

MONDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2014

BRUSSELS

THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT

HEARING OF NEVEN MIMICA

COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE

(International Cooperation and Development)



1-002

**IN THE CHAIR: LINDA McAVAN**

*Chair of the Committee on Development*

*(The meeting opened at 18.30)*

1-003

**Chair.** > Good evening, colleagues. I should like to welcome you all to this public hearing. I want to particularly welcome, on behalf of our committee, Mr Mimica, who has been designated to become the Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development.

As you know, Parliament prepares a vote to elect the new Commission in accordance with Rule 118 and Annex XVI to the Rules of Procedure by evaluating all Commissioners-designate on the basis of their general competence, their European commitment and personal independence. Parliament also assesses the Commissioners-designate on their understanding of the portfolio and their communication skills. Our hearing tonight is to assess these requirements.

Firstly the Commissioner-designate will open with a statement lasting no more than 15 minutes. Then the main part of the hearing will consist of 45 questions from Members. In the first round, we will hear from one representative from each political group. These questions will be no longer than one minute and the Commissioner-designate will have a minute and a half to reply. The questioner can then give a brief follow-up but only for half a minute and then the Commissioner-designate will have one minute to answer. All remaining questions are then one-minute question, two-minute answer.

There will also be questions from two committees that have been invited to this hearing, the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on International Trade.

So, Mr Mimica, over to you.

1-004

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > Madam Chair, honourable Members, I am honoured to be appearing before you as Commissioner-designate for International Cooperation and Development. Development policy forms an integral part of the Union's external policy and external action. Its primary objective is to reduce and, in the long term, to eradicate poverty.

It is a policy for the people, building on solidarity as one of the core European values: Solidarity with people living on less than a euro per day, and with those who risk their lives to reach European coasts in boats that often become their coffins; solidarity with women, victims of sexual violence, with individuals persecuted because they are part of minorities, and with child soldiers.

Development policy aims for a partnership based on mutual interests. When fragile states collapse, or when terrorism expands in Africa, it is a direct threat to Europe. When trade-flows increase and business environments improve, it is an opportunity for Europe as well.

The European Union has an outstanding track record in development policy. It is, together with its Member States, the world's largest donor, providing more than half of all development aid. The Union is the most significant trading partner for developing countries, as well as a key source of technology, innovation, investment and entrepreneurship. It is a leading player in aid effectiveness and policy coherence for development.

If confirmed as Commissioner, I would commit myself to applying all my experience and my dedication in order to ensure that the Union upholds its leading role as a global champion of sustainable development. Such leadership is critical for the two forthcoming strategic processes that will shape development policy for the next decade: the post-2015 agenda, and the negotiations for a post-Cotonou framework.

This leads me to my first priority, an ambitious post-2015 framework. The current Millennium Development Goals have delivered encouraging progress in reducing poverty. They have stimulated the international community into taking action, and global poverty has been halved in 10 years. Today, fewer people go to sleep hungry, fewer children are dying from preventable diseases; and an increasing number of children – particularly girls – have been enrolled in school. We can be proud of these achievements. But we must not be complacent.

A woman in Africa is 29 times more likely to die as a result of childbirth than a mother in Europe. Around 750 million people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water. And hunger is still a shocking reality, with over three million children a year dying from under-nutrition. Even more worrying are the rising inequalities and geographical gaps:

while Asia and Latin America are on a more promising path, Sub-Saharan Africa is lagging behind, with 120 million more people living in absolute poverty than 20 years ago.

The post-2015 framework must help to eradicate poverty through inclusive and sustainable development. We must stop poverty before it starts. The new framework must fully address the social, economic and environmental dimensions, and achieve the optimal balance between them. Equally, it must incorporate full respect for human rights, equality, democratic values and the rule of law, as well as peace and security.

It will be a tremendous challenge to bring all these aspects together under one single, universal and comprehensive framework which would apply to all countries – rich and poor alike. But it is a challenge in which we have to succeed.

The new framework offers us a unique opportunity to redesign global efforts to better assist developing countries in building sustainable and inclusive societies and in taking responsibility and ownership for their own development. As a wise quote puts it: ‘The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches, but to reveal to him his own’.

A core element of the post-2015 process will be development finance and, more broadly, the means of implementation. I fully agree with President-elect Juncker that all Member States should step up their efforts to meet the UN Millennium Goals and invest at least 0.7% of their gross national income in development aid. Member States have committed to meeting this target by 2015, which unfortunately remains out of reach. While recognising the economic problems of Europe in recent years, I would urge Member States to honour this commitment within the new framework.

In order to maximise the impact of aid, we will have to fully harness the potential of improved aid effectiveness, donor coordination and blending. Not to compensate for official aid, but to complement it. In addition, we need to help our partners to increase their national resources – including through good governance, better financial management, fighting tax evasion and fair and effective taxation systems.

We will also have to further exploit innovative financial tools and involve other potential development partners in creating lasting growth and decent work. The new framework must

include businesses, civil society and people. Only by establishing a global partnership where all players play their part will we succeed. Ultimately, the Union has to maintain its leading role in defining an ambitious and truly transformative agenda for global solidarity and responsibility in order to ensure an inclusive and sustainable future for everyone.

My second priority would be to launch and negotiate a post-Cotonou framework and to strengthen the Union's strategic partnership with Africa. The current Cotonou agreement is the most comprehensive North-South agreement in the world. It has been a success on which we need to build. The question is not whether the ACP countries are still important to us. They are – more than ever. The question is how to best design our cooperation in the future.

The new framework will have to adapt to the new realities and reflect the outcome of the post-2015 process. It cannot be a simple continuation of the past. The ACP group is already reflecting on the way forward. Europe has to do the same. We need an enhanced approach that builds on strong partnership with the ACP countries, incorporates overarching principles, such as respect for fundamental values, and takes account of specific realities in countries and regions. We need to discuss together how to take forward our partnership. As a first step, I will launch a broad consultation and dialogue process in the coming year.

My third priority would be to contribute towards significantly enhanced policy coherence. The world is increasingly interlinked and interdependent, from peace and security, via energy and climate change, to agriculture and trade. Greater coherence between our internal and external policies is therefore a must. And the cooperation we offer our partners can and must extend far beyond pure aid to include science, health, education, gender and youth issues, labour mobility and much more.

Within the Union, we have to reflect this in the way we design and pursue our policies. President-elect Juncker has put a strong emphasis on reinforced policy coherence within the Commission. The structure of the new Commission, and the agreement on working methods with the High Representative/Vice-President and fellow Commissioners, offer great potential to improve synergies and effectiveness across our policies.

I will personally contribute to these efforts. Development policy must work seamlessly together with the common foreign and security policy, with humanitarian aid, trade and migration policies, to name but a few.

If confirmed as Commissioner, I will strive to further improve policy coherence for development under the overall guidance of and in close collaboration with the High Representative/Vice-President. I would insist on forward-looking monitoring of relevant initiatives, engage in early discussions and close dialogue with my fellow Commissioners, and make an in-depth analysis of any contributions to individual initiatives when they take shape.

Eighty-three percent of Europeans think that it is important to help people in developing countries. Sixty-one percent even believe that aid should be increased. And 70% of Europeans consider that helping developing countries benefits them too. To maintain this strong support of our public, we need to continuously show that development policy works and make our collective achievements more visible. This is why I am committed to a result-oriented approach, showing that every euro is worth investing. Next year is the European Year for Development. It is the ideal opportunity to engage with our citizens and to explain how our development policy helps us all.

If confirmed as Commissioner, I would seek ongoing and close cooperation with Parliament: both by honouring the commitment to Strategic and Structured Dialogue, and by seeking regular and reinforced informal dialogue with you. Such dialogue will be essential for Europe to successfully influence the shape of the new global post-2015 development framework, and for the Union to speak with one voice and to defend one vision. I look forward to working with you to achieve these ambitious goals.

1-005

**Davor Ivo Stier (PPE).** – Gospo o predsjednice, gospodine Mimica, sami ste spomenuli da ukoliko budete potvr eni, jedan od najvažnijih zadataka bit e pregovori o novom globalnom razvojnom okviru nakon 2015. godine. Otvorena radna skupina predstavila je nacrt novih *SDG-jeva* odnosno održivih razvojnih ciljeva, no njih je veliki broj – ako je sve prioritet, onda ništa nije prioritet. Mene zanima da li biste vi smanjili taj broj, kako biste ih eventualno grupirali odnosno gdje biste stavili naglasak, na koje ciljeve biste stavili naglasak?

1-006

**Neven Mimica, Commissaire désigné.** > Ve na samom po etku krasna prigoda za mene govoriti materinjim jezikom što se puno eš e ini u Europskom parlamentu, nego li u Europskoj komisiji.

Po ela je završna faza priprema i odre ivanja održivih razvojnih ciljeva. Europska komisija i države lanice su zna ajno sudjelovale u tom postupku. Došli smo do toga da postoje nacrti koji e biti osnova za daljnji završni rad.

Moj osobni stav je da, što se tiče samih ciljeva održivog razvoja, kad bi se moglo, a nadam se da ćemo imati upravo takvu priliku, treba raditi na smanjivanju, na koncentriranju ciljeva kako ne bismo došli u situaciju da previše ciljeva zaista zna i nefokusirani pristup ovako važnom poslu kao što je određivanje okvira za održivi razvoj.

Prema tome, i europski i zajednički stav, koji ćemo, nadam se, utvrditi, do kraja ove godine zajedno s državama članicama odrediti i takav pristup koji će se zalagati za što manje ciljeva, a pogotovo za što manje konkretnih ciljeva koji određuju stvarni sadržaj našeg zajedničkog budućeg posla.

