant EU market does not exceed 5%; and
  + in the case of **horizontal agreements,** the **average annual turnover of the** undertakings with the products concerned does not exceed EUR 40 million. In the case of **vertical agreements,** the **total turnover of the supplier** in the products concerned does not exceed 40 million euros.
* The guidelines include an analysis of the different forms of agreements and practices that inform how the effect on trade concept should be applied in practice.
* The effect on trade criterion is an autonomous criterion of EU law, of a jurisdictional nature. It is assessed separately in each case and distinctly from the assessment of the restriction of competition.

**WHEN DID THESE GUIDELINES START?**

They have been in effect since April 27, 2004.

**BACKGROUND**

See also:

* [Antitrust - Overview](http://ec.europa.eu/competition/antitrust/overview_en.html) (*European Commission*).

**KEY TERMS**

**Cartel:** a group of similar but independent firms that work together to fix prices, limit output or share markets or customers.

**Vertical agreements:** agreements between companies operating at different levels of the supply chain, e.g. where one company supplies the second with production materials.

**Horizontal agreements:** agreements between competing companies.

**Establishment:** the freedom of companies (whether self-employed, self-employed professionals or legal persons, such as companies) that operate legally in one EU country to carry out an economic activity in a stable and continuous framework in another EU country.

**MAIN DOCUMENT**

[Commission Notice on](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52004XC0427%2806%29) Guidelines on the effect on trade concept contained in Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty (OJ C 101, 27.4.2004, p. 81-96)

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Three - The Union's internal policies and activities - Title VII - Common rules on competition, taxation and approximation of laws - Chapter 1 - Competition rules - Section 1 - Rules applicable to undertakings - [Article 101](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=celex:12016E101) (ex Article 81 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, pp. 88-89)

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Three - The Union's internal policies and activities - Title VII - Common rules on competition, taxation and approximation of laws - Chapter 1 - Competition rules - Section 1 - Rules applicable to undertakings - [Article 102](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=celex:12016E102) (ex Article 82 ECT) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 89)

Council Regulation (EC) No [1/2003](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=celex:32003R0001) of 16 December 2002 on the implementation of the rules on competition laid down in Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty (OJ L 1, 4.1.2003, p. 1-25)

The successive amendments to Regulation (EC) No 1/2003 have been incorporated into the original document. This [consolidated version has](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:02003R0001-20090701) only a documentary value.

last modification 29.05.2020

**Strengthening consumer rights and fostering confidence**

Consumer confidence is an essential element of a strong and competitive European economy.

**ACT**

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: A European Consumer Agenda - Driving Confidence and Growth [[COM(2012) 225 final](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52012DC0225) of 22.5.2014].

**SYNTHESIS**

In 2012, the European Commission presented a communication on adopting a European Consumer Agenda to drive confidence and growth by putting consumers at the heart of the internal market.

Two years later, the Commission published a report on consumer policy conducted between January 2012 and December 2013 aimed at assessing the initiatives taken since 2012 to build confidence, in particular to increase online and cross-border shopping.

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMUNICATION?**

In 2012, the Commission set out its strategic vision for consumer policy in the coming years. This identifies 61 measures to ensure and strengthen consumer confidence in a rapidly changing commercial sector. The measures focus on consumer safety, access to information, [redress](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:090402_1) and [enforcement](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:l32047), and ensuring that consumer rights are aligned with rapidly changing technologies.

**WHAT ARE THE RESULTS?**

A Commission report published in 2014 concluded that 50 of the measures identified under the European Consumer Agenda had been implemented as of December 2013. This leaves 11 to be implemented.

The 2014 report reveals that:

* On the promotion of **consumer safety**, the Commission has adopted several proposals on general product safety and market surveillance. Other more specific initiatives concern tourist accommodation, medical devices, cosmetics and animal and plant health;
* on **improving knowledge of consumer rights**, the Commission has published targeted information on consumer protection and launched user-friendly websites and databases. It has engaged with key stakeholders, such as consumer associations, businesses and regulators, on the two major issues of environmental claims and online comparison shopping;
* With regard to strengthening the **enforcement of consumer protection rules**, important proposals have been adopted on [alternative](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:0904_3) and [online](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:0904_2) dispute resolution and class actions;
* In terms of addressing **consumer interests in key policy areas**, the Commission has prioritized financial services, digital markets, energy, transport, food and sustainable consumption.

**BACKGROUND**

Consumer spending accounts for just over 50% of the EU's gross domestic product. This gives everyone a major collective influence on the health of the European economy. Ensuring consumer confidence and trust is therefore a fundamental pillar of the EU's single market.

More information is available on the website of the European Commission's [Directorate-General for Justice and Consumer Affairs.](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/eu_consumer_policy/our-strategy/index_en.htm)

**RELATED ACTS**

Commission Staff Working Document: Report on Consumer Policy (July 2010-December 2011), accompanying the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: A European Consumer Agenda - Driving Confidence and Growth [[SWD(2012) 132 final](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52012SC0132) of 22.5.2012].

European Commission [consumer policy report](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/strategy-programme/policy-strategy/documents/consumer_policy_report_2014_en.pdf) from January 2012 to December 2013.

last modification 05.01.2015

**International Cultural Relations - An EU Strategy**

**SYNTHESIS OF DOCUMENTS:**

[Joint Communication [JOIN (2016) 29 final] - Towards an EU strategy in the field of international cultural relations](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52016JC0029)

[Article 6 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E006)

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMUNICATION AND ARTICLE 6 TFUE?**

* The Communication proposes a strategy for more effective international cultural relations (e.g. the exchange of ideas, views and opinions between different cultures) in order to respond to the [European Commission](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/european_commission.html)'s priority of making the European Union (EU) a stronger player on the world stage, a better international partner and an important contributor to sustainable growth.
* It presents a **model for cultural cooperation** between EU countries, national cultural organizations and public and private bodies using "cultural diplomacy" to promote a world order based on peace, the [rule of law](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/rule_of_law.html?locale=fr), freedom of expression, mutual understanding and respect for fundamental values.
* Although cultural policy is essentially a prerogative of the EU countries, Article 6 TFEU states that the EU may contribute to supporting, coordinating and supplementing the activities of EU countries in this field.

**KEY POINTS**

Culture is not limited to the arts or literature. It covers a wide range of activities, from intercultural dialogue\* to tourism, from education and research to the creative sector, from heritage protection to the promotion of new technologies, and from crafts to development cooperation.

