



60
ROME



#EU60

60 YEARS OF **EU IN THE WORLD**

The voice of the European Union and its people is heard all around the world. From **Asia** and the **Pacific** to **Africa**, **Europe** and **Central Asia**, from the **Greater Middle East** to the **Americas**, the European Union's diplomatic network runs wide and deep to all corners of the globe, making a difference when it comes to human rights, democracy support, migration, development, responding to crises, providing security, contributing to defence and building the resilience and capacities of societies. **139 Delegations** represent the EU and its citizens around the globe, building networks and partnerships and promoting the values and interests of the EU.

Since the Rome Treaties in 1957, the European Union has enjoyed **six decades of unparalleled peace, prosperity and security**. European countries leaving peacefully side-by-side has also contributed to a more peaceful world.



From 6 to 28

The European Union is a unique economic and political partnership between 28 European countries that together cover much of the continent. The first steps were to foster economic cooperation: the idea being that countries that trade with one another become economically interdependent and so more likely to avoid conflict. In 1951, six countries founded the **European Coal and Steel Community**, and later, in 1957, the **European Economic Community** and the **European Atomic Energy Community**: Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. A further 22 countries have since joined the EU, including a historic expansion in 2004 marking the re-unification of Europe after decades of division, followed by further enlargements in 2007 and 2013.

The EU remains an attractive project for our neighbours and beyond. The EU's enlargement policy aims at preparing those European countries which aspire to join the EU – and have been given the perspective to do so – for membership. The current enlargement process covers five candidate countries (**Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey**) and two potential candidates (**Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo***). The EU is supporting transformation and modernisation to the tune of €11.7 billion between 2014 and 2020. Support focuses on the rule of law, fundamental rights, economic development and competitiveness, as well as the functioning of democratic institutions and public administration reform.

Our enlargement process is vital to the stability of the Western Balkans. Montenegro and Serbia recently opened new chapters in their accession negotiations. **We facilitate the Dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, allowing both to advance on their path towards the EU.** The Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Kosovo entered into force in April 2016. Bosnia and Herzegovina fulfilled outstanding issues for the next step on its EU integration path and the Commission is now preparing its opinion on the membership application of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the European Union

Serbia-Kosovo

The European Union is facilitating the Dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina on normalisation of relations. In this framework, the Brussels Agreement was reached between Serbia and Kosovo in 2013. The European Union, continues to work with the two sides towards the full implementation of everything that was agreed in the Dialogue.

Bosnia-Herzegovina: From war to brink of EU membership: 2004 to date

The European Union has played an important role in rebuilding war ravaged Bosnia-Herzegovina. It offered the country a European perspective and in this context works with the authorities on political reforms, economic development to support Bosnia-Herzegovina in becoming a peaceful and multi-ethnic country. Bosnia-Herzegovina in February 2016 submitted an application for full EU membership. The people of Bosnia-Herzegovina have consistently shown their support for EU membership as the best way to prosperity, peace and stability. In addition, in December 2004 the UN Security Council mandated the EU to establish a military stabilisation mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina – EUFOR Althea, to provide the security and stability for the reconstruction and future development of the country.

Rebuilding war torn Mostar: 2004

In July 2004 the EU took over the administration of the city of Mostar in Bosnia-Herzegovina which had been devastated by the Yugoslav wars. Before the war it had been an example of multicultural life with Croats and Bosnian Muslims living together but the war brought division and destruction. When the EU took over in 2004, the population had shrunk to 60,000 from a pre-war figure of 127,000. The EU chief administrator was Hans Koschnik who led a team of engineers, local government officials and police to rebuild the city. Within two years Mostar had been rebuilt.



The famous Mostar bridge was reconstructed after the Balkan war, Bosnia-Herzegovina, © European Union

The European Union and the neighbourhood

The European Union and its Member States share a common history and many common interests with their neighbours. **The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)** governs the EU's relations with 16 of its closest Eastern and Southern Neighbours. To the South: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine*, Syria and Tunisia and to the East: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Russia takes part in Cross-Border Cooperation activities under the ENP but is not a part of the ENP as such. The ENP was launched and developed throughout with the objective of avoiding the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours and to increase the mutual prosperity, stability and security of the EU and neighbouring countries. It is based on the values of democracy, the rule of law and respect of human rights. The aim is to achieve the closest possible political association and the greatest possible degree of economic integration. The EU provides €15.4 billion for good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights; economic development for stabilisation; security; and migration and mobility.