1-007

**Davor Ivo Stier (PPE).** – Gospodine Mimica, pred vama će biti sasvim sigurno jedan težak posao, jer određivanje nekih ciljeva, odnosno odbacivanje nekih drugih, doista nekada traži teške odluke. Utoliko mislim da je izuzetno važno ukoliko možete i ovdje dati obećanje da ćete u tom procesu biti u vrlo uskoj suradnji i konzultaciji s ovim odborom te Europskim parlamentom.

I još jedno pod pitanje: na koji način, možda i u pregovaračkoj strategiji, naći partnere i na globalnoj razini da postignete uspjeh u tim pregovorima?

1-008

**Neven Mimica, Commissaire désigné.** > Gospodine Stier, ono što je pred nama i za što ću se ja, ako budem potvrđen, stvarno i u potpunosti zalagati, je da pogotovo dva cilja budu što preciznije i što jasnije prihvaćena od svih sudionika ovoga procesa, a to je cilj koji obuhvaća bolje upravljanje, bolju vladavinu, ljudska prava i zalaganje za njih.

Mislim da sadašnji predloženi nacrt još uvijek nije na razini koji odgovara onome što Europska unija, Europska komisija, države članice i Europski parlament misle da treba biti sadržaj toga cilja. A jednako tako, i onaj posljednji, 17. cilj u nacrtu koji se odnosi na sredstva za provedbu, implementaciju svih ovih ciljeva održivog razvoja. Mislim da treba biti puno konkretniji. I Europska unija, Europa, države članice i dalje će imati - ja ću se za to posebno založiti - održati i svoju vodeću ulogu, kako bi upravo se na ova dva cilja postavile što jasnije definicije te smjerovi akcije.

Europski parlament u tome igra i igrat će važnu ulogu; sa zanimanjem i zadovoljstvom o ekumenski izvješće o ciljevima budućeg razvoja koje će doći od DEVE odbora.



1-009

**Arne Lietz (S&D).** – Thank you for your statement and your statement announcement. The current Ebola crisis in West Africa shows that the response came too late and lacked proper coordination. Health systems do not have the capacity to deal with epidemics. In 2010 the European Commission introduced the EU rule on Global Health, a communication that supports health systems and strengthens and proposes comprehensive health care. Will you continue this work in proposing a programme for action, notably for sub-Saharan African countries that suffer from the highest mortality rates in the world? Will this review include emergency response management that allows a quick and coordinated response in the case of epidemics such as the current Ebola outbreak? And do you agree that the clear leadership and donor alignment to needs-based country plans are crucial to avoid fragmentation?

1-010

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > In the Ebola crisis and epidemic, I would say that our primary goal is to contain the disease and to isolate the disease, not to isolate the countries which are currently affected by the disease. Maybe our response at this moment is more related to the humanitarian side of European action. It is by definition so, because humanitarian aid is the most needed at this moment. At the same time, though, Ebola actually presents us with an opportunity and a challenge to think over a coherent linkage between our relief, rehabilitation and development policies in a concise and a coherent manner.

I would say that this experience and the challenges posed by the Ebola crisis will make the European Union stronger in building such a link and in building such cohesion. We have already contributed over EUR 180 million in various types of assistance to improve the resilience of the healthcare systems of the affected countries. However, we also have to work on a non-financial response by sending medical and humanitarian aid, as well as aid workers, to the affected areas and coordinate with other donors and with other participants in this process.

1-011

**Arne Lietz (S&D).** – The follow-up question is this: sexual and reproductive health rights cover a wide variety of problems such as mortality, child health, the fight against HIV-AIDS, the right to self-determination and violence against the most vulnerable in society. It has implications for the rule of law, equality and economic growth. Do you agree that SRHR should be explicitly included in comprehensive healthcare and governance politics and that the EU should invest more in capacity-building to empower the people in affected societies?

1-012

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > In its programming and operational activities and responses to development needs of the developing countries, the Commission and the Member States have continuously stressed the health sector as a very important part of this aid and assistance. Building a healthcare system that would be inclusive and that would offer healthcare to all of the population in the developing countries is our final goal. In this context,

we abide by the programme of action that follows the International Conference on Population and Demography in Cairo in 1994, which puts sexual and reproductive health and rights at the forefront of the healthcare action. This will continue to be an important part of the European assistance and development response.

1-013

**Bernd Lucke (ECR).** – Herr Kandidat Mimica! Ich möchte Ihnen zunächst eine sehr allgemeine Frage zu Ihrem Selbstverständnis in Ihrer neuen Funktion stellen. Entwicklungspolitik findet statt auf der Ebene der Mitgliedstaaten, und Entwicklungspolitik findet statt auf der Ebene der Europäischen Union. Nach dem Subsidiaritätsprinzip sollte die Europäische Union nur diejenigen Bereiche der Entwicklungspolitik vorantreiben, die auf der Ebene der Europäischen Union besser ausgeführt werden können, als das auf der Ebene der Mitgliedstaaten der Fall ist. Ich will Sie bitten, einmal konkret zu sagen: In welchen Bereichen kann die Europäische Union Entwicklungspolitik besser durchführen, als einzelne Mitgliedstaaten das können? Bitte benennen Sie konkret diese Bereiche.

Daran anschließen möchte ich eine Frage, die sich auf die Antwort bezieht, die Sie eben auf die erste Frage gegeben haben: Sie haben gesagt, Sie wollen die Anzahl der Ziele der Entwicklungspolitik der Kommission reduzieren und sie konkreter fassen. Haben Sie vor, diejenigen Ziele, die Sie jetzt nicht mehr so stark oder gar nicht mehr verfolgen werden, am Subsidiaritätsprinzip zu orientieren, also sich zu konzentrieren auf die Ziele, bei denen Sie nachweisen können, dass die Europäische Union besser imstande ist, diese Ziele zu realisieren, als die einzelnen Mitgliedstaaten? Und welche Ziele wären das konkret?

1-014

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > For me, development policy – especially sustainable development policy – is a policy that comes very close to the subsidiarity interest and subsidiarity rights of the Member States. If you speak of a coherence of our development policies, I do not think only of the coherence between the European Union's or the European Commission's internal policies from the development angle, I also think of the coherence coordination between national donors' activities of the Member States. In that context, especially when it comes to the forthcoming SDG round and the conference, the European Union has to speak in one voice and to come as close as possible with the Member States in order to have a coordinated approach to the development goals and to the overall setup of the development framework for the next decades. Therefore I do not think that subsidiarity is something that goes apart from the European development policy. There is a lot of room and a lot of reasons to cooperate, to coordinate donors' activities, and we shall do it in a way that would actually reflect the interest and activities that would be complementary between the Member States and the European Commission.

1-015

**Bernd Lucke (ECR).** – Herr Kandidat Mimica! Ich hatte Sie eigentlich gebeten, konkret zu antworten. Sie haben jetzt über Kooperation und Koordinierung und darüber gesprochen,

dass Europa mit einer Stimme sprechen muss. Aber das ist alles nicht konkret. Ich hatte Sie eigentlich gebeten, dass Sie konkret diejenigen Ziele der Entwicklungspolitik der EU benennen, bei denen ein Vorteil dadurch entsteht, dass die EU diese Ziele selbst versucht umzusetzen, und das auf der Ebene der Mitgliedstaaten weniger gut geschehen kann.

1-016

**Neven Mimica**, *Commissioner-designate*. > I would like to point out just a few of the areas where European actions – or rather the European Union’s actions – are perhaps more efficient and more result-oriented than a single development effort or the contributions of the Member States. For instance, when speaking of good governance and the human rights, there is the conditionality that we impose, especially when it comes to budget support programmes. I see this as an area where we can act better at European Union level.

We have more influence in terms of political dialogue in order to move this process of improving human rights in developing countries than the individual Member States have. Furthermore, even in the health sector and the education sector, joint European action could be – at least in my view – more efficient than actions taken by individual Member States.

1-017

**Charles Goerens** (ALDE). – Madame la Présidente, je voudrais évoquer un problème en rapport avec le financement de la lutte contre le changement climatique.

La question est de savoir qui doit financer des mesures devenues nécessaires pour permettre aux pays en développement de surmonter l'impact du changement climatique. La semaine dernière, un représentant de la Commission a déclaré devant notre commission parlementaire que ces mesures devraient être financées par le budget du développement. Ne pas le faire, disait-il, reviendrait à miner la lutte contre le changement climatique.

Or, nous sommes d'avis, depuis des années, au sein de cette commission, que financer la lutte contre le changement climatique à l'aide du budget du développement reviendrait à miner la lutte contre la pauvreté, qui est la mission première de la politique de développement de l'Union européenne.

Quel est votre point de vue là-dessus? Est-ce que vous seriez, le cas échéant, prêt à venir en débattre avec notre commission avant de prendre une décision en rapport avec cette question?

1-018

**Neven Mimica**, *Commissioner-designate*. > Discussion on the increase, setting aside and increasing the climate change financial appropriations might come a bit later than needed

because the multiannual financial framework is already there, approved by all the legislators and the stakeholders in this process. What we have in front of us is a climate change conference where we shall have to take also financial commitment. When looking at this from the development portfolio, I see that 20% of the development budget (let us call it like this) is to be devoted to the climate change-relevant actions is within our reach. We are even in a bit better position to allocate a bit more than 20% from the development cooperation instrument and the EDF.

What will be needed in order really to strengthen the climate-change actions will be more related to other parts of the European budget and also to actions that would increase the non-traditional financing sources for climate change. I would say that also what I have in mind right now is the fact that, once we come to the mid-term review of the MFF, we really have to take clear consideration of the climate change financing where I would really be very committed to engage in dialogue with Parliament and with the Committee on Development.

1-019

**Charles Goerens (ALDE).** – Madame la Présidente, Monsieur Mimica, merci de nous avoir fait part de votre disponibilité pour discuter avec notre commission. Je crois que c'est la voie à suivre et nous appelons d'ailleurs de nos vœux cette façon de procéder.