It also plays an important role in the **EU's foreign policy**, where cultural cooperation can break down stereotypes and prejudices and where dialogue can prevent conflicts and promote reconciliation. It helps us respond to global challenges such as the integration of refugees, the fight against violent radicalization and the protection of the world's cultural heritage.

Culture can also be a tool for the realization of **important economic and social benefits,** such as citizen participation and tourism revenues, both inside and outside the EU.

The strategy builds on and updates previous communications on [culture and EU international relations](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:cu0002) and the [role of culture in EU development cooperation,](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:11010202_3) and focuses on strengthening cultural cooperation in **three main areas**:

* **Stimulate sustainable social and economic development**, strengthening cultural and creative industries and supporting the role of local authorities. Here are some concrete examples:
  + the Asia-Europe Foundation's ["Creative Networks" program;](http://www.asef.org/projects/programmes/2955-asef-creative-networks)
  + EU support in the southern Mediterranean for a project to develop clusters in the cultural and creative industries with [UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)](http://www.unido.org/);
  + a [European network of creative platforms](http://creativehubs.eu/), which involves all countries participating in the [Creative Europe program](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:1002_1) (including Georgia, Moldova, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine).
* Promote peaceful relations among communities and peoples of diverse religious beliefs. Dialogue can help promote equitable, peaceful, inclusive societies that respect human rights and take into account local sensitivities, through measures that are tailored to particular cultural contexts and interests. They include:
  + programs to develop culture in the framework of the [Eastern Partnership](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/neighbourhood/eastern-partnership_en) including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine;
  + support for the [Anna Lindh Foundation](http://www.annalindhfoundation.org/) and its network of organizations in 42 countries of [the Union for the Mediterranean](http://ufmsecretariat.org/).
* **Improve cooperation in the field of cultural heritage** by promoting research, combating illicit trafficking in cultural property, and helping to protect heritage sites. Restoration and promotion of cultural heritage attract tourists and stimulate economic growth. For example:
  + Research under [Horizon 2020](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:2701_3) to find new solutions for the conservation and management of cultural heritage threatened by climate change, in which non-EU countries can participate;
  + the fight against trafficking in heritage items, including support for the training of customs officers assigned to border controls to assist in the early detection of stolen items;
  + working with [UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) to establish](http://fr.unesco.org/) a **rapid response mechanism** for the protection of cultural heritage sites. The [EU regional fund in response to the Syrian crisis](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/neighbourhood/countries/syria/madad_en) will also contribute to the protection of cultural heritage and the promotion of cultural diversity.

European cooperation in the field of culture covers both the EU and developing countries and can be strengthened:

* pooling resources and collaborating in non-EU countries;
* strengthening cooperation with national cultural institutes within the EU;
* by making increasing use of EU embassies in non-EU countries ([delegations](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/about/eu-delegations_en));
* creating European cultural centres to provide services to the local population, participate in joint projects and offer scholarships and cultural and educational exchanges;
* organizing joint EU cultural events;
* with a focus on strategic international partners;
* exchanging students, researchers and alumni between EU and non-EU countries.

This cultural strategy can be encouraged by using existing resources such as:

* [the partnership instrument](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:28_1) (European awareness tool);
* [the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:1302_1);
* [the instrument contributing to stability and peace](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:110102_3);
* [the "Creative Europe" program](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe_en) (promoting cultural heritage);
* [EU enlargement policy](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/enlargement.html) (including cultural policies);
* [the European Neighbourhood Policy](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/neighbourhood_policy.html?locale=fr) (relations with sixteen neighbouring countries);
* [the instrument of development cooperation](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:110102_1);
* [the Cotonou Agreement](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:r12101) (cooperation between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific States).

**BACKGROUND**

* [European Agenda for Culture](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/policy/strategic-framework_fr)
* [Global strategy for the European Union](https://europa.eu/globalstrategy/fr)
* [European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018](https://ec.europa.eu/culture/news/20160830-commission-proposal-cultural-heritage-2018_en)

**KEY TERMS**

**Intercultural dialogue:** the exchange of ideas, views and opinions between different cultures.

**KEY DOCUMENTS**

Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council: Towards an EU strategy in the field of international cultural relations [[JOIN(2016) 29 final](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52016JC0029), 8.6.2016]

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part One: Principles - Title I: Categories and areas of Union competence - [Article 6](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E006) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 52-53)

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Council [conclusions](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52015XG1215%2804%29) on culture in the European Union's external relations, in particular in the context of development cooperation (OJ C 417, 15.12.2015, p. 41-43)

[Conclusions](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:42008X1221%2802%29) of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue in the external relations of the Union and its Member States (OJ C 320, 16.12.2008, p. 10-12)

last modification 17.07.2017

**IT in the field of customs**

**SYNTHESIS OF THE DOCUMENT:**

[Decision 2009/917/JHA on the use of information technology for customs purposes](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32009D0917)

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DECISION?**

* It replaces and updates the [Convention on the use of information technology for customs purposes (CIS Convention)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:41995A1127%2802%29) of 1995. It also ensures compliance with Regulation (EC) No. [766/2008](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32008R0766), which amends Regulation (EC) No. [515/97](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:31997R0515) (see [Customs Information System (CIS) summary](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/ALL/?uri=LEGISSUM:l11037)) on cooperation between the European Union (EU) countries and the [European Commission to](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/european_commission.html) ensure the correct application of the law on customs and agricultural matters.
* The objective of the CIS is to help prevent, investigate and prosecute serious infringements of national legislation by increasing the effectiveness of the cooperation and control procedures of the customs administrations of the EU countries through a more rapid dissemination of information.

**KEY POINTS**

The CIS consists of a central database accessible from each of the EU countries. It contains only the data, including personal data, necessary to achieve its purpose in the following areas

* goods (products that can be sold or purchased);
* means of transportation;
* companies;
* people;
* fraud trends;
* the available skills;
* the detention, seizure or forfeiture of goods; and
* withholding, seizure or confiscation of cash.

**Data protection**

* Directive (EU) [2016/680](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32016L0680) applies to data protection, unless otherwise stated in this decision.
* The CIS contains the data (including personal data) necessary to accomplish the system's objectives through activities such as observation and reporting, covert monitoring, specific controls, and strategic and operational analyses.
* This decision respects fundamental rights and adheres to the principles recognized in particular in the [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/charter_fundamental_rights.html). It does not prevent EU countries from applying their constitutional rules on public access to official documents.
* Only the EU countries that feed the CIS database are allowed to modify, add or delete the information they have entered.
* The data are retained only as long as necessary to achieve the purpose for which they were entered. The need for retention is reviewed at least annually by the providing country.