Tunisia

In the immediate aftermath of the 2011 Revolution, the EU pledged to **support the Tunisian people's transition towards democracy, freedom and social justice**. The EU has more than doubled its financial contribution to cooperation; the combination of grants, macrofinancial assistance and loans brings the EU total support to Tunisia to **€3.5 billion since 2011**. On 1 January 2016, Tunisia became the first Arab country to participate fully in the EU's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme, which provides new opportunities to Tunisian researchers and academics.

Georgia

In June 2014, the EU and Georgia signed an **Association Agreement (AA)** which, together with the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) Agreement, **builds a foundation for far-reaching Georgian political and economic integration with the EU**. The ambition for Georgia

includes consolidating democracy and the rule of law, improving human rights, good governance and furthering economic development.

The EU remains firmly committed to its policy of supporting Georgia's territorial integrity within its internationally-recognised borders, as well as engagement with the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, in support of longer-term conflict resolution. Since 2008, an **EU Monitoring Mission** has operated in the vicinity of the administrative boundary lines.

The EU provides **over €100 million in assistance to Georgia annually** which supports the country in key priorities areas such as public administration reform, agriculture and rural development, and justice sector reform.

Following the adoption by the Parliament, the Council decided to grant visa freedom to Georgia on 27 February, thereby opening the way for visa free travel for Georgian citizens to the Schengen area for short stays of up to 90 days.

A European Union of security and defence

Europe faces a multitude of security challenges such as terrorism, trafficking and smuggling or hybrid threats by state and non-state actors. For most Europeans security is a top priority today. This requires a strong European Union, able to promote peace and the security of its Member States and citizens. Under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), the European Union has become a major security provider, through civilian and military missions currently deployed in more than a dozen countries in our neighbourhood and beyond. They help with a multitude of important security related tasks such as peace-keeping, conflict prevention or capacity building of police or military forces of our partner countries.

Since 2002, the European Union has deployed more than **30 civilian and military missions and operations** in countries in three continents (Europe, Africa and Asia), as part of its Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

To live up to growing expectations of citizens and partners, the European Union has recently taken decisive steps to further reinforce European security and defence. Based on the 2016 EU Global Strategy, a package of three key interlinked elements were defined: 1) a **new level of ambition and set of concrete actions** to enable fast and effective EU responses to external crises particularly in our neighbourhood, build capacity for security in partner countries and contribute to tackle threats such as terrorism, proliferation or hybrid threats to improve protection of the EU and its citizens 2) a **European Defence Action Plan** including a fund to finance capability development and defence cooperation and 3) a set of proposals for reinforced **EU-NATO cooperation** following the historic EU-NATO Joint Declaration signed in Warsaw in July 2016.

Implementation of the package is currently underway and has made significant progress in the short time since January 2017. The March European Council took note of this progress and will revert to the matter in June.

Supporting the Helsinki peace process: 1975

The European Union played an important part in coordinating the positions of its members and took part in the negotiations leading up to and at the 1975 Helsinki conference on security and cooperation in Europe (CSCE, later OSCE). The Helsinki Final Act in 1975 was signed by then-Prime Minister of Italy Aldo Moro, in his capacity as President of the Council of the European Communities. The Helsinki process significantly reduced Cold War tensions. Since its beginning, the EU has played a vital role in the work of the OSCE. Over the years, the scope of co-operation between the OSCE and the EU has both broadened and deepened.

Extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): 1995

In 1995 the EU successfully pushed for the extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). At the June European Council in Corfu in 1994, EU leaders had agreed on a Joint Action to strengthen the non-proliferation system by agreeing an unconditional and indefinite extension of the NPT. The EU used diplomatic notes to press countries like Ukraine, Algeria, Argentina and Chile

to align themselves with the EU position. The EU efforts were successful in contributing to a positive outcome of the 1995 NPT review conference.

Iran

In July 2015, following years of EU-led diplomacy, a historic international agreement was reached on Iran's nuclear programme. The talks were chaired by High Representative Federica Mogherini and involved Iran and France, Germany, the United Kingdom, China, Russia and the United States. The High Representative now coordinates the Joint Commission overseeing the implementation of this agreement that is already bringing positive results. All sides have been sticking to their commitments. However the implementation is an ongoing task and we need to ensure it remains full and effective throughout the lifetime of the agreement. The deal has also enabled the opening of a new page for EU-Iran relations. Concrete results have been achieved with an increase of 43% in bilateral trade year-over-year. We aim at a gradual reengagement across the different sectors, including on human rights. We also stand ready to use this opportunity to support countries in the region to build a more cooperative regional environment. This is a key example of the EU's diplomacy at its very best.