Ce que je voudrais éviter, c'est que nous assistions à une situation totalement absurde dans laquelle nous devrions réattribuer à la lutte contre le changement climatique des ressources déjà allouées à la lutte contre la pauvreté – je voudrais éviter ce conflit. C'est la raison pour laquelle je vous adresse cette question. Tablant sur votre disponibilité, je voudrais bien voir dans quel esprit vous abordez cette question. Êtes-vous prêt à vous rapprocher du point de vue de notre commission?

1-020

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > Yes indeed. Unfortunately, the overall payment credits and commitment restraints have brought us into a situation that somebody could view as a conflict between development goals and climate change. But within a sustainable framework, there is really no conflict – and there must be no conflict. This is a common area of our common action, and climate change is an important part of the overall sustainability framework. In that context, I would really like to be engaged in discussions with Parliament in order to find the best outcome within the limits that we unfortunately have under the MFF.

1-021

**Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL).** – Señora Presidenta, señor Mimica, la coherencia política en materia de desarrollo es un principio general en la relación de todas las políticas de la Unión y de su impacto en los países en desarrollo y, sobre todo, en sus gentes. Si no se fomenta, todas las políticas que partan de ahí continuarán generando, como generan ahora, ganadores y perdedores y, muchas veces, fomentando la desigualdad. Todos los niveles

operativos de la Comisión y de los Estados miembros deben ser responsables de garantizar la coherencia de las políticas para el desarrollo, como acaba usted mismo de exponer hace un momento.

Mi pregunta es la siguiente: ¿cree usted que el Presidente de la Comisión debe liderar el arbitraje y ser el último responsable de garantizar los compromisos de coherencia dentro del Colegio de Comisarios?

1-022

**Neven Mimica, *Commissaire-désigné*.** > We have to have consistency in EU policies, in Commission policies, and in all three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. I feel that the balance between these three pillars is very important. We must not neglect any of these three pillars if we are to deal, as best as possible, with poverty reduction in the developing world. What is important is the fact that poverty can only be eradicated if we have this very coherent approach between all three pillars, because economic sustainability can only increase. We have a lot of proof of this increase in inequality, even in the countries that are graduating in terms of growth. There are more and more poor people who really need these other two pillars in order to make their resilience sustainable.

The Commission, the President-elect, the Vice-President and the methods and modalities of the work of the Commission as presented to the Parliament by President Juncker guarantee that we should have more coherent internal policies which will take on board all the development needs and development interests of our sustainable goals.

1-023

**Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL).** – Mi segunda pregunta sigue la misma línea y es la siguiente: ¿qué mecanismos de demanda plantea o planteará usted para dar la oportunidad a los gobiernos, las comunidades y la sociedad civil de que eleven quejas en este sentido, de que puedan recurrir ante el Presidente de la Comisión?

1-024

**Neven Mimica, *Commissioner-designate*.** > Openness and transparency of the European Commission has been improving all the time. This is a process that we really pay a lot of attention to. I see that this is the case in the development and cooperation area as well. It is especially important in the development cooperation area, where we have thousands of projects where we include a number of NGOs, civil society organisations, local authorities, local governments, a number of other collaborators and a lot of other actors.

There is always a reason to closely monitor the implementation of each and every project. There are mechanisms and channels for lodging a complaint or pointing at some of the

problems that come within the scope of the implementation of the programmes. But in general I would point to the present low rate of error (though some would say it is not so low – it is around 2-3%) meaning that at least 97% of our projects that are implemented in the most difficult and most risky environments all over the world are still within the transparency and result-oriented goals of our development policy.

1-025

**Heidi Hautala (Verts/ALE).** – Commissioner-designate, you obviously want to draw businesses closer to improve development, and in that context I would like to ask you, would you support binding rules on corporate social responsibility so that in future we get fewer reports about how, for instance, the poor working conditions of textile workers in Bangladesh or other developing countries adversely affect the children there and their chances of building a good future for themselves? And would you be ready to go beyond a system of self-regulation and non-legally binding codes of conduct? How would you actually want to see this type of rule included in the post-2015 development agenda?

1-026

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > The role of the private sector is becoming increasingly important in the improvement of development actions in partner countries, but it is also participating in our programmes and in financing programmes of development cooperation. So this calls more and more for an increase in corporate social responsibility, and there are a number of actions being taken to deal with this responsibility in the most coherent and transparent manner. For instance, we currently have the initiative on conflict minerals, there is also another initiative on conflict diamonds, and there are initiatives in the forestry and timber sector.

I will consider very soon what to do and how to address this responsibility in the garment industry and the textile industry, bringing on board the issues of child labour and labour standards in the textile and garment industry, and most probably we shall come and discuss this with the other committee when the time comes. I admit that these actions are still at the voluntary level. I would rather wait for a certain period of time in order to assess in a common manner the results of this voluntary approach and then decide whether to go into more binding legal provisions for the companies that are part of this corporate social responsibility.

1-027

**Heidi Hautala (Verts/ALE).** – As a follow-up question, I would like to ask you this. I know you have a trade background which of course is very helpful in terms of policy progress for development. What would you do to bilateral investment agreements to ensure they prevent the very unfortunate phenomena we see today in the form of land grabbing? How can we safeguard the rights of indigenous peoples and other traditional land users in a situation where big investment comes to a developing country? Would you see that bilateral investment agreements could be a bit sharper in this respect?

1-028

**Neven Mimica**, *Commissioner-designate*. > Our development policy and development programmes are already, and will be in the future even more so, oriented to addressing the issue of facilitating investment, facilitating the inclusion especially of small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship into the development processes of developing countries. So, in that context, I would really commit to go deeper into programmes that would assist better governance and that would actually enable, for instance, property rights to be given to the small landowners or users of the land, and not the big land-grabbing companies. So in that context I really have this distinction, and I would like to keep it.

First of all, through land policy in the developing countries let us assist the inclusion of the informal economy at the level of small and medium-sized enterprises, especially in agriculture, and not assist and help and facilitate big land-grabbing for investment.

1-029

**Ignazio Corrao (EFDD)**. – Il commercio internazionale è uno dei settori in cui la parola coerenza assume un significato essenziale se si vogliono raggiungere gli obiettivi della cooperazione allo sviluppo. Gli accordi commerciali bilaterali e multilaterali hanno spesso effetti brutali sull'economia e sul tessuto sociale dei paesi in via di sviluppo. Una stretta cooperazione con il Commissario per il commercio appare necessaria per garantire che il commercio stesso contribuisca allo sviluppo sostenibile globale in un quadro post-2015 affinché sia rispettato il principio di coerenza.

Io volevo chiederle se ritiene che sia necessario incidere partecipando attivamente alle negoziazioni degli accordi commerciali con paesi terzi e, in caso affermativo, come intende contribuire, partecipare o intervenire nell'agenda multilaterale dei negoziati. Quali sono le misure o i meccanismi che prenderà in considerazione per assicurare che le politiche di commercio in generale garantiscano lo sviluppo sostenibile nei paesi in via di sviluppo e non arrechino danni ulteriori a questi paesi?

1-030

**Neven Mimica**, *Commissioner-designate*. > The link between development and trade is one of the most relevant features of policy coherence for development. Therefore, under the coordination scheme which has been created and which we are now aiming to develop in real life once the Commission starts its work, we would be able to have this multiangle approach to trade negotiations and trade issues in a development context. This is because the Development Commissioner and the Trade Commissioner will be part of the External Action Group of Commissioners under the Vice-President and High Representative's leadership and will share this coordination role.

I feel that it will be much easier from now on and I will be very committed to the development angle of the trade negotiations as part of the Doha Development Agenda. It must come again from the European side and within the European mandate at the very forefront of our contribution to the conclusion of this goal. I also feel that, for instance, the economic partnership agreements which are still under negotiation should have this coherence between trade and development goals included in these negotiations.

1-031

**Ignazio Corrao (EFDD).** – Faccio una domanda più particolare sul negoziato specifico sul TTIP, che è il più grande accordo commerciale bilaterale della storia e rappresenta un terzo del commercio internazionale. Questo avrà senza dubbio un grosso impatto sulle regole commerciali globali e di conseguenza anche sulle economie dei paesi in via di sviluppo. Presentati così accordi come questo possono sembrare in realtà un ostacolo allo sviluppo di questi paesi. Lei come conta di intervenire in questo quadro perché il commercio non sia più visto come un'arma ma come uno strumento per lo sviluppo?

1-032

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > TTIP negotiations are primarily negotiations between two trading partners, the biggest one in the world, that is for sure, and they will have a tremendous impact on global trade relations and investment relations between the two negotiating sides. Their impact might also be reflected in the context of developing countries – not formally, not in legal terms, because these are bilateral negotiations, limited in their effect to the negotiating or contracting parties. But I, as the Development Commissioner, will commit to be part of the negotiating team that would always monitor what impact any aspect of the TTIP could have on the development interests of developing countries. So I see my role as a kind of guardian, ensuring that negative impacts of the TTIP are not translated or spill over into development cooperation or sustainable development goals.

1-033

**Chair.** > I now move the second part, where we will have three minutes. The format is one-minute question and two-minute answer and no follow-up question.

1-034

**Andrej Plenkovi , potpredsjednik Odbora AFET.** – Gospo o predsjednice, pozdravljam povjerenika Mimicu. Vjerojatno sam jedan od rijetkih zastupnika koji ima prigodu već drugi put Vas pitati u samo godinu i pol dana na saslušanju. Inini mi se da e Vam ovaj portfelj koji Vam je povjerio predsjednik Komisije Juncker, me unarodnu suradnju i razvoj, na odre eni na in bolje pasati s obzirom na Vašu dosadašnju profesionalnu karijeru. Zanimljivo je da nakon europskih izbora, na kojima smo bili na razli itim stranama i listama, Vi sada radite za našeg *Spitzenkandidata*, a to je Jean-Claude Juncker, tako da je vrlo zgodna i simpati na europska politika s tog aspekta.

