

2024 European Elections - 2030 Agenda

November 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS ON MAKING THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT A DRIVING FORCE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



WHAT ARE THE KEY COMMITMENTS FOR #EE24?

- 1** | ESTABLISH GOVERNANCE TO ALIGN EU POLICIES WITH THE SDGS.
- 2** | MONITOR THE IMPACT OF EU POLICIES ON THE SDGS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION SYSTEMS.
- 3** | IMPLEMENT AN AMBITIOUS EUROPEAN STRATEGY TO PROMOTE ALL THE SDGS.



FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE EU, THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND POLICY COHERENCE.

The 2030 Agenda, adopted in 2015, promotes sustainable development through its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. The SDGs cover various fields, such as poverty reduction, climate, biodiversity, energy and gender equality. Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) seeks to mainstream economic, social, environmental and governance aspects into national and international policies. The SDGs guide this approach through the use of multidimensional indicators. Since 1996, governments have been striving to adopt Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) to align their policies with Official Development Assistance (ODA). In 2015, this coherence was extended to all aspects of sustainable development via the 2030 Agenda. **The EU, unlike many OECD countries, focuses mainly on PCD but should gradually adopt PCSD to meet global objectives.**

The SDGs are essential because they are the only global set of goals to address the major challenges ahead, to promote an economy focused on well-being and sustainability through to 2030. **The EU must implement PCSD to minimize the negative impacts its policies have on partner countries, by using the SDGs as a guide.** It is particularly PCSD that makes it possible to consider the externalities of EU policies at the design stage, thereby addressing the negative impacts of the EU's economic model.

Effective communication of PCSD by the European External Action Service (EEAS) could improve how the EU is viewed in partner countries and boost public confidence in it. Maximizing the EU's positive impact in the world could improve relations with non-EU countries. In addition, a recent report estimates that promotion of sustainable trade on a global scale, integrated into PCSD, could bring in at least €133 billion per year for the EU. These observations are the result of an in-depth analysis of PCSD implementation methodologies and are in line with UNEP and OECD guidelines.

1 | ESTABLISH GOVERNANCE TO ALIGN EU POLICIES WITH THE SDGS.

UNEP is in charge of monitoring Target 17.14 (PCSD). For effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it insists on the need to institutionalise political commitment, as recommended by the OECD and a 2022 European Parliament report. At the EU, two major bodies are working on PCD. Within the European Commission (EC), the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) is primarily responsible for this. However, its role is not clearly defined, and it has limited capacity limited, with only one part-time staff member working on PCD. The Secretariat-General (SEC GEN) is becoming more involved in the issue, but its inter-DG coordination role in mainstreaming PCD into all EC initiatives still needs strengthening, according to a 2023 Parliament resolution.

At the European Parliament, the Committee on Development (DEVE) is the main player in PCD, especially since Ms Janina Ochojska became rapporteur in 2022. However, DEVE lacks the resources to influence the entire Parliament to push for better application of PCD, and making other committees take up the issue is complicated.

That is why the European Parliament called for the creation of a 'PCD mainstreaming network' in 2023. This network would bring together members of parliamentary committees and delegations for relations with developing countries, who would act as focal points in close cooperation with DEVE. The European Parliament also asked all committees to systematically apply PCD in their legislative and other work. The aim of this approach is to strengthen commitment to PCD throughout the European institutional system.

2 | MONITOR THE IMPACT OF EU POLICIES ON THE SDGS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION SYSTEMS.

PCD is a legal obligation of the EU. It is enshrined in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which requires the EU to mainstream development cooperation objectives into its policies that may affect developing countries. The 2017 European Consensus on Development stresses the application of PCD in all policies, in line with the 2030 Agenda. It emphasises the need to evaluate the expected and actual impact of policies.

A 2022 parliamentary report highlights the importance of prior analysis in identifying priority areas for action. For example, the report states that, without PCD, the Green Deal could have negative externalities in developing countries. Impact evaluations are crucial for PCD, as highlighted by an EC assessment in 2018.