EUNAVFOR MED operation Sophia

Operation Sophia was launched in June 2015 as part of the EU's comprehensive response to the migration issue, which looks beyond the immediate short-term actions and also seeks to address its root causes, including conflict, poverty, climate change and persecution. It seeks to counter human trafficking and smuggling by taking action in the Central Mediterranean against criminal networks and disrupting the smugglers business model. So far, more than 100 suspected smugglers and



EUNAVFOR MED operation SOPHIA, © European Union

trafficker were apprehended by the operation, 405 assets have been neutralised and over 33,000 lives were saved directly by Operation Sophia

Operation Atalanta

Due to efforts of the EU Naval Force Somalia and other counter-piracy task forces, together with the self-protection measures implemented by the shipping industry, pirate attacks have significantly reduced since 2012.

Operation Atalanta's success can be attributed to a number of factors: effective deterrence and disruption at sea; the EU's legal process that has seen **160 suspected pirates transferred to EU and regional states for prosecution** and a strong relationship with the shipping industry based on mutual trust through regular engagement and MSCHOA registration. A cohesive engagement plan with international governments and regional naval forces has also strengthened cooperation and coordination in the fight against Somali-based piracy.

International Cooperation and Development

Cooperation with developing countries goes all the way back to the beginnings of the European project. The EU is the only donor worldwide which gives support in all countries that are fragile or suffer from conflict. It is also the biggest development and humanitarian aid donor in the world. For example, in 2015 alone, the EU, together with its Member States invested €68 billion of Official Development Assistance.

EU development aid goes to around 150 countries in the world.

In recent years, several developing countries have experienced strong economic growth and have managed to reduce poverty. **Starting in 2014, the EU is therefore phasing out direct aid to large countries such as India and other countries like Malaysia or many Latin American countries.** This process is called 'graduation'. Instead, **we are increasingly focusing on the poorest places in the world.** In the period 2014-2020, about 75%

of EU support will go to these countries which, in addition, often are hard hit by natural disasters or conflict, something that makes their citizens particularly vulnerable.

2015 marked a defining year for sustainable development worldwide. World leaders adopted at the 70th UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015 a new global sustainable development framework: the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (hereafter the "2030 Agenda") having at its core the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The EU was instrumental in shaping the global 2030 Agenda, which has now become the world's blueprint for global sustainable development. **The 2030 Agenda represents a commitment to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030 worldwide.** The 17 SDGs and their 169 associated targets are global in nature, universally applicable and interlinked.

Trade and regional integration

The aim is to strengthen institutions and the abilities of partner countries to bolster their trade and regional integration policies. "Aid for Trade" encourages the founding of solid regional markets and helps, for example, the ACP countries prepare Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA), enabling them to gradually integrate into the world economy. For several years now, the EU and its Member States have consistently been **the largest providers of aid.** In 2013, the EU delivered EUR 11.7 billion; representing 31 % of global AfT flows.

The EU is the number one trading partner for developing countries. Developing countries, taken as a whole, saw their share of global exports rise from 30 to 43% from 2000 to 2015.

Infrastructure (transport and communication)

The aim is to create transport networks and viable means of communication at national, regional and inter-regional level and to advance the use of information and communications technology contributing to closing the digital divide.

In its fight against poverty, the EU has contributed by helping to build and repair more than 94,000 kilometres of roads (2004-2014) to make sure that people can transport goods and food in their countries and to strengthen local economies.

Water and energy

The EU Water Initiative contributes to providing good quality drinking water for all and the EU Energy Initiative aims to improve access to modern, affordable, sustainable, clean and effective energy.

The number without access to drinking water has been halved with more than 74 million people linked to improved drinking water (2004-2014)



Improving the health status through equitable water, sanitation and hygiene service delivery in Sierra Leone
© European Union

Sustainable environmental management

The aim is to support the efforts of partner countries to incorporate the environmental dimension into development, to preserve their natural resources and ensure sustainable management, to help them mitigate climate change, with particular support going to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and small island states and to contribute to preventing natural disasters and setting up a global environmental monitoring system.

1.9 million square kilometres of forest was protected and a continued conservation of 1.1 million square kilometres of protected areas was ensured between 2004 and 2014.