Predsjednik Juncker Vam je kao zadatak u svom pismu misije dao zada u da pridonesete vanjskoj politici i aktivnostima gospo e Mogherini. Zanima me na koji na in ete osigurati koherentnost razvojne politike Europske unije s ukupnim vanjskim aktivnostima, a osobito



dugoro ni doprinos u situacijama poput kriznih žarišta kao što je to danas Sirija, kao što je Irak, kao što je suo avanje s izazovima ISIS-a, i posebno još situacija u Libiji.

1-035

**Neven Mimica**, *kandidat za povjerenika*. > Hvala lijepa na ovom važnom pitanju. Veza, povezanost između vanjske i sigurnosne politike i razvojne politike je praktički neraskidiva i čak i oni koji bi je željeli dovesti u suprotnost ili u konfliktne situacije, mislim da nemaju nikakve osnove da u tome uspiju. Naime, bez sigurnosti, bez opće sigurnosti nema ni razvoja u zemljama pogođenim krizom i obrnuto, bez razvoja je teško i održati dugoročnu stabilnost. Samo podatak da je u zemljama koje su bile pogođene konfliktima siromaštvo 20 % veće nego u zemljama koje nisu bile pogođene konfliktima. Zato je održavanje te veze u koordiniranom radu Europske komisije, naročito između povjerenika za razvoj i visoke predstavnice odnosno potpredsjednice za vanjsku i sigurnosnu politiku važno kako bismo formulirali, gotovo bih rekao, modelski odgovor Europe na krizne situacije. Europa je dosad isto samo naknadno reagirala na takve situacije ne povezujući sve elemente i sve potencijale svoga odgovora. Za mene je važno imati pripremljen koordinirani odgovor koji ide na područje sigurnosti i vanjskopolitičkog reagiranja, zatim humanitarne žurno potrebne pomoći, a razvojna pomoć dolazi kao završna dugoročna pomoć za održavanje ukupne stabilnosti. Ako unutar zajedničkog djelovanja Komisije, a o tome smo već razgovarali i dogovarali se i mislim da ima prostora da se tako radi, ako uspijemo upravo to postići da naš odgovor na vanjske krize, na vanjske probleme bude vezan zajedničkim akcijama na području sigurnosti i humanitarne pomoći i razvoja, onda ćemo postići i pravi uspjeh.

1-036

**Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández**, *en nombre de la Comisión INTA*. – Señora Presidenta, señor Mimica, permítame, en primer lugar, que le traslade las disculpas del presidente de mi comisión, el señor Bernd Lange, que no puede estar aquí interviniendo, como le hubiera gustado, por estar presidiendo la reunión de los coordinadores de mi comisión en la que se evaluará a su homóloga, la señora Malmström. Me ha solicitado que le transmita la siguiente pregunta, que ha sido acordada por todos los grupos políticos de mi comisión.

Como sabe, en el año 2012 la Comisión Europea adoptó una Comunicación sobre comercio, crecimiento y desarrollo para adaptar las políticas a los cambios en la economía mundial con nuevas orientaciones en materia de política comercial. Y en esa estrategia la Comisión concentraba tanto las ayudas financieras como las preferencias comerciales unilaterales en los países que más lo necesitaban, estableciendo una diferenciación entre los países en desarrollo. Las preguntas concretas serían: ¿puede valorarnos la eficacia de este enfoque? ¿En caso de que usted fuera designado Comisario, daría continuidad en su mandato a esta posición? Y ¿qué otras nuevas medidas aportaría para tratar de romper la brecha existente con los países en desarrollo y entre los países en desarrollo?

1-037

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > Even before the sustainable development goals had been agreed, the European Commission started to refocus its development policy towards these sustainable goals. This included more emphasis on the trade aspect of development policies. In that context, we are now contributing much more to the development impact of trade to developing countries. Moreover, in our development relationships with the developing countries, we really have developed such an approach of partnership between us.

This means that the unilateral trade preferences, as a part of the international WTO arrangements, are becoming less and less important, or that they are now being substituted to a greater and greater degree by our overall trade arrangements and economic arrangements with partner countries.

Of course, we have to take account of the individual vulnerabilities of developing countries, and especially of the least developed countries. Therefore, maintaining some elements of this preferential approach, or unilateral preferential approach, will be part of our trade policy. But, in general, I would rather opt for the more coherent approach that would bring us to a situation in which the development of developing countries would be supported by trade arrangements, aid for trade, trade facilitation, and not only by tariff- and quota-free arrangements.

1-038

**Paul Rübiger (PPE).** – Herr Mimica! Da ich Berichterstatter für den Haushalt 2015 bin, würde mich interessieren, wie Sie auf die fehlenden Zahlungen reagieren werden. Sie wissen ja, dass viele Verpflichtungen eingegangen wurden und dass jetzt das Geld für die Entwicklungszusammenarbeit deshalb nicht vorhanden ist. Dies betrifft gerade die Kürzung bei den administrativen Kosten. Der Europäische Rat hat ja auch ein Prozent pro Jahr zusätzliche Kürzungen gefordert – bei einer Gesamtkürzung von vier Prozent des Haushaltes bis 2020. Wie werden Sie mit diesen Kürzungen umgehen, und welche Prioritäten werden Sie hier setzen? Wie, glauben Sie, können Sie das kompensieren? Denn in Wahrheit geht es ja auch darum – das haben Sie heute schon erwähnt –, dass in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit der Privatsektor gestärkt werden soll, dass die kleinen und mittleren Betriebe, vor allem die Familienbetriebe, in der Zusammenarbeit stärker aufgestellt werden sollen. Wie können Sie das umsetzen?

1-039

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > The problem we are facing with payment credits for development programmes and instruments is really enormous. We are close to a moment when there will actually be no more payment allocations available for future payments, and maybe even from October or November when it comes to the DCI instrument. I fully understand the negative impact it could have on the beneficiaries' side, but also on the implementing side where NGOs rely very much on these projects. Overall, for this year it

seems that there will be a gap of more than EUR 730 million because payments still not honoured from last year are now also part of the payment ceilings of this year.

It will be the same next year, with a similar disproportion between commitments and payment ceilings which could cause a gap of more than EUR 300 million in payment to development programmes apart from EDF.

What can we do now? We did, shall we say, what all good book-keepers do: delay some payments and select some payments according to criteria that would least influence the poorest countries and their needs. But what we have to do now is rely on political action, which means thinking how best to address this issue in the amending budget of this year and when setting the budget of next year, and then coming to the mid-term review when these issues must be taken up by all of us – by Parliament, Council and the Commission as well.

1-040

**Enrique Guerrero Salom (S&D).** – Señora Presidenta, señor Mimica, el año que viene le espera a la Unión Europea un gran desafío: el de demostrar en los hechos que sigue siendo el actor mundial a la vanguardia en la respuesta a los dos grandes retos que afectan al futuro de la humanidad: el cambio climático y la lucha contra la pobreza y la desigualdad. Necesitamos retomar el impulso que hemos perdido durante la crisis en ambos campos y necesitamos más y nuevos recursos.

Le pregunto si está dispuesto a presionar a los países para la puesta en marcha del impuesto sobre las transacciones financieras y para que una parte de él se dedique a la cooperación al desarrollo; si está preparado para trabajar con este Parlamento, con esta Comisión, en la Conferencia Internacional sobre la Financiación para el Desarrollo del año que viene en Adís Abeba en lo que se refiere a los *transfunds*, al *blending* y a otros aspectos relativos a la financiación sobre los que este Parlamento se ha pronunciado ya.

1-041

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > A financial transaction tax is one important possibility to increase the financing capacities of the Member States and the European Union, so the initiative and proposals on European financial tax regulation that the Commission proposed provides a good basis for this action to continue. From my point of view and from the actions that I am ready to take, we have to make this proposal as comprehensive for all Member States as possible. To my knowledge, only 11 Member States are already on board, let us say, in this context.

I see it also from the wider context of enabling Member States to reach the 0.7 commitment in an easier way on one side, and to enable better financial resources of the benefiting countries on the other, because a financial transaction tax is one of the aspects and the other is tax evasion. If we manage to cope with tax evasion in Europe and thereby prevent EUR 1 200 billion each year from evading taxation, then we shall be able to find a much better financing capacity for development, and on the other hand if the benefiting countries managed to do that, then they will also be more ready to increase their good governance, their financial management, and it will be much easier to put their taxation incomes and resources into the overall development package.

1-042

**Bernd Lucke (ECR).** – Herr Kandidat! Ich möchte Sie fragen zu dem Initiativbericht des Europäischen Parlaments über die Rolle der Eigentumsrechte, die Förderung der nachhaltigen Entwicklung und die Schaffung von Wohlstand in Entwicklungsländern. Dieser Bericht ist ja vom Europäischen Parlament angenommen worden. Ich wüsste gerne: Wie wollen Sie jetzt eine Strategie entwickeln, um die dort festgehaltenen Ziele in die Entwicklungszusammenarbeit der Europäischen Union einfließen zu lassen? Insbesondere wüsste ich gerne, ob Sie einen Haushaltstitel dazu eröffnen möchten, mit dem Sie Programme finanzieren, die Eigentumsrechte, Grundbuchwesen und ähnliche Dinge in Entwicklungsländern fördern. Wenn Sie das wollen, dann wüsste ich gerne, wie Sie das finanzieren möchten angesichts der Finanzprobleme, auf die Sie eben hingewiesen haben. Bedeutet das dann, dass Sie an anderer Stelle in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit Projekte streichen werden? Wenn ja, welche sind das?

1-043

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > My general approach is that the suggestions and the initiatives coming from the European Parliament, from the Committee on Development, within the framework of the strategic dialogue on the Commission's programme are serious initiatives that must be taken on board. So, in that context, when it comes to the operational programming of specific projects in developing countries, I will take care to ensure that these projects include specialised actions on increasing or improving the land, land tenure and property rights in agriculture.