**Customs Investigation File Identification**

* A special database called the "customs files identification database" has been set up to enable national authorities to find out whether the persons or companies involved in their own investigations are also, or have been, the subject of investigations in other EU countries. For the purposes of this database, EU countries share with each other, and with [Europol](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=legissum:23040102_1) and [Eurojust](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:4369105), a list of serious offences against national laws, namely those punishable by a custodial sentence of at least 12 months or a fine of at least 15,000 euros.
* An EU country is not obliged to share information with this special file when such registration would be detrimental to public order or other essential interests.
* The data are kept for three years if no offence has been found and are deleted twelve months after the last investigation. This period is extended to six years in the case of an offence that did not result in a conviction or to ten years in the case of a conviction.

**Control and administration**

* Each EU country designates one or more national supervisory authorities responsible for the protection of personal data to independently supervise the data covered by this decision. A joint supervisory authority, which includes two representatives from the respective national supervisory authority of each EU country, has also been established.
* The [European Data Protection Supervisor](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=legissum:0102_11) oversees the Commission's activities related to the CIS.
* A committee, composed of representatives of the customs administrations of the EU countries, with the participation of the Commission, is responsible for the implementation and proper application of the decision (unanimity), as well as for the proper functioning, from a technical and operational point of view, of the CIS (decisions by a two-thirds majority).

**SINCE WHEN DOES THIS DECISION APPLY?**

It applies since May 27, 2011.

**BACKGROUND**

For more information, see:

* [Customs Information System](http://edps.europa.eu/data-protection/supervision-coordination/customs-information-systems_en) (*European Data Protection Supervisor*)

**MAIN DOCUMENT**

Council Decision [2009/917/JHA](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32009D0917) of 30 November 2009 on the use of information technology for customs purposes (OJ L 323, 10.12.2009, p. 20-30)

Successive amendments to Decision 2009/917/JHA have been incorporated into the basic text. This [consolidated version](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:02009D0917-20091230) has only a documentary value.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Directive (EU) [2016/680](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:32016L0680) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purpose of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, pp. 89-131)

Please see the [consolidated version](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:02016L0680-20160504).

Council Regulation (EC) No [515/97](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:31997R0515) of 13 March 1997 on mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and cooperation between the latter and the Commission to ensure the correct application of the law on customs and agricultural matters (OJ L 82, 22.3.1997, p. 1-16)

Please see the [consolidated version](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:01997R0515-20160901).

last modification 08.11.2019

**EU development policy**

**SYNTHESIS OF DOCUMENTS:**

[Article 4 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E004)

[Article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E208)

[Article 21(2)(d) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M021)

**EU DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION TREATIES**

[Article 4 of the TFEU](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E004) gives the European Union (EU) the competence to carry out activities and a common policy in the field of [development cooperation](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/development_aid.html). EU countries can also exercise their own [competences](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/competences.html) in this field.

The main objective of EU development policy, as set out in [Article 208 TFEU](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E208), is the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty. Article 208 also requires the EU and its member countries to respect the commitments made in the framework of the [United Nations](https://www.un.org/fr/) (UN) and other relevant international organizations.

The Union's development policy shall also pursue the objectives of the EU's external action, in particular those set out in [Article 21(2)(d)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M021) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), namely to promote the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of developing countries, with the primary objective of eradicating poverty.

In accordance with the objectives set out in Article 21(2) of the TEU, development policy shall also contribute, inter alia, to supporting democracy, the rule of law and human rights, to preserving peace and preventing conflicts, to improving the quality of the environment and the sustainable management of global natural resources, to assisting populations, countries and regions confronted with natural or man-made disasters, and to promoting an international system based on strengthened multilateral cooperation and good global governance

**KEY POINTS**

**International commitments**

*A stronger Europe on the international scene*

The EU strives to bring together all the means at its disposal and those of its member countries to work for a more peaceful and prosperous world. The full implementation of the [EU's comprehensive](http://eeas.europa.eu/topics/eu-global-strategy_fr) [foreign and security policy](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/foreign_security_policy.html) [strategy (EUMS)](http://eeas.europa.eu/topics/eu-global-strategy_fr) began in 2017. This strategy sets out the EU's core interests and principles of engagement and offers a vision of a more credible, responsible, and responsive EU in the world. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will also represent cross-cutting elements in the implementation of the EUMS

The EU and its member countries together constitute the largest donor of official development assistance (ODA). The [**European Development Fund (EDF) is**](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:1103_1) the EU's main development aid instrument for supporting 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific States (the ACP countries) and [Overseas Countries and Territories](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:1105_1) under the [Cotonou Agreement](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=LEGISSUM:r12101).

The EU's [development cooperation instrument](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:110102_1) aims to reduce poverty in developing countries and promotes sustainable economic, social and environmental development, democracy, the rule of law, human rights and good governance.

*The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the European Consensus on Development*

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld) (or 2030 Agenda) and its 17 [SDGs](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/), adopted by the 193 UN member states in 2015, is the new global framework for eradicating poverty and achieving global sustainable development by 2030.

In line with the EUMS, the EU sets out in its [new](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:42017Y0630%2801%29) 2017 [European Consensus on Development](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:42017Y0630%2801%29) the principles that should guide its institutions and member countries in their cooperation with developing countries to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf), adopted by the United Nations in 2015, and the [Paris Agreement on climate change](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:20010104_1).

The consensus aligns the EU's development action with the SDGs and is built around the 5 Ps that define the 2030 Agenda (people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership).

*Financing sustainable development*

The EU is party to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, an agreement reached by a partnership of 193 UN member countries at the **Third UN International Conference on Financing for Development**. This agreement is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and establishes a new implementation paradigm through the effective use of financial and non-financial resources and by prioritizing national actions and sound policies. Its focus areas include:

* domestic public resources;
* private enterprise and domestic and international finance;
* international cooperation for development;
* international trade as an engine for development;
* debt and debt sustainability;
* solving systemic problems;
* science, technology, innovation and capacity building.

