



2015
European Year
for Development

A EUROPEAN COMMISSION SIDE EVENT

Towards better scientific evidence and support for policy-making on sustainable development

- The role of Science, Technology and Innovation -

Wednesday, 15 July 2015, 1.15 pm – 2.45 pm

Hotel Radisson BLU, room Sholla 1

Science, Technology and Innovation are important elements of the post-2015 agenda. They will support both the implementation and the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The purpose of the side-event is to illustrate the role of science, notably scientific evidence in support to policy-making, technology and innovation in sustainable development and to discuss best practices at international level.

It will take the form of a panel discussion between speakers from governments, international organisations and scientific academies, also engaging the audience. Best practices and examples of scientific cooperation, partnerships and projects that relate to the implementation of the post-2015 agenda will be presented and discussed.

- **Prof. Enrico Giovannini**, Chairperson of the European Commission's independent 'Expert Group on the Rio+20 follow-up, notably the SDGs', full Professor Tor Vergata University
- **Dr Mahama Ouédraogo**, Acting Director of the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology, African Union Commission
- **Flavia Schlegel**, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO
- **Patrick Gomes**, Secretary-General, African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
- **Dr Ulla Engelmann**, Head of Unit "International, Interinstitutional and Stakeholder Relations", European Commission Directorate-General Joint Research Centre
- **Dr Isayvani Naicker**, Chief Director: International Resources, South African Department of Science and Technology
- **Berhanu Abegaz**, Executive Director, African Academy of Sciences

Panel discussions moderated by **Ulla Engelmann**.

Specific objectives of the side-event

- Present key scientific activities, including those of the Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, such as the EU Aid Explorer, in support to policy-making on sustainable development and highlight the role of international partnerships with academic and scientific stakeholders to scale up awareness on the role of scientific evidence in policy-making at all levels;
- Share best practices and experiences in order to analyse the challenges linked to the implementation of scientific projects and policies in support to development policies.
- Develop potential ideas for future scientific cooperation that could foster equitable, sustainable and results-oriented development.

Contributions to the Conference

Achieving sustainable development requires a complex set of actions by all countries, taking into account their own situations and characteristic. It is here that scientific evidence steps in, by providing the flexible tools to assess needs, helping to put ideas into practice and monitoring results, thereby improving the quality of life as well as fostering sustainability.

The side-event will bring together relevant stakeholders from various organisations and countries, and through concrete examples and discussion will help raise awareness and political momentum on the importance and potential of scientific evidence, including data and statistics, to support the outcomes of the 2015 Financing for Development (FfD) Conference, and the implementation and monitoring of the post-2015 agenda.

Best practices and examples of scientific cooperation and projects relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals will be presented and discussed. These examples would address issues such as: sustainable production and consumption, resilience against natural disasters, climate change, management of natural resources, protection of the environment, as well as methodologies for monitoring and assessing progress with attaining the SDGs.

The side-event will also aim to demonstrate the potential of cooperation and partnerships, both at global and national levels, in reaching these goals.