I already explained that my approach is that there must be a European contribution to the financial and economic growth of small and medium enterprises and of individual farmers in the developing world. This is not a European contribution to facilitate land-grabbing in a situation where land ownership is not clear, as is the case in most developing countries. Our goals and our actions are exactly in line with what the European Parliament has suggested. Let us have as many programmes – specific programmes – as possible to enable small-scale farmers to build a resilient economy and to be part of the overall financial activities that would result from the property rights that they would obtain from the governments of their countries.

1-044

**Paavo Väyrynen (ALDE).** – I have a question concerning the transatlantic development policy cooperation between the European Union and the United States. This intensified development policy cooperation was launched at the EU-US summit at the end of 2009. Have you been able to acquaint yourself with this cooperation, and how do you intend to develop it further?

1-045

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > I have already spoken in my opening statement, and subsequently, on the need to better coordinate European donors. I have not yet spoken so much on the coordinating role that we have to develop with other donors, especially the United States. This coordination of transatlantic donors could have the best possible impact, or the best result-oriented impact, of our common development contribution to the world, because the European Union and its Member States and the United States account for more than 80% of overall aid.

These initiatives on better donor coordination with the United States, on transatlantic coordination, have to be enhanced and have to be more specific, and I will commit to ensuring that this happens by making this donor coordination role the fourth priority of my future actions. I spoke of three priorities, but donor coordination in Europe – and especially transatlantic coordination – will be very much on my agenda. In this matter, I would again like to make sure that your contributions are heard and taken into account.

1-046

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1-047

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > Indeed, one of the left-overs or failures of the Millennium Development Goals framework was most tragically seen in the area of environment, climate change and biodiversity in the world, so exactly identifying this problem with the Millennium Goals, which were mostly focused on economic development.

Therefore the idea especially in the Rio +20 conference was developed to go in a much more focused way into sustainable development in all three pillars of sustainable development and we are right there now. We have to build biodiversity issues or environmental issues very much into the overall sustainable agenda of our policies.

What we can achieve in that regard is only to keep this synergy and a coherence of the three sustainability concepts of economic, social and environment development. I would say that in terms of biodiversity, indeed many species are endangered, even land and forests are endangered. European action should not only follow but lead some of the initiatives that would bring, for instance, the wildlife crisis window to the forefront of our joint sustainable actions, so this is what we shall do, this is the way we shall lead.

1-048

**Maria Heubuch (Verts/ALE).** – Herr Mimica! Die Initiative der G8-Staaten für eine neue Allianz in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit ist darauf ausgerichtet, in Afrika die Produktivität zu erhöhen, in- und ausländische Investitionen des Privatsektors zu unterstützen und neue Technologien zu fördern. 60 Prozent der afrikanischen Bevölkerung erwirtschaften ihren Lebensunterhalt in kleinbäuerlichen Betrieben auf dem Land. Es sind aber auch über 70 Prozent aller hungernden Menschen, die auf dem Land leben. Die Unterstützung nachhaltiger landwirtschaftlicher Methoden mit dem Schwerpunkt kleinbäuerliche Betriebe und ländliche Existenzgrundlagen ist in vielen EU-Entwicklungsprogrammen Priorität.

Sind Sie bereit, bei der G8-Allianz-Strategie für Ernährungssicherheit sicherzustellen, dass diese Investitionen in erster Linie Kleinbauern oder auch –bäuerinnen zugutekommen, dass agrarökologische Praktiken gefördert werden, wie es der UN-Berichterstatter für das Recht auf Nahrung auch fordert, und die Rechte der Kleinbäuerinnen und –bauern zu schützen, insbesondere wenn es um Zugang zu Land geht? Dazu haben Sie schon einiges gesagt. Aber es geht auch um Zugang zu sauberem Wasser oder um Rechte im Umgang mit Saatgut. Gerade hier sind Tauschrechte und Tauschmöglichkeiten das Übliche, und dies kann dann von der Industrie nicht anderweitig gehandhabt werden.

1-049

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > Indeed the focus on the most important sectors for the sustainable development of developing countries is a part of the overall European development policy. In particular, we started to introduce it under the Agenda for Change even before sustainable development goals had been negotiated and adopted.

This actually brings us to the situation where we rely very much on joint programming on a sectoral level with our partner countries, relying on their selection of the sectors for they would like to receive sustainable assistance from the European Commission or the Member

States. This is the case in many of our partner countries where they have chosen agriculture, sustainable agriculture and food scarcity alleviation as a top-priority sector for their development. And whenever this is the case, we shall have enough funding and enough programmes, quality programmes, that would actually enable small farmers to increase their productivity, to increase their contribution to eradicating malnutrition and poverty in these countries. This is a bit less prominent with the water and sanitation programmes because fewer countries have opted for this sector as their priority, but we shall also have regional automatic programmes that will contribute to addressing these sectors' problems in developing countries.

1-050

**Fabio Massimo Castaldo (EFDD).** – La governance è uno strumento importante per lo sviluppo sostenibile e inclusivo, in particolare in Stati fragili o in situazioni post-conflitto. L'UE può e deve contribuire allo sviluppo di strutture di governance per ciascun paese partner, non solo in vista della riduzione della corruzione ma anche per implementare regole socialmente condivise e rispettate, per avere una migliore coesione sociale e una condivisione anche più equa delle risorse e della ricchezza tra i diversi gruppi sociali.

Il rispetto dei diritti umani, in particolare di quelli delle minoranze, il diritto alla libera espressione e l'indipendenza del potere giudiziario sono spesso una questione spinosa nelle relazioni con i paesi partner. Credo che il Parlamento sia cosciente che il rispetto dei diritti umani e il dialogo politico non siano stati sempre considerati o applicati. La condizionalità avrebbe dovuto essere rinforzata attraverso l'agenda per il cambiamento, ma gli aiuti in realtà sono stati raramente interrotti, forse perché l'UE ha temuto di perdere autorevolezza e influenza politica rispetto ad altre potenze.

Come intende agire a questo riguardo? Intende assumere, come nuovo Commissario, un atteggiamento flessibile su questo argomento o farà della condizionalità una priorità? Conta di instaurare un efficace programma di monitoraggio sull'approccio basato sui diritti in tutti i programmi di cooperazione allo sviluppo?

1-051

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > The European Commission has really introduced – much more than any donor, I would say – this correlation or even conditionality between human rights, good governance, democratic development and the rule of law in the recipient countries, as a part of the overall sustainable package of development cooperation and political dialogue with the partner countries. We are really leading in this aspect and I will do my utmost to forge a common European position that would be then much easier to bring forward to the international conference on SDGs and then we shall try to have it as a common goal and common approach taken by all donor communities.

When it comes to other concrete actions in terms of conditionality, I will definitely follow the process that is based on the present agreements, especially on the Cotonou Agreement, where we shall be more ready to activate political dialogue under Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement. There are already some good examples where this political dialogue actually made a difference or even persuaded a number of beneficiary countries to withdraw some of the acts, for instance on LGBTs in Uganda and Nigeria or on slavery in Mauritania. This will be the first step. The second step is related to the next provision of suspending aid under Article 96, which means more bilateral discussions including with the European Parliament in order to set the right policy answer to have a continuation of the assistance, not through government channels but directly to those who are in real need of this assistance and aid.

1-052

**Hans Jansen (NI).** – Net als een medicijn heeft ook ontwikkelingshulp wel eens bijwerkingen die erger zijn dan de kwaal zelf. Hulp kan bijvoorbeeld tot verslaving leiden. Er bestaat ook nog de mogelijkheid dat het hulpmedicijn verkeerd gebruikt wordt, bijvoorbeeld doordat er met het ontwikkelingsgeld tunnels worden gegraven en raketten worden gebouwd. Hoe denkt de kandidaat het misbruik en de schadelijke bijwerkingen van ontwikkelingshulp tegen te gaan?

1-053

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > What we must do in the context of development cooperation is to prevent aid dependency on the part of the recipient countries. Therefore, sustainable development goals, our consensus on development and our agenda for change are actually based on a development partnership between donors and recipients. We really want to cut this old link between donors, or charities, and the recipients.

We would like to become a development partner for developing countries. This also requires their input and their contribution, better governance of their resources and the increase of their resources. This requires better monitoring from our part on the way they use development appropriations. So these are interlinked procedures and interlinked processes where we shall really continue to increase the efficiency of our money. We shall not be looking at the quantity of inputs given to the developing world, but we shall be more and more engaged in the quality aspects, efficiency aspects of our cooperation with our partners. In that context, I can guarantee that the monitoring of the use of money will be a top priority of this concept.

1-054

**Anna Záborská (PPE).** – Madame la Présidente, Monsieur Mimica, dans une déclaration jointe au règlement sur l'instrument de financement de la coopération au développement, la Commission européenne a approuvé le fait que 20 % du budget de l'ICD devraient être



consacrés à des services sociaux de base et à l'éducation secondaire. Ce sujet horizontal est très important pour la commission du développement.

Cependant, plus récemment, lors du dialogue stratégique, le commissaire Piebalgs s'est référé aux 20 % en question comme étant destinés à l'inclusion sociale et au développement humain, ce qui est beaucoup plus large.

Monsieur le Commissaire désigné, pouvez-vous nous préciser comment la Commission européenne s'assurera que les 20 % du budget de l'ICD seront utilisés pour les services sociaux de base et l'éducation secondaire comme prévu?

1-055

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-delegate.** > Thank you very much indeed for this question because the debate on the real content of the 20% target for social services was an on-going debate between the Commission and the Parliament and the committee and I would not like it to be an ongoing debate.

From the very beginning it was a clear position of the Parliament that 20% of social services actually must mean basic social services and a secondary education. In this context, this goal is achievable within the financial framework and, though not an easy target, I can commit to do my utmost to really address this issue in order to have development funds 20% of which will cover basic social services and secondary education.