Rural development, agriculture and food security

The aim is to improve food security in developing countries and support strategic approaches in countries in dire need. Emphasis is placed on prevention, safety nets and improving access to resources. In the area of agriculture and rural development, this involves encouraging access to land, water and funding, intensification of production in viable conditions in the long-run and competitiveness in regional and international markets.

Between 2004 and 2014, 58.7 million people were assisted through food security related social transfers.



Vegetable Gardening in Afghanistan © European Union

Governance, democracy, human rights and support for economic and institutional reforms

The aim is to support public and civil society institutions and contribute to improving global governance, promoting dialogue with civil society within the country, decentralization, strengthening the role of the parliaments and national mechanisms designed to lead to free and transparent elections. This goes along with the encouragement of the respect for human rights, the fight against corruption, the improvement of basic working standards and the support economic and institutional reforms, with particular attention to improving the management of public finances.

From 2000 to 2017, 133 EU Election Observation Missions (EOM) and 77 smaller Election Expert Missions were deployed (including more than 8,800 observers) in Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Balkans, following an invitation by partner countries. Election Observation Missions are deployed to enhance transparency of electoral processes, increase confidence of the electorate and strengthen democratic institutions. Often the EU deploys an EOM to accompany countries through its democratic transition, as in **Myanmar in 2015** and **The Gambia in 2017**, or to consolidate democratic stability in conflict situations, as in **Afghanistan in 2014**. EOMs always submit recommendations to improve the election framework in view of future elections and the EU systematically follow-up to promote their implementation.

Preventing conflicts and fragile states

The aim is to contribute to preventing crises, conflicts and natural disasters. In areas where a crisis has been declared, the EU contributes to continuing basic services and responding to needs, in collaboration with civil society and the UN bodies, and in the longer term to putting in place viable institutions.

From 2004 to 2014, 25 Crisis Prevention Management and Resolutions (CPMR)

The European Union's new Global Strategy emphasises the importance of acting promptly on prevention. It also emphasises the importance of an integrated and comprehensive approach to conflict, one that starts with joint analysis; that brings to bear all the tools at our disposal to address conflict; that addresses the various inter-connected levels of conflict; and that emphasises the commitment of the EU to working with our partners.

The EU is working with the UN on early warning capacities in order to identify risk trends and address the gap between warning and response. In order to prevent the emergence, re-emergence or escalation of violent conflict, early warning is indispensable. But generating early action is the key. The tool of mediation has to be recognised as not only an effective tool in conflict resolution but also in conflict prevention. Sustainable peace can only be achieved through comprehensive agreements

rooted in broad, deep and durable regional and international partnerships, which the EU will foster and support.

Building and sustaining peace is inescapably linked to inclusive development, resilience and human rights.

Human development (health, education)

The aim is to make a significant contribution to partner countries' efforts in achieving the objectives of access to health and education for all. The European Commission is funding actions to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and to promote sexual and reproductive rights. Priorities in education are organising quality primary education and vocational training, and counterbalancing inequalities, with a particular focus on girls' education. **90 per cent of children in developing regions are enrolled in primary school with 13.7 million new pupils enrolled in primary education (2004-2012)**, and school enrolment disparities between boys and girls have narrowed.



Empowering the civil society in Kazakhstan in improvement of chemical safety © European Union

Over the last decade, thanks to EU funding, almost 14 million pupils could go to primary school. 7.7 million people received technical and vocational education and training (2004-2012).

Over 7.5 million births were attended by skilled health workers, saving the lives of mothers and babies.

Malaria deaths and HIV infection rates are down, with anti-retroviral drugs for HIV/AIDS much more widely available (**570 000 people with advanced HIV infection have received antiretroviral combination therapy from 2002-2014**).

The EU financed the building, the renovation and the furnishing of more than 8 500 health centres (2004-2012)

European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) encompasses actions to support democracy and governance, and programmes to support the environment and natural resources, gender equality, health, conflict prevention, migratory flows, civil society and local authorities.

Support to medium and long Term needs of Host Communities and Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

€5 million in the framework of the EU response to the Syrian crisis, aiming at enabling locals and Syrian refugees to engage in income-generating. The catering activities offered involve a group of 25 Lebanese and Syrian women per cycle allowing them to acquire the business acumen that enables them to make use of their newly-acquired skills to establish catering services as a livelihood activity.

And particular attention is paid to the countries “neglected” in terms of aid and also to fragile states. The EU signed the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness – the biggest effort ever undertaken to improve aid coordination, endow beneficiary countries with greater control over their policies.