*External Investment Plan*

In order to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and mobilize public and private investment, the EU established the [European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD)](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:4314965) and the EFSD Guarantee in 2017. These measures are part of the EU's [External Investment Plan (EIP)](http://ec.europa.eu/commission/eu-external-investment-plan_fr), which aims to address sustainable development challenges in sub-Saharan Africa and ensure transition through reforms in the EU's [neighborhood.](http://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/neighbourhood/overview_en)

*Post-Cotonou Agreement*

[Negotiations](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-3930_fr.htm) are underway to redefine the EU's future relations with the ACP countries. Currently, they are defined by the Cotonou Agreement, which expires in 2020. This agreement has helped reduce poverty, increase stability and integrate ACP countries into the global economy.

*Development effectiveness and joint programming: working better with EU countries*

The EU is committed to ensuring that development aid is spent as effectively as possible to achieve the SDGs. In this regard, it supports several international agreements, including:

* the [2005 Paris Declaration and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action](http://www.oecd.org/fr/cad/efficacite/34579826.pdf);
* the [2011 Busan outcome document](http://effectivecooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/OUTCOME_DOCUMENT_-_FINAL_FR.pdf); and
* the [2016 Nairobi outcome document](http://effectivecooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/OutcomeDocumentFRfinal.pdf).

The key principles of **development effectiveness**, redefined at the 2016 Nairobi High Level Meeting, are:

* ownership of development priorities by developing countries;
* transparency and mutual accountability;
* results-oriented development cooperation; and
* the involvement of all stakeholders in partnerships open to all.

These principles are put into practice through programs and projects, as well as through [**joint programming**](https://ec.europa.eu/info/aid-development-cooperation-fundamental-rights/ensuring-aid-effectiveness/joint-programming-development-cooperation_en): the various EU development partners (i.e. the EU and EU countries) work together in a partner country to plan development cooperation.

*Policy coherence for development*

Through [Policy Coherence for Development (PCD)](http://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/international-cooperation-and-development_en), the EU aims to minimize the negative impact of its policies on developing countries. It aims to:

* Promote synergies between different EU policies for the benefit of partner countries and support the SDGs;
* increase the effectiveness of development cooperation.

To ensure that it remains relevant to the pursuit of the SDGs, the EU has integrated PCD into all of the Commission's work on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. EU countries have also put in place their own mechanisms to ensure PCD in their national policies. The [2019 EU Report on Policy Coherence for Development](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/swd-2019-20-pcdreport_en.pdf) examines the progress made by EU institutions and countries on PCD over the period 2015-2018.

**Populations**

*Poverty and Inequality Reduction*

[MDGs 1](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/poverty/) (eradicate poverty) and [10](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/inequality/) (tackle inequality and discrimination) are at the heart of the EU's development policy.

Preliminary results from the inequality analysis study launched by the Commission in 2017 reveal that:

* In developing countries, the level of income inequality is high and, on average, higher than 30 years ago;
* income inequality appears to have decreased in some Latin American countries (Brazil, Peru, Mexico), while it has increased in some Asian countries (China and Vietnam); and
* Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa are the regions of the world most marked by inequality.

Inequality at the national level remains a significant barrier to rapid growth and poverty reduction. Although extreme poverty continues to decline worldwide, it is still widespread in Africa, particularly in the Sub-Saharan region.

*Human development*

EU development policy priorities include eradicating poverty ([MDG 1](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/poverty/)), fighting inequality and discrimination ([MDG 10](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg10)) and eliminating marginalization (i.e. leaving no one behind). [Human development](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/human-rights_en) is about people, their opportunities and their choices. The EU helps partner countries' societies and economies become more inclusive and sustainable, so that development benefits everyone and leaves no one behind.

*Gender equality and women's empowerment*

Equality between women and men is a fundamental value of the EU (Article 2 TEU) and is a policy objective enshrined in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Article 19 TFEU). By promoting [gender equality and women's empowerment](http://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/sdg/gender-equality_en), the EU contributes to the achievement of [SDG 5](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/gender-equality/) and the 2030 Agenda as a whole, as also highlighted in the 2017 European Consensus on Development.

Gender equality is an essential prerequisite for equitable and inclusive sustainable development, as women and girls make up half of the world's population. The EU aims to ensure that women and girls can participate fully and equally in social, economic, political and civil life. More specifically, the EU supports the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence and barriers to gender equality, such as discriminatory laws or unequal access to services and justice, education and health, employment and economic empowerment, or political participation, including by challenging social norms and gender stereotypes and supporting women's movements and civil society.

The EU Action Plan on Gender Equality (2016-2020) sets out the framework for achieving these priority objectives worldwide, through the Union's external relations policies. The [European Commission](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/european_commission.html) published its first [report](http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/10102/2017/EN/SWD-2017-288-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF) on the implementation of this [action plan 2016-2020](http://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/62f7aa16-c438-11e7-9b01-01aa75ed71a1) in 2017.

One of the EU's flagship initiatives is the €500 million [Spotlight Initiative](http://spotlightinitiative.org/), a unique partnership with the United Nations to eliminate violence against women and girls. This initiative brings together governments and civil society partners from Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

*Migration, forced displacement and asylum*

While the topics of migration and mobility are not new, the number of international migrants has increased in recent years to 258 million in 2017 (up from 220 million in 2010 and 173 million in 2000). Most international migrants are citizens of developing countries, which themselves host more than 85 percent of the world's forcibly displaced people.

Migration challenges continue to be high on the European agenda. In 2017, the European Commission continued to proactively address the link between development and migration, in line with the 2030 Agenda and the development consensus. EU development cooperation played a crucial role in contributing to the Union's overall efforts to address migration, in the context of the [European migration agenda](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52015DC0240), the [Valletta Declaration](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/21840/12-political-declaration-fr.pdf), the [Partnership Framework on Migration](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52016DC0385), and the new European approach to [forced displacement](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52016DC0234), in full respect of development objectives and principles.

Through a range of development instruments, such as the [Emergency Trust Fund for Africa](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/africa/eu-emergency-trust-fund-africa_en) and the [EU Regional Trust Fund for Syria](http://ec.europa.eu/trustfund-syria-region/content/home_en), but also through regular geographic instruments, the European Commission has implemented actions in partner countries to address the challenges and opportunities arising from migration in the short and long term.

The actions focused on three aspects in particular:

* 1)

address the determinants and root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement;

* 2)

build the capacity of partners to improve migration and refugee management;

* 3)

maximize the development impact of migration.

