

Report on the EU Report on Policy Coherence for Development

Amendments proposed by PLATFORMA

PLATFORMA, the European association of local and regional governments for development cooperation and its members propose the following amendments and remarks.

Key messages:

- Inclusion of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development as a core issue in the coming EU debates and reforms in all sectors of EU policy and within all EU institutions.
- Inclusion of local and regional governments, territorial stakeholders and the local dimension in the definition of joint programming and in impact assessments.
- Mainstream Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development at all levels: within the EU, within Member States, and within local and regional governments.

- **PCD in the framework of the 2030 Agenda**

PLATFORMA strongly recommends that the issue of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development be addressed **in the framework of the coming debates on European policies**, and especially on the review of the Multi-annual Financial Framework, the Global strategy and the post-Cotonou agreement.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a comprehensive set of interconnected goals that has to be addressed as a whole. It must be **at the core of the revision of EU Development policy**.

(2.a)

<i>Text proposed by the European Parliament</i>	<i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i>
(New)	Calls for the inclusion of PCSD as a core issue in the coming debates on EU policies, particularly on the Global strategy, and the mid-term review of the Multi-annual Financial Framework.

- **PCD mechanisms**

We call on the EU delegations to **systematically involve local and regional governments**, through their representative platforms, in the definition of recommendations, and orientation of PCSD in the framework of joint programming. The same must apply in the conduct of impact assessments, since programs are always implemented and have direct consequences at the local level.

Local and regional governments have been increasingly recognized by the European Union¹, and also by the United Nations² as development actors. As such, they participate in policy coherence for sustainable development. The international action of European local and regional governments (LRGs) **is one component of the EU external action**. In addition, LRGs in EU partner countries, as entities in charge of basic services delivery, are key stakeholder for the implementation of development policies and in particular the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level.

4.

<i>Text proposed by the European Parliament</i>	<i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i>
<p>4. Proposes that in preparation for that summit, the Commission and the EEAS should address a paper to the EU heads of state and government with concrete recommendations on how to implement PCD and how to define more clearly the responsibilities of each EU institution in achieving PCD commitments; believes that such a process should be inclusive, involving civil society organisations and think-tanks;</p>	<p>4. Proposes that in preparation for that summit, the Commission and the EEAS should address a paper to the EU heads of state and government with concrete recommendations on how to implement PCD and how to define more clearly the responsibilities of each EU institution in achieving PCD commitments; believes that such a process should be inclusive, involving local and regional governments, civil society organisations, and think-tanks;</p>

- **Priority areas**

Migration

The European Union must ensure that **tackling root causes of migration is the priority** when addressing the current migration crisis. The EU “Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa” is a relevant tool to address root causes of migration, especially through support to basic services for local populations such as food and nutrition security, health, education and social protection, as well as environmental sustainability. The priorities and objectives of the Trust Fund have been defined **in consultation with local authorities**, allowing for true ownership of the projects. Such approach must be systematically used when addressing root causes of migration.

¹ European Parliament reports on “*the role of local authorities in developing countries in development cooperation*” (2015/2004(INI)); European Commission Communication “*Empowering Local Authorities in Partner Countries for enhance governance and more effective development outcomes*” of 2013.

² United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Habitat, Global Taskforce for local and regional governments report on “*Dialogue on localizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda*” of 31 October 2014.



(13.a)

<i>Text proposed by the European Parliament</i>	<i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i>
(New)	Call for an inclusive approach to tackle root causes of migration, including local stakeholders in the first place; Emphasises the need to ensure that development and tackling root causes of migration is the main approach for a sustainable settlement of the current migration crisis.

Trade and finance

The EU must reaffirm its intention to **exclude public services** in free trade agreements in order not to impede on local and regional government’s ability to organise, support, finance and deliver quality public services. Moreover the negotiation and implementation of trade agreements should be a process including all territorial stakeholders for development in the partner countries affected, and especially civil society organisations and local and regional governments).

Finally, as mentioned above, European local and regional governments can significantly participate to the EU external action, including in external trade. European LRGs are public buyers and consumers, and as such they can influence the global market towards and **foster sustainable and fair trade**. The EU should therefore support the initiatives such as “Fair Trade Cities”, for instance through establishing an “EU City for Fair and Ethical Trade” award, as suggested in the European Commission’s communication on “Trade for all – Towards a more responsible trade and investment policy.

15.

<i>Text proposed by the European Parliament</i>	<i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i>
15. Recalls, however, that aid alone is not sufficient; believes that innovative and diversified sources of financing must be considered and that coherence should be strengthened between public, private, international and domestic financing; recognises the essential role of the private sector in this regard;	15. Recalls, however, that aid alone is not sufficient; believes that innovative and diversified sources of financing must be considered and that coherence should be strengthened between public, private, international and domestic financing; recognises the essential role of the private sector in this regard; Recognises the key role of European local and regional governments as responsible consumers, and support the initiatives of “fair trade cities”;

(16.a)

<i>Text proposed by the European Parliament</i>	<i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i>
(New)	Highlights that public services must remain outside of trade agreements in order not to impede on local and regional government’s ability to organise, support, finance and deliver quality public services;

(16.b)

<i>Text proposed by the European Parliament</i>	<i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i>
(New)	Stresses the importance of participation through broad and transparent consultations of civil society organisations, local authorities and trade unions in the negotiation, implementation and monitoring of EU trade and investment agreements and policies; ³

Climate change

Non-party actors must be supported and consulted through their representative platforms for all climate-related EU policies. Non-party actors to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and **especially territorial stakeholders** such as local and regional governments, local civil society organisations and local small and medium businesses have demonstrated during the run towards the COP21 that they are playing **a significant role to help States complying with the objectives** adopted in the Paris Agreement. In partner countries, and especially in Least Developed Countries, local and regional governments are on the front line to fight and adapt to climate change and its effects.

19.

<i>Text proposed by the European Parliament</i>	<i>Amendment of PLATFORMA</i>
19. Calls for determined action from the EU in implementing the Paris Agreement; stresses that the EU and the other developed countries must continue to support climate action to reduce emissions and build resilience to climate change impacts in developing countries; recalls the crucial importance of the provision of adequate climate finance in this context;	19. Calls for determined action from the EU and governments at all levels in implementing the Paris Agreement; In this respect, highlights the need to include and consult non-party stakeholders in all climate related policies; stresses that the EU and the other developed countries must continue to support climate action to reduce emissions and build resilience to climate change impacts in developing countries; recalls the crucial importance of the provision of adequate climate finance in this context;

PLATFORMA is the network of local and regional governments (LRGs), and their associations, active in the field of development cooperation between Europe and partner countries. PLATFORMA has 34 members: national, European and international associations, as well individual local and regional governments. The Secretariat is hosted by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (more information on www.platforma-dev.eu).

Since its launch, PLATFORMA has actively engaged with the European institutions to inform and constructively participate in shaping the EU development policy with two main objectives; i. strengthening EU support to local governance in partner countries and, ii. strengthening EU support to decentralised cooperation as an implementation means of development cooperation.

In 2015, PLATFORMA signed a Strategic partnership with the European Commission Directorate-General for International Development and Cooperation, whereby signatories commit to take actions based on common values and objectives to tackle global poverty and inequality, and to promote democracy and sustainable development.

³ Inspired from the “Draft opinion report of the Committee on International Trade for the Committee on Development on the EU 2015 Report on Policy Coherence for Development”