However, there is currently a gap in ex-ante and ex-post monitoring of the impact of EU policies on the 2030 Agenda. A 2022 parliamentary study points to the lack of targets and indicators for monitoring PCD. Despite the existence of guidelines for better regulation, evaluations remain insufficient according to DG INTPA and a 2018 evaluation.

The European Parliament now has the capacity to carry out its own ex-ante and ex-post evaluations, thanks in particular to the European Parliament Research Service (EPRS). DEVE also carries out its own informal PCD evaluations, through relevant impact studies. However, its capacity is limited when it is not the lead evaluator.



3

IMPLEMENT AN AMBITIOUS EUROPEAN STRATEGY TO PROMOTE ALL THE SDGS.

Effective PC(S)D requires a precise strategic plan with quantified objectives, a timetable, a clear methodology and concrete indicators. This view is shared by organisations such as UNEP, OECD and SDG Watch. The need is also stressed by the European Parliament's 2023 resolution and 2022 report, the Council of the EU, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions.

Although the 2017 European Consensus on Development clarified the role of PCD, it did not sufficiently determine the political commitments needed to support it. An EC evaluation in 2018 highlighted the urgent need for official EU communication to clarify these commitments, including the establishment of policies relevant to PCD, the role of the other DGs, the selection of priority areas, and the creation of suitable tools.

Introduction of a clear strategy and recognition of PCD principles in EU treaties are crucial, especially as the European Parliament is expressing growing concern about the funding gap for the SDGs, which as of June 2023 had risen from \$2.5 trillion to \$4 trillion per year.

IMPROVE COOPERATION BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE EU

CSOs (civil society organisations) play a key role in enriching public policy, by providing public authorities with a wide range of expertise and opinions from civil society. They draw on their experience in the field to make these opinions known. CSOs must be informed about public policy and have the opportunity to influence it, as they can propose concrete solutions to the problems raised. They also support parliamentary work by taking part in committees, helping to draft amendments and facilitating communication between MEPs and relevant players on the ground.

It is therefore through their own work – and also by supporting greater participation by CSOs in the work of the Council of the European Union and the EC – that MEPs can contribute to EU policies that leave no one behind.

Finally, special attention should be paid to the inclusion of organisations of diasporas, women, children, and youth; any organisation representing minority and minoritized groups; and organisations of various sizes.



FURTHER READING

[Guillaume Lafortune, G. F.-L. \(2022\). Europe Sustainable Development Report 2022. Achieving the SDGs: Europe's Compass in a Multipolar World. Paris: Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\).](#)

[Ondřej HORKÝ-HLUCHÁN, Workshop. Enhancing policy coherence for development. Policy Department for External Relations Directorate General for External Policies of the Union, November 2022](#)

[Lauro Panella, M. F.-S. \(2023\). Accroître la valeur ajoutée européenne en des temps de défis mondiaux. Evaluer le coût de la non-Europe \(2022-2032\). Bruxelles: Service de recherche du Parlement européen.](#)

[European Commission, Directorate-General for International Partnerships, Núñez-Borja, C., Baudelet, E., Picarello, T., External evaluation of the European Union's policy coherence for development \(2009-2016\) – Final report. Volume 1, Main report, Publications Office of the European Union, 2022, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2841/31157>](#)

[Parlement européen, \(2023\). European Parliament resolution of 14 March 2023 on Policy Coherence for Development \(2021/2164\(INI\)\).](#)



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Coordination SUD is the national coordinating body of French NGOs working for international solidarity.

Coordination SUD was founded in 1994 and currently comprises 184 NGOs, either as direct members or through six networks of associations (CLONG-Volontariat, Cnajep, Coordination Humanitaire et Développement, CRID, FORIM and Groupe initiatives). These organisations work in the fields of emergency humanitarian and development aid, environmental protection, human rights, advocacy and global citizenship education for international solidarity — with a special focus on helping the most disadvantaged groups of people.

Coordination SUD's Europe work brings together member NGOs that carry out advocacy work on European issues relating to international solidarity, as well as Coordination SUD's representatives to CONCORD Europe, the European confederation of humanitarian and development NGOs of which Coordination SUD is a member.

Contact : Nicolas Paris, Policy & Advocacy Officer
paris@coordinationsud.org