Through this comprehensive approach, support in 2017 helped strengthen dialogue and partnership with partner countries on migration and achieve tangible results in improving migration management, ensuring the protection of vulnerable migrants and refugees, and maximizing the positive impact of migration on development.

Among other goals achieved in 2017, the EU has:

* committed €3 billion to the [refugee facility in Turkey](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:4300997); and
* [90 million program](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52017JC0004) to provide protection and assistance to people in need in Libya and to support the stabilization of host communities, with a focus on the central Mediterranean route;
* approved, as of December 31, 2017, 143 projects with a total value of €2,388 billion under the EU Trust Fund for Africa;
* adopted in September 2017 for Asia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Iraq a special measure of €196 million through the Commission to address the challenges posed by protracted forced displacement and migration in Asia and the Middle East.

*Culture, education and health*

The EU recognizes the role of [culture](http://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/culture_en) in economic growth, considering it a key element and a facilitating instrument in favor of:

* social inclusion;
* freedom of expression;
* the construction of identity;
* strengthening civil society;
* conflict prevention.

In 2017, the EU adopted:

* conclusions on a [strategic approach of the EU in the field of international cultural relations](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52017XG0615%2803%29);
* a number of programs, such as [Investing in Culture and Creativity](http://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/commission-implementing-decision-c2017-8725-annex-2_en.pdf), which aims to:
  + improve cultural governance in partner countries;
  + stimulate job creation; and
  + strengthen the cultural heritage.

The goal of [MDG 4](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/education) is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote learning opportunities for all throughout life by 2030. [Education](http://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/education_en) is a basic human right and a public good. It also plays an important role in achieving other SDGs through learning, skills and awareness.

In 2017, the EU has:

* supported over 45 countries in their efforts to strengthen their education systems;
* collaborated with the [Global Partnership for Education](http://www.globalpartnership.org/fr), which supports basic education with a focus on the poorest and most fragile countries;
* 21 million program to address education needs in a protracted crisis, focusing on improving the quality of education in safe learning environments and building a global database to guide future support decisions.

To achieve [MDG 3](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/health/) on health and well-being, the EU has continued its efforts in the area of [health](http://ec.europa.eu/health/international_cooperation/global_health_en) by supporting the [Global Fund](http://www.theglobalfund.org/fr/) and [GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance](http://www.gavi.org/fr/), as well as conducting research on the fight against **neglected and poverty-related infectious diseases**. It also supported regional initiatives, such as the [Second European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership Program, as well as](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:270301_1) other multinational initiatives.

Together with the [United Nations Population Fund](http://www.unfpa.org/fr), the EU supports efforts to increase the availability of quality **reproductive** and **maternal health** services.

*Food and nutritional security and sustainable agriculture*

With one in nine people suffering from [food and nutrition insecurity](http://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/global-food-nutrition-security_en), [MDG 2](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/hunger/) aims to eliminate hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030.

Sustainable agriculture, along with sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, is essential to eliminating hunger and ensuring food security. They remain a key driver for poverty eradication and sustainable development. Agriculture and food security are key factors in achieving good nutritional outcomes.

The EU was one of the main instigators of the publication, in 2017, of the [Global Food Crisis Report](http://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/global-food-nutrition-security/global-report-food-crises_en). The report identified the need for food aid, revealing that nearly 108 million people were in a food crisis or emergency situation:

* analyze the main factors of food insecurity; and
* to continue efforts to meet these challenges.

The EU has put in place several initiatives to reduce the number of stunted children under 5 by at least 7 million by 2025, with an allocation of €3.5 billion over the period 2014-2020.

Sustainable agriculture, from an economic, social and environmental point of view, is a central theme of the EU's development cooperation programme with its partner countries. In this area, the Union focuses its work on:

* investment in small farms;
* Support for government initiatives and programs that encourage sustainability and innovation in the agricultural sector;
* promoting agricultural practices and technologies that increase rural income while being sustainable in terms of water, soil, ecosystems and biodiversity;
* improving farmers' access to means of production, such as land, capital, etc., especially by encouraging local cooperation and partnerships between farmers;
* increased private investment in the agricultural sector;
* empowerment of women in agriculture.

**Planet**

*Climate change*

The EU is committed to contributing to the global fight against [climate change](http://europa.eu/capacity4dev/topics/climate-change-disaster-risk-reduction-desertification), in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement and [MDG 13](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/climate-change/). The implementation of nationally determined contributions is at the heart of the policy dialogue between the EU and partner countries, to integrate climate change into its policies, strategies, investment plans and projects so that they fully contribute to the Paris Agreement and SDG 13. The EU's efforts around climate change and the 2030 Agenda must go hand in hand.

The EU has stepped up efforts to manage risks and build resilience and adaptive capacity to change, in line with the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework). The EU also supports the transition to a low-emission, climate-resilient green economy, in line with [SDG 8](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/economic-growth/) on growth and [SDG 12](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/sustainable-consumption-production/) on sustainable consumption and production. Climate change is linked to the vast majority of the SDGs.

During 2014-2018, the EU invested €8.2 billion to support climate action. The largest share of EU climate funding went to adaptation actions (41%), followed by synergistic actions on both adaptation and mitigation (31%) and mitigation actions (28%). Its objective is to promote actions that contribute to both adaptation and mitigation.

*Environment and sustainable management of natural resources*

The environment and natural resources, such as land, water resources, forests, [fish stocks](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/magazine/fr/places/making-difference-how-fisheries-contribute-sustainable-development-around-globe), and biodiversity, are essential to the economies of developing countries and the livelihoods of their citizens. Protecting and sustainably managing them is critical to achieving the 2030 sustainable development agenda (including SDGs [6](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/water-and-sanitation/), [12](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/sustainable-consumption-production/), [14](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/oceans/) and [15](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/biodiversity/)), eradicating poverty and hunger, and ensuring health, well-being, access to clean water and sanitation, and sustainable growth, while preserving ecosystems and combating climate change. The EU assists partner countries to improve environmental and natural resource governance, sustainably manage land, water, forests and other natural resources, protect biodiversity, combat pollution and promote inclusive green economies.

*Sustainable energy*

Access to modern and sustainable energy services is one of the main objectives of EU development assistance. In 2017, the Commission published a [paper](http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15866-2017-INIT/en/pdf) showing that sustainable energy cooperation contributes to the implementation of the European Consensus on Development.