1-056

**Pedro Silva Pereira (S&D).** – Senhor Comissário designado, queria colocar-lhe duas perguntas. A primeira pode até parecer-lhe estranha, queria perguntar-lhe que tipo de Comissário o senhor tenciona ser. Já aqui falámos muito de coerência de políticas, que é muito importante para o sucesso de uma política de desenvolvimento, mas eu queria perguntar-lhe se não concorda que, por muitas estruturas de coordenação e de arbitragem que existam no interior da Comissão, é necessário nesta área um Comissário politicamente forte e disposto a travar as batalhas que sejam necessárias na Comissão Europeia, e se o senhor está disposto a ser esse Comissário.

A segunda pergunta diz respeito à política de imigração, onde se joga também a coerência das políticas. A Europa só pode ter uma política de imigração integrada se ela tiver uma componente de cooperação com os países de origem. Eu, portanto, queria perguntar-lhe de que modo a sua política de desenvolvimento pode contribuir para uma política de imigração integrada que valorize a cooperação com os países de origem.

1-057

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > A coordinated or coherent policy approach for the new Commission as explained and as envisaged by the President-elect does not mean that there will be a subordination among the Commissioners or Vice-Presidents. This is really an exercise where all of us could bring forward our own angles, our own policy priorities, and then coordinate them in order to have as coherent an outcome as possible. I am really tempted to be a political Commissioner and not one who would just accept something that comes from the Vice-Presidents or other Commissioners, but I am very much in favour of the policy debate in the college and in the groups or project teams of the Commission.

I have perhaps one of the best experiences among the Commissioners-designate in this regard because as a Commissioner for consumer policy I have to cooperate with 12 other Commissioners and bring forward consumers' interests at the very early stages of the formulation of their policies in order to bring consumers' interests to each and every aspect of the overall consumer policy. Building on this experience I really see what development policy would look like when it comes to coordination between, and not subordination of, the Commissioners.

Migration is an important aspect where the right development policy concept framework would assist. We have to build first of all our internal migration policy in the Member States and in the European Union, our so-called admission policy, to be at the level where legal migration is clearly defined in the European Union, and then we have to build the potential of the Member States to build resilient and prosperous and best economies and societies back in the countries of origin of the migration. Only in that way can we make the link between migration and development and the assistance needed from development policy to help alleviate the pressure of illegal migration to Europe.

1-058

**Bernd Lucke (ECR).** – Ich möchte Ihnen jetzt eine Frage stellen, die die Länder mit mittlerem Einkommen betrifft. Wir haben ja in den letzten zehn, fünfzehn Jahren weltweit zum Teil sehr starkes Wirtschaftswachstum gesehen, und eine ganze Reihe von Ländern sind herausgewachsen aus der Situation klassischer Entwicklungsländer. Insgesamt 17 derartige Länder sind deshalb jetzt nicht mehr im Besitz der vollen Förderung durch Entwicklungszusammenarbeit mit der Europäischen Union, sondern ihre Ansprüche werden systematisch reduziert. In diesen Ländern gibt es aber sehr wohl noch große Armut. Nach einer Weltbankstudie ist es so, dass 73 % der Armen der Welt in Ländern leben, die als Länder mit mittlerem Einkommen klassifiziert werden. Wenn diese Länder jetzt demnächst keinen Anspruch mehr auf bilaterale Entwicklungszusammenarbeit haben, wie wollen Sie dann diesen Armen Hilfe zukommen lassen? Gegeben den Fokus der EU auf den Kampf gegen Armut: Lassen wir die Menschen in diesen Staaten mit mittlerem Einkommen jetzt fallen, oder haben Sie Konzepte, wie wir ihnen trotzdem helfen können?

1-059

**Neven Mimica**, *Commissioner-designate*. > The differentiation criteria introduced by the Agenda for Change actually brought in the concept of graduation of low-income countries to middle-income countries, and by the role of bilateral programmes for those graduated countries. But there are also exceptional cases where criteria other than just growth or economic criteria are taken into account: some vulnerability criteria, fragile countries that need still input for better government, and also the inequality levels in those countries.

Therefore these exceptional prolongations of the assistance programmes, also in consultation with the European Parliament, are under way for five Latin American and South African countries. So there is no clear cutting of the aid once a country graduates. The presumption is that the graduated countries are more capable of taking care of their poverty than the low-income countries or the least-developed countries. Therefore our programmes are more directed to where they are most needed and where they can bring the most change. The graduated countries or middle-income countries are also eligible for the regional programmes and for the thematic programmes that they can benefit from, and especially human rights and democracy development programmes. They are now part of this new partnership instrument where we build a different type of partnership relations with these emerging donor countries.

1-060

**Charles Goerens (ALDE)**. – Madame la Présidente, Monsieur Mimica, je voudrais revenir sur la question de la gouvernance, la gouvernance de la politique de développement.

Nous sommes à la veille de très grandes conférences internationales, notamment le rendez-vous post-2015. Nous avons toujours défendu le point de vue selon lequel l'Union européenne, au regard des sommes versées, qui en font le premier donateur au monde, doit être suffisamment ambitieuse.

Je voudrais savoir qui mène la danse, au sein de la Commission d'abord, et ensuite, si c'est vous également qui menez la danse dans les forums internationaux. Nous voudrions qu'avec vous, la politique de développement de l'Union européenne ait un visage à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur. Voilà ma question et aussi ma crainte. Pourriez-vous me rassurer?

1-061

**Neven Mimica**, *Commissioner-designate*. > The concept of a development policy aiming for poverty eradication within a sustainable and inclusive context actually brings a number of issues in terms of organising the overall activities and overall development framework within the European Union, meaning between the Commission and the Member States. When it comes to the Commission I have already explained that I would like to keep this leading role in coordinating donors' assistance by the Member States, not only in terms of reaching the

financial goals of 0.7 in a period of the SDGs, for the next period, but also in coordinating their concrete programming, which means improving the joint programming exercise with the Member States.

But when it comes to Commission policy in general, then policy coherence for development comes at the forefront of the means of implementation of our SDGs, and this is an area where one Commissioner or the development Commissioner or the development services of the Commission cannot be the only player. We shall be developing these coordinative elements, not only within the external action project team of Commissioners but we shall also include a number of other Commissioners, especially those for the environment, for energy, for climate change, for agriculture. So it really requires and justifies the approach of better coordination and better coherence of the European development policy.

1-062

**Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL).** – Señora Presidenta, señor Mimica, como su predecesor afirmó, existe una gran preocupación sobre la agenda del *blending* y sobre sus implicaciones para los países en desarrollo. Su predecesor se comprometió a mejorar y a incrementar los poderes de control del Parlamento Europeo en relación con el *blending*. Sin embargo, no se ha mejorado nada, la Comisión no está siendo transparente y solo facilita datos ambiguos y nada concretos sobre los diferentes proyectos de *blending*. ¿Cómo cree usted que esta capacidad de control puede mejorar? Y ¿qué le parecería una fórmula de informar al Parlamento en la que se subraye cómo y cuáles son los proyectos que están sobre la mesa y que el Parlamento pueda evaluar su contribución a los objetivos de desarrollo, su impacto y, sobre todo, posibles problemas en relación con la sociedad civil, el género, los servicios públicos y el medio ambiente?

1-063

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-delegate.** > Blending is a complementary method of increasing the financing capacities of donors over and beyond official development assistance. It is not our goal simply to bring more blending capacity into the development financing picture in order to compensate for obviously lacking official aid. However, it seems to me that blending official aid or grants with loans from international financial institutions or private banks is needed wherever the European contribution, or European grant contribution, actually makes a difference – where it contributes to the loans to be granted, that otherwise would not be disbursed. There is a potential leveraging factor in this blending capacity of more than 25, so this is not about supporting banking profits because we want more banking money to be poured into development projects at interest rates, or under conditions, that are at the lowest possible level.

I admit, and I agree, that this requires very strong and committed monitoring procedures. I will be ready to include this topic in the reinforced informal dialogue with the committee and

also to include consideration of how to improve parliamentary scrutiny of the blending facilities.

1-064

**Judith Sargentini (Verts/ALE).** – Let us talk a bit more about corporate social responsibility. This Parliament needs to deal with the proposal by the European Commission on conflict minerals that was drafted by the Commissioner for Trade. It is a voluntary self-regulating scheme.

My question to you is how will you ensure that this proposal actually has effect on the ground, that it positively changes the situation in mining communities, and that it helps break the resource curse in countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo? And I must say that the involvement of DG DEVCO and the Commissioner for Development before has been seriously poor and there is no proper proposal yet on accompanying measures, so my need is for you to step in. How will you step in and make this credible?

1-065

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > I recognise the importance of cutting a clear line between facilitating and enabling more trade facilities, and engaging more of the developing countries resources, and decoupling this from the financing of illegal militias, military groups, terrorist groups or rebel groups. Conflict minerals are an important part of such an approach.

The Commission has proposed the voluntary approach with self-declaration and self-certification by companies when importing minerals. This proposal is now with Parliament and the Council. The proposed approach includes a review clause which states that, within three years of the entry into force of this voluntary scheme, the Commission will review whether the voluntary approach produces the impact that we want to achieve. I would prefer, at this stage, to give this approach a chance to start to develop, and then to see whether it really functions.

Moreover, not only do we need to leave the texts as they read in the final outcome, but we also need some additional actions to include more companies, and especially more big companies, under this voluntary approach. In addition, we need a very precise monitoring procedure that will not wait until the third year of implementation to start a review, but will ensure ongoing scrutiny of the processes under this approach.

1-066

**Nathan Gill (EFDD).** – Migration is arguably one of the most important issues facing the world. In particular, our colleagues in southern European countries like Malta are creaking

under the strain of mass immigration. The Mayor of Calais is at her wits' end, and in my country voters have never been angrier. But perhaps the EU should admit that its vindictive trade policies create the push factors that drive people to leave their countries, whilst ill thought-out benefit policies encourage the pull factors.

