



Brussels, 27.2.2019
SWD(2019) 93 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Evaluation of the EU Policy Coherence for Development

{SWD(2019) 88 final}

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This staff working document presents the Commission assessment of the findings and conclusions of the external evaluation of the European Union's (EU) approach to policy coherence for development (PCD) over the period 2009-2016.

The external evaluation assesses the extent to which the EU has taken account of the objectives of development cooperation in those of its non-development policies that are likely to affect developing countries, in line with Art. 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, and the extent to which this has contributed to reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development.

The external evaluation was carried out on behalf of the Commission and was followed by an inter-service group of representatives of relevant Commission services and the European External Action Service.

The main findings and conclusions of the evaluation are:

- The EU has exercised a leading role on PCD in the international context by prioritizing it as a means to implement its international commitments on development. The Commission has acted as a lead institution in the implementation and promotion of PCD and, to this end, has continuously improved its policy-making and awareness-raising mechanisms to better integrate PCD;
- The EU and its Member States have reaffirmed their political will to promote PCD in the new European Consensus on Development. Their common position reinforces the sustainability of PCD and confirms the EU added value;
- It would be useful to further clarify the understanding and operational implication of the EU's approach to PCD to enhance the analysis of potential impacts of EU policies on developing countries;
- The EU has adapted its approach to PCD to the new policy framework by integrating PCD into the overall Commission work on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- Impact Assessments are crucial for assessing possible impacts of EU policies on developing countries. Efforts to systematically consider these impacts could be further strengthened.
- Measuring the impact of PCD remains very challenging as long as there are no baselines and targets to measure PCD and that EU delegations do not play a more prominent role in monitoring the impact of PCD.

These findings and conclusions, together with the 2019 EU Report on PCD recently published, should allow the EU and its Member States to take stock of the lessons learnt and inform future work on PCD, in particular in view of new challenges posed by the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the new European Consensus on Development.