



Adviesraad inzake beleidscoherentie
ten gunste van ontwikkeling
Conseil consultatif sur la cohérence
des politiques en faveur du développement

Why is Policy Coherence so necessary to achieve the SDGs?

Tour & Taxis – October 5, 2021 – Workshop “i” - 11:20 - 12:35

As Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) aims to prevent negative side effects across policies and promote positive synergies, progress in PCD can only be to the benefit of the SDGs. Workshop ‘i’ is organized by the Belgian Advisory Board on Policy Coherence for Development (CCPD-ABCO) to explore EU mechanisms to achieve the SDGs.

11:20 Presentation of the Belgian Advisory Board on Policy Coherence for Development by
Antoinette Van Haute, Secretary of CCPD-ABCO

11:25 Presentation of the three panelists and moderation of the debate by
Nadine Gouzée, Co-chair of CCPD-ABCO

Martin Ronceray*, Policy officer at ECDPM, the European Centre for Development Policy Management, based in Maastricht and working on Africa-Europe relations : *What is PCD and why is PCD so important to ensure sustainable development?*

Norber Probst**, Policy Officer in charge of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) since 2012 at European Commission, International Partnerships, Unit D1: *What are the PCD mechanisms at EU level and why are they necessary to achieve the SDGs?*

Rebecca Humphries***, Senior Public Affairs Officer at WWF European Policy Office, active in CONCORD, SDG Watch Europe & other EU-wide civil society coalitions: *What are the best PCD mechanisms at Member State level?*

***PROMOTING POLICY COHERENCE**

*ECDPM Policy Brief: Promoting Policy Coherence: Lessons learned in EU Development Cooperation, <https://ecdpm.org/wp-content/uploads/Promoting-Policy-Coherence-Lessons-Learned-EU-Development-Cooperation-CASCADES-Briefing-Note-ECDPM-September-2020.pdf> September 2020

Policy coherence for development, or PCD, refers to the need for multiple policies from different sectors to work in unison rather than in opposition to each other, if international development is to be achieved. In Europe the argument for PCD was based on the recognition that EU efforts on development cooperation were often contradicted or undermined by other EU policies, both internal as much as external, to the extent that the EU was effectively taking back with one hand what it had given with the other. In some severe cases the EU was even taking back more than it gave.

Thus for instance, while on the one hand the EU was funding development projects to support agriculture production projects in Africa, on the other, its trade policies and domestic agriculture subsidy policies in Europe were encouraging the dumping of cheap subsidised food on African markets thereby undercutting local producers competing in the same markets. The impact of European development aid was therefore being negated by its trade and agriculture policies...



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****POLICY COHERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT AT EU LEVEL SINCE 1992**

Commission Staff Working Document, Policy Coherence for Development - 2019 Report - https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/swd-2019-20-pcdreport_en.pdf - Brussels 28.1.2019

Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) constitutes a key pillar of European Union (EU) efforts to enhance the positive impact and increase effectiveness of development cooperation. This concept of policy coherence in support of development objectives was introduced in EU fundamental law in 1992 with the Treaty of Maastricht and was further reinforced in the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009.

Article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU concerning PCD reads: "The Union shall take account of the objectives of development cooperation in the policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries".

This legal commitment to promote PCD was reaffirmed at the highest political level by the EU institutions and the EU Member States as recently as June 2017, in paragraph 10 of the new European Consensus on Development¹, whereby it was stated that: "The EU and its Member States will apply the principle of PCD and will take into account the objectives of development cooperation in all external and internal policies which they implement and which are likely to affect developing countries." Furthermore in the same paragraph PCD was also recognised as "a fundamental part of the EU's contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals."

*****POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SINCE 2015**

CONCORD, European NGO confederation for relief and development, *A guide to Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development*, <https://concordeurope.org/resource/a-guide-to-pcsd/> October 13 2020

The European Union (EU) is responsible for contributing to a more sustainable future – not just for people in the EU itself, but for the entire planet. This means we have to expand our thinking to consider the consequences of our policies for sustainability on a global scale. While this sounds like a straightforward idea, it can be challenging to put into practice.

PCSD was introduced in 2015 by the United Nations' 2030 Agenda. PCSD is an approach to integrate the economic, social, environmental and governance dimensions of sustainable development at all stages of domestic and international policy making. By increasingly applying PCSD to its policy-making, the EU highlights its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The main objectives of PCSD are:

- 1. Foster synergies across economic, social, environmental and governance policy areas*
- 2. Identify trade-offs and reconcile domestic policy objectives with internationally agreed objectives*
- 3. Address the spill-overs of domestic policies...*

This leaflet explains how to implement PCSD to ensure that sustainability is considered across policy making in the EU...