In 2008 the EU admitted that its trade deals allow the EU to chop down African lumber, to mine African minerals, to suck African oceans dry of fish and, generally, to ruthlessly exploit Africa's only resources. Mr Juncker, in his mission letter to you, has called for a fresh start. Do you accept that the EU's policies in Africa have destroyed the conditions for economic life, driving many people to want to leave their country and that Africa deserves a fresh start, a new approach, fair trade and relevant aid?

1-067

**Neven Mimica**, *Commissioner-delegate*. > I have to say that I am far from subscribing to your description of the European Union's role and impact in Africa. Actually, what we have there is a partnership that we are developing: a partnership that takes care of the African countries' own resources and that would like these resources to be much better exploited by them, not by European companies.

Of course, there may be some historic and more recent concrete examples that reflect your views, and your description of the reasons behind the migrant flows from Africa to Europe. Even so, the basis for your approach is not the best, because only 20% of African migration is to Europe: 80% of African migrants stay either within their own country or in other African countries.

Without seeking to downplay the negative impact of illegal migration, I see my role not as contributing to building walls on the borders of the European Union but rather as dismantling the walls within the African countries that prevent them from building sustainable economies, building wealth in their economies and alleviating the economic and social conditions that lead to economically forced migration, as opposed to migration by choice. In that context, I would like to work together with my fellow Commissioner for migration to improve the European legal migration context and to improve economic and social conditions in Africa.

1-068

**Matteo Salvini (NI)**. – Con la disoccupazione che c'è in Europa, prima di preoccuparsi dell'immigrazione legale, mi preoccuperei di ridurre questa disoccupazione. Detto questo, come Lega Nord sono assolutamente favorevole al principio "aiutiamoli a casa loro". Quindi, invece di spendere i soldi con operazioni inutili come Mare Nostrum o Frontex, spendiamoli in Nord Africa per aiutare questi territori a svilupparsi. Sono d'accordo.

Lei come intende verificare che effettivamente stiamo aiutando queste persone? Faccio l'esempio dell'accordo di libero scambio con il Marocco per la frutta, la verdura e la pesca: stiamo danneggiando i produttori europei, perché ovviamente queste merci arrivano sulle nostre tavole a poco prezzo, ma non stiamo aiutando i piccoli produttori del Marocco, perché stiamo dando soldi a grandi aziende europee, spagnole o francesi che poi recuperano i soldi dati dagli europei per andare a fare agricoltura in Marocco. Quindi, non vorrei che stessimo nello stesso tempo danneggiando i produttori europei e prendendo in giro i potenziali produttori nordafricani.

1-069

**Neven Mimica**, *Commissioner-designate*. > All our development responses and development actions are really directed to assisting the economic and social development of the recipient countries. This means that, when it comes to for instance the fisheries agreement, we made, I would say, a dramatic change in common fisheries policy: from enabling European fleets to fish in the waters of developing countries to the concept that this fishery must assist the development of the coastal areas of the local fishing and fishermen and of the overall sustainable development. The same goes for our overall concept of the inclusion of the private sector into the development framework.

Once again our goal, our contribution, our programmes, our operational actions, they do not support, they do not finance, they do not assist or facilitate big European companies to get any of the benefits of the development policy. We do not want our development policy to make them a commercial exercise that would assist big European companies in their activities in developing countries. We would primarily want them also to assist development and developing resources of the developing countries to do more with small enterprises with farmers there, with fishermen there in the developing countries.

1-070

**Bogdan Brunon Wenta (PPE)**. – Przez dziesięciolecia handel minerałami, kamieniami szlachetnymi i innymi surowcami odgrywał kluczową rolę w finansowaniu najbardziej brutalnych konfliktów na świecie. Głównie to Republika Konga, Zimbabwe, Afganistan, Birma, południowa Afryka czy Kolumbia. Poprzez międzynarodowy handel surowcami naturalnymi wspiera się finansowanie nieuczciwych grup zbrojnych, korupcji urzędników, jak i przyczynia się do łamania praw człowieka. Są to również zaangażowane firmy z siedzibą w Unii Europejskiej.

Komisja Europejska opublikowała w marcu tego roku wniosek legislacyjny, w którym zamierza ograniczyć lub zerwać powiązania między handlem i wydobywaniem minerałów a finansowaniem konfliktów zbrojnych.

Jakie działania zamierza Pan podjąć zgodnie z polityką rozwoju, aby odpowiedzialnie zaopatrywać Unię Europejską w zasoby naturalne z regionów objętych tymi konfliktami? Czy Komisja rozszerzy list czterech minerałów i importerów do certyfikacji własnej, o której Pan już wspominał? Jak będzie gwarantowana, monitorowana skuteczność tej propozycji legislacyjnej, szczególnie jeżeli chodzi o odpowiedzialność firm w łańcuchu dostaw minerałów?

1-071

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > Whenever corruption, money laundering or other forms of misuse of EU development funds or of their own resources that might be directed to development occur in developing countries, then an important part of our overall action would be to seek to prevent such cases of corruption. We have a political dialogue with those countries, and we also have other forms of interaction that are directed towards achieving that goal. But we also have to make trade more sustainable and facilitate the trade-flows of these countries in order to increase their overall resources for development.

We have to cut the link between the illegal use of financing originating in the illegal trade in minerals, timber, diamonds and the other natural resources of developing countries. We have a number of initiatives already in place, and we have a number of monitoring and policy dialogue programmes in place when it comes to monitoring the efficiency of this decoupling of trade facilitation and the illegal use of financial resources. We shall continue to do this in the future. We shall continue to be very much focused on the issues of monitoring and preventing illegal activities of criminal groups in developing countries.

1-072

**Elly Schlein (S&D).** – Evasione fiscale, elusione fiscale e segreto bancario sono problemi globali e come tali devono essere affrontati. Le perdite finanziarie ad esse collegate incidono in particolar modo però sui paesi in via di sviluppo, dove le entrate fiscali aziendali costituiscono una quota significativa del reddito nazionale e le multinazionali riescono facilmente ad eludere il fisco, sottraendo ai governi risorse essenziali.

Dato che le risorse interne sono e devono essere un'importante fonte di finanziamento per i paesi in via di sviluppo, è d'accordo sull'importanza di affrontare questo problema, che potrebbe migliorare l'efficacia della politica di sviluppo dell'Unione europea, e quale sarà il suo impegno concreto in questa direzione? Inoltre, la grande maggioranza dei paesi in via di sviluppo è esclusa dai negoziati sui temi fiscali che si svolgono in forum quali il G20 e l'OCSE. Anche in vista della prossima *Financing for Development Conference*, da tenersi il prossimo anno, condivide che a tutti i paesi, compresi quelli in via di sviluppo e a basso



reddito, sia consentito di partecipare in condizioni di parità nel processo decisionale sulla definizione di norme e politiche fiscali a livello globale?

1-073

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > I fully agree with the importance you attach to the issues of tax evasion and tax collection or financial management in the developing countries. These issues are equally important here in Europe as well, definitely so. But when it comes to increasing the potential of developing countries to be real partners and to develop their internal capacity to finance development goals then I will be very much in favour of enabling at international level, at UN level, the same approach and the same opportunity for developing countries to be part of these negotiations and talks on how to build a common tax evasion mechanism in the world.

I also see that our programmes that assist good governance capacity-building in the developing countries must be more and more focused on these issues of tax evasion, and our monitoring of these processes should be part not only of concrete actions but also part of our common policy dialogue and concrete measures that will be incorporated in the capacity-building programmes that we offer to the developing countries.

1-074

**Bernd Lucke (ECR).** – Herr Mimica! Ich habe zwei Fragen zu Politikbereichen, wo die Politik der Europäischen Union möglicherweise Schaden anrichtet. Die erste Frage betrifft die Handelspolitik, wo Agrarmärkte geschützt bleiben, auch bei Freihandelsabkommen. Sind Sie der Auffassung, dass die EU-Agrarmärkte im Zuge von Freihandelsabkommen geöffnet werden sollten, um den Entwicklungsländern entgegenzukommen?

Die zweite Frage betrifft die Tätigkeiten der Europäischen Investitionsbank, die ja auch ein erhebliches Geschäftsfeld im Bereich von Entwicklungsländern hat: Sind Sie der Auffassung, dass es gut ist, dass die Europäische Investitionsbank im Bereich der Entwicklungsländer Kredite vergibt und Investitionsprojekte fördert, oder fürchten Sie möglicherweise, dass dadurch das Aufwachsen einer Finanzinfrastruktur in dem eigenen Land behindert wird, weil die Europäische Investitionsbank wesentliche Geschäftsfelder usurpiert?

1-075

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > When it comes to free trade arrangements or market access arrangements between developing countries and Europe, we started from the Lomé Convention, which gave unilateral market access and tariff-free, quota-free access to Europe. This was not compatible with the developing WTO arrangements, so we had to enter into bilateral free trade agreements which would completely open up European markets to the products of the developing countries and vice-versa. This process is well underway.

We always respect, let us say, a not completely symmetrical approach whereby European markets are opened for tariff-free and quota-free access at a very early stage of the agreement, and then the developing countries have a longer period of adaptation to this tariff-free access for European goods. We have to continue along these lines, but we have to bring more of a development dimension into the free trade agreements and the economic partnership agreements that we negotiate with the groups of countries and regions in Africa.

On the European Investment Bank, I would agree that we have to maintain their presence in projects or in the loans for the developing countries, but we always have to keep in mind that they are an investment bank, not a development bank, so we have to find proper modalities and proper projects for their engagement in developing countries.

1-076

**Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz (ALDE).** – Señora Presidenta, señor Mimica, una Comisaria saliente advirtió en 2010 que la seguridad de los cooperantes está más comprometida que nunca, y es así. En el año 2013 se registró el mayor número de muertes de trabajadores humanitarios, con ciento nueve fallecidos en todo el mundo. En Sudán del Sur han sido asesinados varios cooperantes, en Gaza han fallecido trabajadores sanitarios, en Sierra Leona, Liberia, Guinea o Pakistán, han muerto cooperantes y no solo por ébola o la polio.