Under the 2014-2020 financial perspective, €3.7 billion has been allocated to sustainable energy cooperation for development to help achieve the EU's three goals for 2020: to provide access to energy for approximately 40 million people, to increase renewable energy production by approximately 6.5 gigawatts, and to contribute to the fight against climate change, saving approximately 15 million tons of CO2 per year.

For example, the EU aims to contribute to the goals of the [African Renewable Energy Initiative](http://www.arei.org/) and to reach 5 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2020 while providing 30 million people in Africa with access to sustainable energy and saving 11 million tons of CO2 per year.

**Prosperity**

*Cooperate with the private sector*

Because the investment needs in partner countries are so great, and funding from governments and international organizations is insufficient to meet them, the EU uses **blending**, where EU grants are combined with loans or equity from public and private financiers, thereby contributing to [MDG 17](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/globalpartnerships/) (strengthening the means of implementation and partnerships for achieving the goals). The EU blending framework includes the following regional blending mechanisms:

* [Investment Facility for Latin America](https://www.eulaif.eu/);
* [AsiaInvestmentFacility](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/asia/asian-investment-facility-aif_en);
* [Central Asia Investment Facility](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/central-asia/investment-facility-central-asia-ifca_en);
* [Investment facility for the Caribbean](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/latin-america/caribbean-investment-facility_en);
* [Pacific Investment Facility](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/pacific/investment-facility-pacific-ifp_en);
* [EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/africa/eu-africa-infrastructure-trust-fund-eu-aitf_en);
* The [Africa Investment Platform](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/africa-investment-facility_en) and the [Neighborhood Investment Platform](http://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/neighbourhood/neighbourhood-wide/neighbourhood-investment-platform_en) (managed by the [Directorate General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations, or NEAR](http://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/about/directorate-general_en)), both of which are integrated into the EDF as part of the first pillar of the EIP (see "External Investment Plan" section above).

A major innovation, the EDFD guarantee uses limited public funds to mobilize private investment in particular. These investments support viable projects that would otherwise have difficulty getting off the ground or expanding, while focusing on sustainable development goals in partner countries. The EIP as a whole aims to remove barriers to sustainable private investment and support priority reforms through enhanced dialogue with the private sector and relevant stakeholders. Boosting sustainable investment and job creation (SDG 8) is also one of the main objectives of the Africa-Europe Sustainable Investment and Jobs Alliance launched in September 2018.

In addition, the EU adopted a new Aid for Trade strategy in November 2017, which aims to [achieve prosperity through trade andinvestment](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52017DC0667), jointly with EU countries. This initiative aims to encourage better mobilization of [EU aid for trade to](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=legissum:dv0006) help developing countries take full advantage of the Union's various policy instruments, including trade agreements and preferential regimes (including [Economic Partnership Agreements](http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/development/economic-partnerships/) and the [Generalized System of Preferences](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:cx0003)), in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

*Agricultural growth*

Two-thirds of the world's poor depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, and many developing countries remain highly dependent on trade in just a few commodities.

The EU is convinced that greater levels of responsible public and private, domestic and international investment in agriculture and agribusiness are needed to create the momentum for sustainable growth and resilience in rural areas in developing countries. In this approach, President Jean-Claude Juncker announced in September 2018 the creation of the new Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs.

Private sector investment must be stimulated by the creation of a well-regulated and maintained business environment. The public sector has a key role to play in this regard. However, high levels of risk, related to production, financing and market risks, remain major obstacles to increased private sector investment. The EU is helping to reduce these risks through the European External Investment Plan. It supports land governance activities in some 40 countries, with a total budget of nearly 240 million euros. In Peru and Honduras, EU-funded actions are protecting the land rights of indigenous peoples and guaranteeing them basic goods (contribution to MDG 2).

*Infrastructure, cities and digitalization*

To make progress toward the 2030 agenda, we need to:

* build resilient infrastructure;
* promote sustainable industrialization that benefits all; and
* encourage innovation ([SDG 9](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/infrastructure/)).

The current **digital transformation** opens up new opportunities to increase job creation and accelerate access to quality basic services, but also to improve government transparency and accountability and strengthen democracy. To support the achievement of SDG 9, there is one prerequisite: good connectivity and appropriate regulation.

The EU helps coordinate the [joint Africa-EU infrastructure strategy](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/documents/agenda_jaes_rgi_2018.pdf) and participates on the board of the African Transport Policy Program, which supports the policy and strategy of African governments and regional economic communities.

**Rapid urbanization**, particularly in Asia and Africa, poses major development challenges. The year 2017 saw the development of the [International Urban Cooperation program](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/cooperate/international/pdf/iuc_leaflet_en.pdf), which shares urban best practices between EU cities and cities in strategic partner countries, such as India and China. Also of note during this year was the inclusion in the IAP of a specific investment window for "sustainable cities" ([SDG 11](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/cities/)).

**Peace**

*Democracy, human rights, good governance*

The EU is founded on the fundamental values of respect for democracy, the rule of law and human rights ([Article 2](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M002) TEU). The promotion of these values is a key priority in external relations ([Article 21](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M021) TEU), which has been reflected in the EU's Global Strategy (EUGS). Through its development assistance programs, the Union supports partner countries in the implementation of [MDG 16](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/peace-justice/) on [democracy](http://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/democracy_en), access to justice, anti-corruption, [human rights](http://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/human-rights_en) and good governance. Activities carried out in partnership with third country governments include electoral assistance and support for democracy, justice and anti-corruption reforms, as well as the promotion of media independence and fundamental freedoms.

In addition, the EU plays a leading role at the global level through its [European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:1302_1), whose priorities are guided by the EU Action Plan for Human Rights and Democracy (2014-2019). This instrument focuses on strengthening international human rights courts and tribunals and is primarily aimed at civil society and independent monitoring bodies to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights and democracy.

For example, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights allows for emergency measures and confidential projects to protect human rights organizations and defenders operating in the most difficult contexts.

Targeted support is provided to EU delegations to **build capacity to promote human rights.** For **freedom of expression**, for example, support is provided through two programs:

* Supporting Democracy; and
* [Media4Democracy](http://epd.eu/media4democracy/).

*Fragility and resilience*

In 2017, the EU adopted a [commitment on resilience that applies to several sectors](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52017JC0021). A pilot process was launched in six countries (Iraq, Myanmar/Burma, Nigeria, Uganda, Sudan, and Chad) to test a broader approach to the link between humanitarian, development, and peace in fragile contexts.

