28 November 2022

Note to Antici

Foreign Affairs Council – Development

28 November 2022

This note provides a summary of the main outcomes and expected follow-up to the Foreign Affairs Council – Development held in Brussels on 28 November.

Follow-up of the EU-AU Summit

The High Representative and Member States stressed the need to engage more visibly and coordinated with Africa, to deliver and to communicate more, and to counter any erroneous perception that the EU only focuses on Ukraine. Member States underlined the need to quickly and concretely deliver on the Summit commitments, in particular the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package. The importance of the Team Europe response to the global food insecurity crisis was underlined. The Commission stressed the need to finalise the negotiations on the monitoring mechanism with the African Union; informed that the first Global Gateway Board meeting is to take place on 11 December; and proposed to revert to the issue of reforming multilateral development banks.

Team Europe in Crisis Response: Ukraine and Afghanistan

On Ukraine, the High Representative highlighted the need for support ahead of winter as well as to repair infrastructure and ensure essential state functions. He underlined that support, immediate and long-term, needs to be in coherence with the accession path. The Commission informed that work was ongoing for a humanitarian and development strategy for shelter and winterisation support. Member States welcomed support ahead of winter and referred to reconstruction efforts. Some expressed concern over refugee flows to the EU and called for further support. On Afghanistan, the High Representative and the Commission recalled the EU's basic needs approach, aiming to give essential support to the Afghan population without legitimising the de-facto authorities, and pointed to potential fine-tuning in view of urgent and growing needs. Member States supported the further provision of humanitarian assistance, while avoiding recognizing or legitimising the de-facto authorities. The discussion is expected to continue on technical level. The High Representative, Commission and Member States also touched upon the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus and the move to wide-spread operationalisation.

AOB: Youth Action Plan in External Action

The High Representative and the Commission informed about the Youth Action Plan in External Action, adopted on 4 October 2022.

***

ENDS