

To the attention of:
Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen
Prins Jørgens Gård 11, 1218 København K

LETTER AHEAD OF THE 28-29 JUNE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING

June 14, 2016

Dear Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen,

Ahead of your meeting in the European Council, we Global Focus, as member of CONCORD, the European NGO confederation for relief and development, would like to bring to your attention some recommendations on the implementation by the EU of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ahead of the HLPF next month.

Call for strong political statement from EU leaders to show strong ambition in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Nine months after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the UN General Assembly, plans to implement the 2030 Agenda in different countries and regions around the world are taking shape. In July, the world will gather at the High Level Political Forum to review progress, generate political impetus and launch partnerships and actions to advance shared goals. In the run-up to this UN High-level Political Forum, the EU should continue to play a leading role, inspiring others by showing how it is able to match the ambition of the 2030 Agenda with clear EU-wide implementation plans, which reflect the universal, integrated, interlinked and comprehensive nature of the Agenda, in order to ensure well-being for all people within planetary boundaries.

Therefore, we call on EU Heads of State and Government to jointly issue a strong political statement committing the EU to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in all policy areas, ahead of the UN High-level Political Forum.

This political statement should not only give guidance to the HLPF. It should also call for a high level of ambition and clarity on how the EU will deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through all its internal and external policies. These two dimensions should be aligned in an overarching EU strategy, which recognises Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development as a prerequisite for integrating the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development. The EU Global Strategy and the revised EU Development Consensus should affirm the EU's commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda and address the root causes of today's global challenges including inequalities, poverty, migration, climate change and environmental degradation. Equally, in line with the universality principle, there is an urgent need to review EU policies within its domestic framework, not least agriculture, energy, sustainable production and consumption, and bring them in line with the 2030 Agenda. In addition to a strong political statement on EU implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we as civil society also encourage EU Member States to call upon the European Commission to:

- (1) publish the general assessment of where the EU stands in addressing the goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda to allow all stakeholders to take stock,
- (2) organise a public consultation to gather views of a wide range of stakeholders to enrich the assessment, and
- (3) prepare a Communication clearly outlining the implementation strategy of the 2030 Agenda through external and internal policies before the end of 2016.

The Commission's Communication should give guidance to Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda and support them throughout the implementation phase, as well as indicate how a monitoring, accountability and review framework at EU-level should be set up. Such a framework should cover the whole agenda, including principles and means of implementation, and, for example, encourage mutual learning but also redirect efforts as and where needed.

Yours sincerely,



Berit Asmussen, Head of Secretariat, Global Focus
on behalf of CONCORD Europe



Laust Leth Gregersen, Chair, Global Focus

CONCORD

European NGO confederation for relief and development