During 2017, work on resilience and addressing fragility also advanced in the following 4 areas.

* Strengthen the resilience framework, including through the adoption of the Joint Communication "A Strategic Approach to Resilience in EU External Action".
* Develop and implement an [integrated approach to external conflicts and crises](http://europa.eu/globalstrategy/en/integrated-approach-conflicts), bringing together the relevant EU institutions and instruments and EU countries for better coordinated and more coherent external action. Its main objective is to enhance the EU's impact in helping to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts and crises.
* Reinforce the importance of resilience in conflict and crisis, including through state reform and contracts that help build resilience, as part of our budget support operations.
* Support [international dialogue on peacebuilding and statebuilding](http://www.pbsbdialogue.org/fr/) led by governments of fragile countries and [civil society organizations](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/civil_society_organisation.html) (CSOs).

*Security*

The [Instrument for Contributing to the Stability and Peace Regulation (IcSP)](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:110102_3) is the Commission's main financial instrument for improving stability, peace and resilience in partner countries. Its international scope and focus on security make it complementary to other financial tools, particularly when certain geographic or thematic instruments that depend on official development assistance criteria cannot be used. It can also address issues of a trans-regional or global nature. Under the programmable part of IcSP managed by the [Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/about-us_en) (DEVCO), there are more than 260 projects underway, benefiting 70 countries. These projects are carried out jointly between agencies in partner countries and EU countries.

They cover a wide range of issues, for example: countering violent extremism; technical assistance to law enforcement agencies to combat terrorism, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats, organized crime, drug trafficking, or money laundering; capacity building to improve judicial systems; or critical infrastructure protection. Support tools can include training of trainers, on-site assistance, simulated or real cross-border field exercises, and the development of national action plans based on needs and risk assessments. Since January 2018, the EU has been able to support capacity building in support of security and development (RCSD). This allows for training and equipment to be provided to partner country militaries to carry out activities that support development objectives in exceptional circumstances.

With its multidimensional approach covering both intentional (terrorism, crime), accidental (Seveso, Fukushima) and environmental (Ebola) risks, the IcSP contributes to several UN SDGs as well as to key principles of the European Consensus on Development, including major priority actions in the EU neighborhood.

*Nuclear security*

The European Commission does not promote nuclear energy, which is the sole responsibility of a state government, but it does promote nuclear safety. Any nuclear accident has a global effect on societies. Cooperation on nuclear safety is therefore of the utmost importance for the safety of European citizens and the environment.

With its multi-dimensional approach covering nuclear safety, health, environment and other related issues, the [Nuclear Safety Cooperation Instrument](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/funding-instruments-programming/funding-instruments/instrument-nuclear-safety-cooperation_en) contributes to many key areas of the European Consensus on Development, including major priority actions in the EU's neighbourhood, Central Asia and Iran.

The EU's neighbourhood presents certain challenges, mainly concerning countries that decide to use nuclear energy, such as Belarus and Turkey, those that extend the life of reactors, such as Armenia and Ukraine, and those that decommission and manage radioactive waste.

**Partnerships**

[SDG 17](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/fr/globalpartnerships/) refers to partnership for development and emphasizes the importance of multi-stakeholder and inclusive platforms as a means to effectively implement the 2030 agenda. The EU is committed to achieving SDG 17, both through its own actions and external resources and by participating in its implementation through other means. The EU continues to be involved in UN development processes, in particular the [Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC)](http://effectivecooperation.org/), which is currently monitoring development effectiveness at country level.

*Cooperation with civil society*

With the adoption of the [2012 Communication](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52012DC0492), the European Commission recognizes civil society organizations (CSOs) as actors in governance, not just as service providers. To implement the SDGs, the EU is also taking an inclusive and comprehensive approach that reaches out to all of society by expanding its engagement to non-conventional CSOs, such as foundations, diaspora, trade unions, professional associations, etc. Foundations, in particular, are playing a growing and influential role in this regard.

The European Commission has promoted dialogue and consultation around the SDGs, including through the Development Policy Forum, which provides a space for multi-stakeholder exchange on development policies. It has signed 25 framework partnership agreements with international and regional civil society networks to help CSOs contribute to regional and global policymaking, particularly with regard to the successful implementation of the SDGs.

At the country level, the EU has developed 107 roadmaps for its engagement with civil society. These roadmaps are a country's comprehensive strategic framework, encompassing all EU support (including that of EU delegations and countries) to civil society. Conceived as a joint initiative of the European Union and its member countries, the roadmaps were introduced to strengthen Europe's engagement with civil society.

For the period 2014-2020, the EU has allocated €1.4 billion to support CSOs at the global and national levels through the CSO Local Authorities Program. This focuses on participation, partnership and multi-stakeholder dialogues to reflect the core values of the 2030 Agenda.

The [2017 report on the EU's engagement with civil society outlines](http://europa.eu/capacity4dev/public-governance-civilsociety/documents/report-eu-engagement-civil-society) the many forms of support provided and provides examples. The report also discusses the ways in which this engagement is being strengthened.

*Cooperation with donor countries*

The European Union, together with its member countries, is the [world's largest donor of official development assistance](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2075_en.htm): its support accounts for almost 57% of the total aid provided by the donors of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The EU also works on common policies as well as at the country level to deploy common approaches, including [joint programming](https://ec.europa.eu/info/aid-development-cooperation-fundamental-rights/ensuring-aid-effectiveness/joint-programming-development-cooperation_en).

Furthermore, in line with the partnership for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as well as to strengthen multilateralism, the European Commission engages in **regular development dialogue with non-European partners**, such as Australia, Canada, Korea, the United States and Japan. Its circle of partners continues to grow through its engagement with new and emerging donors, such as those in the Arab world.

*Cooperation with international organizations*

The EU also engages strategically with the United Nations and other international organizations and financial institutions. In addition to the substantial assistance provided through these organizations and institutions, regular high-level policy dialogues are organized. The EU is thus particularly involved in:

* UN development-related **processes**, including the High Level Political Forum and the Financing for Development Forum. It also demonstrates its support to the UN through the [renewed EU-UN Partnership for Development](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/guyana_en/51265/EU-UN%20renewed%20partnership%20in%20development) (2018);
* the discussions and deliberations of the [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development](http://www.oecd.org/fr/developpement/) through its participation in the Development Assistance Committee (DAC);
* the **G20** and **G7**, making sure to emphasize its commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs;
* strengthening its **partnerships with international financial institutions**, such as the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as with **European financial institutions and regional development banks**.