Comprehensive approach

EU support to the Central African Republic

The European Union has mobilised **more than 500 million EUR** since 2013 to respond rapidly to the crisis in CAR. In line with its comprehensive approach, the European Union has deployed the full range of its instruments, in the field of humanitarian aid, development and security, of its security, including the deployment of military and election observation missions and the creation of the first ever European multi-donor trust fund (Bêkou). The United Nations, the World Bank and bilateral donors have provided invaluable assistance to CAR.

EU support to Mali

The EU became significantly engaged in Mali in 2013, notably through its **participation at the signing of the Ouagadougou Agreements (18 June 2013) which made a cease-fire possible in the north of the country**, and enabled the organisation of general elections. Within this context, the EU deployed a Monitoring Mission for the presidential elections of 2013, support for the electoral process financed to the amount of EUR 17 million. Together with France, it co-organised the **Donors’ Conference** of 15 May 2013 which made it possible to mobilise EUR 3.25 billion, including 523 million promised to Mali by the EU. The European Union is supporting the implementation of the Mali Peace Agreement signed in 2015 and is a member of the international mediation process within the framework of the follow-up to the Agreement.

Trade

The EU is in the prime position when it comes to global trade. The openness of our trade regime has made the EU the biggest player on the global trading scene and a good region to do business with. The EU has achieved a strong position by acting together with one voice on the global stage. The EU has been playing over decades a key role in removing barriers to trade as a member of the World Trade Organization, as well as concluding bilateral trade deals with many important partners around the world. This allowed EU exporting firms to flourish and create **over 30 million jobs**, i.e. every 1 in 7 jobs in Europe, and supply EU consumers with a wide choice of well-priced products. Over the years, the EU has also been consistently ensuring fair conditions for EU firms at home by raising import duties when necessary to protect them from unfair competition from abroad.

The EU’s success is inextricably bound up with the success of our trading partners, both in the developed and developing world. For this reason, sustainable development is central to trade policy.

One example is CETA; the recently approved **trade deal with Canada**, a close ally with whom we share values and ideals, **will make business with Canada easier, remove customs duties, substantially improve access to public contracts, and open up new sectors of the Canadian services market for EU businesses**. CETA sets a new benchmark for progressive trade deals, ensuring that economic growth, social development and environmental protection are mutually supportive.

The EU keeps its market wide open to countries that are committed to human rights, labour rights and environment protection, and we support our partners in their efforts to ensure sustainable economic development through trade.

The EU is an attractive market to do business with:

We have **500 million consumers** looking for quality goods.

We are **the world's largest single market** with transparent rules and regulations.

We have a **secure legal investment framework** that is **amongst the most open** in the world.

We are **the most open market to developing countries in the world**.

Every day, Europe exports hundred of millions of euros worth of goods and imports hundreds of millions more.

Europe is the **world's largest exporter of manufactured goods and services, and is itself the biggest export market for around 80 countries**.

European Union's members account for **16% of world imports and exports**.

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

The EU is proud to be a world leader in humanitarian assistance, giving emergency supplies and support to those affected by crisis, from natural disasters to man-made conflicts.

Every year, humanitarian aid reaches over 120 million victims of conflict and disasters.

One of the overreaching EU objectives is to save and preserve life, prevent and alleviate human suffering and safeguard the integrity and dignity of populations affected by natural disasters and man-made crises. This is possible by ensuring rapid and effective delivery of EU relief assistance through its two main instruments: humanitarian aid and civil protection. The latest updates on emergencies and humanitarian crises worldwide are can be followed via the ECHO daily flash.

Syria

The EU is a leading international donor in response to the crisis in Syria. EU funding provides emergency relief to displaced people inside Syria and refugees outside the country.

Refugee crisis in Europe

Refugees in Greece, Turkey and the Western Balkans receive life-saving assistance carried out by EU-funded humanitarian organisations and via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

South Sudan

The EU is among the largest donors of humanitarian financing to South Sudan. It supports life-saving projects for the worst affected communities.

Humanitarian food assistance

Since 2010, the Commission has supported over 100 million people facing acute food insecurity. This includes helping those affected by droughts or natural disasters, but also through providing food to displaced people and refugees.

EU Civil protection mechanism

Any country in the world can call on the EU Civil Protection Mechanism for help.

Since its launch in 2001, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism has monitored over 400 disasters and **has received more than 250 requests for assistance**.