**Global reach**

[List of countries eligible for EU development assistance](http://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/where-we-work_en)

**KEY DOCUMENTS**

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part One - The principles - Title I - Categories and areas of Union competence - [Article 4](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E004) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 51-52)

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title III - Cooperation with third countries and humanitarian aid - Chapter 1 - Development cooperation - [Article 208](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E208) (ex Article 177 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 141)

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 1 - General provisions on the Union's external action - [Article 21(2)(d)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M021) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, pp. 28-29)

last modification 09.07.2019

**Strengthening Economic and Monetary Union**

**SYNTHESIS OF DOCUMENTS:**

[Communication [COM(2015) 600 final] on measures to complete Economic and Monetary Union](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52015DC0600)

[Article 119 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E119)

[Article 120 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E120)

[Article 121 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E121)

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS COMMUNICATION AND THE TREATY ARTICLES ON MONETARY AND ECONOMIC POLICY?**

The communication sets out the measures needed to complete the first stage of [Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/economic_monetary_union.html), which was established on 1 July 2015, by the beginning of 2017. Since then, the European Commission has added a [reflection paper on the deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52017DC0291).

Articles 119, 120 and 121 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union address the economic and monetary policy of the European Union (EU). According to these articles, the EU countries agree to:

* coordinate their economic policies;
* work towards a convergence of their economic performance; and
* act in accordance with the principles of an open market economy.

**KEY POINTS**

The communication argues for:

* [a European Semester\*](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/european_semester.html) **redesigned** in:
  + better integrating national and [eurozone](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/eurozone.html) considerations,
  + paying increased attention to social and employment performance,
  + encouraging economic convergence through the establishment of criteria and the application of good practices,
  + supporting reforms through the [European Structural and Investment Funds](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/structural_cohesion_fund.html) and technical assistance;
* **improved** [economic governance](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/economic_governance.html) in:
  + reducing the complexity and increasing the transparency of budgetary rules,
  + strengthening the procedures for combating [macroeconomic imbalances](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/mip.html),
  + creating a system of national competitiveness authorities to provide independent expertise,
  + establishing a [European Budget](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/graphs/2016-10-20_european_fiscal_board_en.htm) Advisory [Committee](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/graphs/2016-10-20_european_fiscal_board_en.htm) to improve the budgetary surveillance of the euro area;
* **increased external representation of the euro** by encouraging eurozone countries to speak with one voice on the international stage, in particular within the [International Monetary Fund](http://www.imf.org/external/french/index.htm);
* **a willingness to move towards a true financial union**, notably by:
  + [setting](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/europe_banking_union.html) up a [banking union](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/europe_banking_union.html),
  + approving a [European deposit guarantee scheme](http://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/banking-union/european-deposit-insurance-scheme_fr),
  + [setting up](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:2405_5) a [capital markets union](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:2405_5);
* more effective **democratic legitimacy** by strengthening parliamentary oversight of EMU developments and developing closer involvement of national parliaments.

In May 2017, the Commission published a reflection paper on EMU based on the 2015 Communication. This promotes **four principles** to strengthen the single currency and to jointly address issues of common interest that cross national borders. These are:

* **employment**, **growth**, **social justice**, **economic convergence** and **financial stability**, the main objectives of EMU;
* **solidarity** and **responsibility**, **risk reduction** and **risk sharing, which are** closely linked;
* **EMU membership**, which is open to all EU countries (except the United Kingdom ([1)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/HTML/?uri=LEGISSUM:1402_4&from=EN#BREXIT) and Denmark, which have [chosen not to join](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/opting_out.html)). The single market is essential for an effective single currency, and its integrity must be preserved;
* the **method of decision making**, which must become more transparent and democratic.

The paper highlighted the need for progress in **three areas**:

* the establishment of a **true financial union**, particularly by making the banking sector more resilient;
* achieving a **more integrated economic and fiscal union** by improving macroeconomic stabilization in the euro area;
* strengthening the architecture of EMU through a **better sharing of national competences and decisions** around the euro zone, within a common legal framework.

**BACKGROUND**

In June 2015, the Presidents of the Commission, the [European Parliament](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/european_parliament.html), the [European Central Bank](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/european_central_bank.html), the Eurozone Summit and the [Eurogroup](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/eurogroup.html) presented their report (the ["Five Presidents' Report"](http://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/5-presidents-report_fr.pdf)) on the completion of EMU. The Communication gives more details on the first step of the action plan contained in their report.

The Commission's discussion paper on EMU is part of a series launched in March 2017 with the publication of the White Paper on the Future of Europe, which includes:

* a reflection paper on the [social dimension of Europe](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52017DC0206) and
* a reflection paper on the [future of EU finances](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52017DC0358).

For more information, see:

* ["Completing European Economic and Monetary Union: Commission takes concrete steps to strengthen EMU](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5874_fr.htm)" - press release (*European Commission*).

**KEY TERMS**

**European Semester: provides a** framework for the coordination of national economic and budgetary policies in the EU.

**KEY DOCUMENTS**

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Three - The Union's internal policies and activities - Title VIII - Economic and monetary policy - [Article 119](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E119) (ex Article 4 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 96-97)

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Three - The Union's internal policies and activities - Title VIII - Economic and monetary policy - Chapter 1 - Economic policy - [Article 120](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E120) (ex Article 98 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 97)

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Three - The Union's internal policies and activities - Title VIII - Economic and monetary policy - Chapter 1 - Economic policy - [Article 121](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E121) (ex Article 99 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 97-98)

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Central Bank on measures to complete Economic and Monetary Union [[COM(2015) 600 final](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52015DC0600) of 21.10.2015]

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Reflection paper on deepening Economic and Monetary Union [[COM (2017) 291 final](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/AUTO/?uri=celex:52017DC0291) of 31.5.2017]

["Completing the European Economic and Monetary Union"](http://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/5-presidents-report_fr.pdf), report prepared by Jean-Claude Juncker in close cooperation with Donald Tusk, Jeroen Dijsselbloem, Mario Draghi and Martin Schulz, 22.6.2015

last modification 01.12.2017

([1)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/HTML/?uri=LEGISSUM:1402_4&from=EN#src.BREXIT) The United Kingdom is withdrawing from the European Union and will become a third country (non-EU country) as of February 1, 2020.