It intervened in some of the most devastating disasters the world has faced, like the earthquake in Haiti (2010), the triple-disaster in Japan (2011), Typhoon Haiyan that hit the Philippines

(2013), the floods in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (2014), the Ebola outbreak (2014), the conflict in Ukraine (2014), the earthquake in Nepal (2015), the refugee crisis in Europe, Hurricane Matthew in Haiti and the forest fires in Chile (2016)

Disaster risk reduction

A significant portion of this aid (9% of the EU's humanitarian funding in 2016) goes towards increasing the preparedness and reducing the risks of communities that are vulnerable to disasters.

In 2016, the Commission's humanitarian funding for reduced disaster risks reached approximately 24 million people worldwide.

Displaced people

Over 70% of the EU Humanitarian Aid goes to help forcibly displaced persons.

At least 40 million displaced people were reached by EU humanitarian aid in 2016.



Free legal assistance helps Iraq's displaced to access their rights © European Union

Education in Emergencies

The EU gives priority to helping children get an education in emergency situations through its humanitarian aid programmes.

It does this by providing funding to ensure access to formal and non-formal education, including life

skills and vocational training, recreational activities and psychosocial support. Children also benefit from the provision of school material and the setting up of education facilities.

By the end of 2016, nearly 4 million children around the world have benefited from EU-funded education projects.

EU Aid Volunteers

The EU Aid Volunteers initiative brings together volunteers and organisations from countries all over the world to support the delivery of humanitarian aid and strengthen local capacity and resilience in disaster-affected communities. Through the initiative, EU citizens will have the opportunity to do humanitarian work and help people caught up in crises and people from non-EU countries will be able to participate in capacity building projects. Online volunteering opportunities will also be offered.

By the end of 2017, 194 EU Aid Volunteers will be deployed in the field.

Climate change

The EU leads the global fight against climate change. A strong external dimension of the EU's Energy Union with a forward-looking Climate Change policy includes a robust climate diplomacy, showing leadership in steering the world towards a global clean energy transition and contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular ensuring sustainable energy for all. Following the adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2015, it was the swift ratification by the European Union that enabled the entry into force of the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal on 4 November 2016.

The European Union has long been committed to international efforts to tackle climate change and felt the duty to set an example through robust policy-making at home. To meet its ambitious targets, and as part of the Energy Union, the EU is

committed to decarbonising its economy, promoting clean energy technologies and reducing its import dependency by boosting its energy efficiency. Europe is working hard to cut its greenhouse gas emissions substantially while encouraging other nations and regions to do likewise.

The European Union and its Member States provide funding and support to climate change adaptation in developing countries within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Furthermore, the EU is working to promote ambitious global action through

- bilateral relations with non-EU countries
- policies and initiatives at EU and international level
- finance to support developing countries in their efforts to tackle climate change.

Key EU targets for 2020

20% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared with 1990
20% of total energy consumption from renewable energy
20% increase in energy efficiency

Key EU targets for 2030

At least 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared with 1990
At least 27% of total energy consumption from renewable energy
At least 27% increase in energy efficiency

Long-term goal

By 2050, the EU aims to cut its emissions substantially – by 80-95% compared to 1990 levels as part of the efforts required by developed countries as a group.

The EU and its Member States are the biggest contributors of climate finance to developing countries, having provided **€17.6 billion in 2015**. Out of this, the European Commission has been financing €1.5 billion.

A new **Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA)** supports 51 programs around the world and is active in 38 countries, 8 regions and sub-regions and at the global level. In line with the current EU **Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF 2014-2020)**, this EU flagship initiative supporting climate resilience has now a budget of about €350 million and is one of the most significant climate initiatives in the world.

A European Union for the future

The crisis in Syria, the international refugee crisis, the chaos in Libya and the annexation of Crimea and destabilisation of eastern Ukraine by Russia are just some of the challenges Europe, its countries and its citizens have faced in recent years. No country, not matter how large, has the ability to deal with these on its own.

The international situation will continue to be a complex and unstable one which is why international cooperation is now needed more than ever and why the EU must play a full role in international peace and security, for example by hosting an international conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region or coordinating the Joint Commission overseeing the implementation of the Iran's nuclear deal. Over the last six decades the European Union has shown itself to be a model for cooperation between countries – many of whom were previously at war with one another.

As the very foundations of a rules-based international system are being questioned, the European Union will be an increasingly indispensable power to preserve, strengthen and enlarge a cooperative global order. **The White Paper on the future of Europe** launched recently sets out the main challenges and opportunities for Europe in the coming decade.