Las emergencias humanitarias han incrementado las situaciones de riesgo causadas también por fanáticos terroristas, y la combinación de todo ello supone un aumento de riesgo para los cooperantes. Distintas organizaciones internacionales exigen mayor protección en las políticas que financiamos desde la Unión Europea. Así que, sin eufemismos, yo le pediría hablar en términos de eficacia y coherencia —como parece que le gusta tanto a usted— y hablar de normas positivas y de medidas de acción de alcance supranacional.

¿Cuáles son las medidas que pondrá en marcha para garantizar de forma efectiva la seguridad y la integridad de los cooperantes internacionales? Y ¿cree usted necesaria la creación de un estatuto del cooperante europeo?

1-077

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > I fully agree that the safety of aid workers – those in the area of humanitarian aid or health assistance – has to be at a very high priority of our operational criteria when programming and when assisting the developing countries. So far the contracting agencies, be it NGOs or local authorities or member countries' agencies, take care of the contingency plans, of the crisis management plans. The European Union in the terms of reference and in the overall guidance gives the major criteria for the security operations that are to be respected in these operations, and we also finance the cost of these

evacuation operations of the NGOs, or rather others who cooperate in the concrete programmes.

What I will really commit to is to increase the attention and increase the operational capacity of our NGOs or local authorities or agencies, their risk management capacities, and we are also ready and shall be ready to look into these issues also from the additional financing side and the donor coordination side.

1-078

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1-079

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > Yes indeed, the universality of the SDGs – of the sustainable development goals – actually means that it is our approach, our goal to cope with and to reduce and eradicate poverty equally in the developing countries but also within Europe as well. This universal approach actually would also assist us to develop the solidarity concept of our development policy; this is after all also our Treaty commitment, our Treaty provision that actually steers the overall development policy that we as a Commission take care of.

I would very much focus my activities on the full implementation of our existing documents, which means on our consensus on development, European consensus and on the agenda for change, where we already established a clear criteria that our aid should be differentiated, which means not directed to the countries that are graduated, that have their own capacities to assist the poverty reduction in their countries and to channel the assistance to a limited number of sectors and to the poorest countries and to the countries where the real change can be made. So within this context, I think that the focus of our action is really brought much closer to the point of eradicating poverty where it is the most striking phenomenon in today's world.

1-080

**Heidi Hautala (Verts/ALE).** – Listening to the exchange here on migration and development, I still remain worried because I recall the mission letter that Mr Juncker gave

you. He tasked you with developing appropriate ways of managing irregular migration flows. That obviously cannot be a way to spend official development aid or the aid money. So I would like to hear from you in a very simple way – yes or no – would you commit yourself to not spending all the aid money on combating or managing irregular migration flows?

Very little from anyone here has been said about the overriding role of women in development. How will you in practice make sure that this will be taken in a very high-profile way into your development and our development agenda?

1-081

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > Development policy and cooperation is a policy that could assist illegal migration flows and alleviate the pressure of migration flows – to Europe in this case – by building economies and societies that would be inclusive and favourable for the migrants to stay and to contribute to their own country's development. My concept is clearly that development money or development actions should not be directly focused and directed to – let us say – building the walls in Europe for the illegal migration, but, as I tried to explain earlier, to dismantle the walls back in their countries of origin that prevent them to be a real inclusive part of societies and economies there.

So in that context I see that the best contribution of development policy would not be in assisting, be it financially or in any other policy measures, the European prevention of illegal flows, but the contribution of the development policy will be to work together in a coordinated and cohesive way with migration policy, with the admission policy (let us call it that way) of the European Union in order to have this branch approach developing Member States in order to prevent illegal migration and building facilities for illegal migration in Europe.

1-082

**Nathan Gill (EFDD).** – Many people argue that the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) that the EU signs with poor countries are little more than economic bullion. Even EU-funded NGOs have pointed out that EU EPAs are unbalanced, allowing the EU access to markets in which produce can be dumped, destroying local markets. The wording of the agreement means that locals are denied EU market access for products that they actually do produce and sell, but are allowed to sell things to Europe that they not only do not produce but are unable to produce, like high-end electronics and components for satellites. Oxfam stated that under the EPA farmers and producers in many of the world's poorest countries will be forced into direct and unfair competition with efficient and highly-subsidised EU producers. Would you like to comment on the unfairness of these agreements?

1-083

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > Economic partnership agreements are negotiated under the mandate that was collegially adopted in the interservice coordination of many

Commissioners, the Trade Commissioner being in the lead of the negotiations. My contribution to this in the period that is in front of me would be to really build more development aspects into trade elements of the economic partnership agreement.

It is not only enough to negotiate and agree on a chance of as free market access as possible to Europe for the goods that are produced or could be produced in developing countries, but we also have to be more aware of the fact that the number of products that they can export is limited because of their inability either to produce at all or to meet the standards criteria, the technical standards, or veterinary, sanitary standards that European markets require, and this will not be dismantled by free trade or economic partnership agreements.

So in that context I would agree that a better link, a better nexus between trade and development in the free trade agreement, in the economic partnership agreement should be developed. We are still not at a stage where we are finalising these negotiations. There are still a number of regions and countries that need to complete these negotiations and I intend to be an important coordinating factor in these negotiations.

1-084

**Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio (PPE).** – Señora Presidenta, señor Mimica, considerando que el futuro viene marcado por la implicación de todos los actores en el desarrollo sostenible y que el sector privado es un actor fundamental, y recordando que ello debe hacerse siempre con el objetivo de luchar contra la pobreza y mejorar los derechos humanos y la justicia económica en estos países, ¿cómo va a impulsar la Comisión la cooperación entre la empresa privada y los países en desarrollo para que sea más efectiva? ¿Qué medidas políticas se tomarán para involucrar a las empresas privadas, también a las pymes, para que realmente mejoren la vida de las comunidades donde se establecen, favoreciendo a trabajadores y emprendedores locales y empoderando a las mujeres?

Una pregunta rápida también respecto a la inmigración por su relación con el desarrollo: ¿cómo va a afrontar este problema desde su raíz, para frenar este éxodo masivo provocado por la pobreza, la corrupción y, lo que es muy importante también, el terrorismo?

1-085

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-delegate.** > On the second part of your question, I would really like to be in a position now to try to repeat or summarise some of the major aspects of my replies to immigration policy. In brief, I think that the overall context and overall impact of the European Development Policy, especially the policy that is being developed under Agenda for Change and that will be developed on the SDGs, will actually address the internal economic, social and environmental problems in developing countries, thereby preventing

immigration flows from there. This is the contribution of sustainable development policy which relates to migration.

Coming to your first question, the first part concerned the engagement of the private sector. This is important for us in the overall development concept: in financing investment activities, but also in their role when it comes to developing countries on one side and the private sector in developing countries. Under this concept, we shall support the private sector and include it when it respects the concept of sustainable development and the programmes that we have, and if it contributes to them.

1-086

**Doru-Claudian Frunzulic (S&D).** – My question mainly concerns climate change, which is affecting every one of us, wherever we live, wherever we are. The year 2015 will be an important year in the battle against climate change, as sustainable development goals will be created to replace the Millennium Development Goals and a new global treaty on climate change is to be signed.

The two processes are in the most obvious ways interlinked, especially in the most vulnerable areas. It seems, however, in the new Commission the linking of climate change and sustainable development is not highlighted. For example, the mission letter for the Commissioner-designate for Climate Action and Energy Commissioner makes no reference to sustainable development. How do you intend to make sure the connection between climate change and sustainable development is given enough consideration in advance of the negotiations on sustainable development goals and also ensure that adequate additional funding for the fight against climate change is found outside the already stretched budget for development aid?

1-087

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > Regardless of what is written or not written in our mission letters, I cannot see an effective link between climate change and development – and this link is there always, it must be there – without the cooperation of the Development Commissioner, the Energy and Climate Commissioner, the Environment Commissioner, and a number of others. In that respect, there will definitely be coordination and cooperation at Commissioner level and at project team level, because I do not believe that these two processes – SDG or the post-2015 framework and the Climate Change Conference – are separate processes that go in different directions. In that context, we have to build and strengthen a single European voice for both conferences and for both of the negotiations which are underway.

This requires more than just project team coordination under the external action project team and the more economic or climate-related team. It requires all of us, or a number of us, to be part of a negotiating team or a negotiation preparation team for both conferences. In that respect, I look forward to working with the Energy and Climate Change Commissioner and a number of others under the Vice-President's coordination in those two very important policy actions.

1-088

**Bernd Lucke (ECR).** – Ich möchte noch einmal fragen zur Konditionalität der Entwicklungspolitik der Europäischen Union, die Sie ja betont haben: Es sind viele Fragen gestellt worden zum Thema Migration und insbesondere zur illegalen Zuwanderung. Halten Sie es für richtig, auch die Konditionalität der Entwicklungshilfe dafür einzusetzen, indem zum Beispiel darauf Wert gelegt wird, dass die Empfängerländer klar gegen illegale Schlepperorganisationen vorgehen und sie zerschlagen, dass die Transitwege kontrolliert werden und dass sich die Empfängerländer gegebenenfalls auch bereit finden, illegale Zuwanderer, die aus der Europäischen Union abgeschoben werden sollen, aufzunehmen, obwohl möglicherweise kein klarer Herkunftsnachweis geführt werden kann?

1-089

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > Migration flows, or rather illegal migration flows, really deserve a very comprehensive answer and response from the European Union, but not the European Union alone. We have to look at it from a broader perspective that would include the actions of the European side, of transit countries, and of the migrants' countries of origin. I do not feel at this moment that most of the migration flows were somehow initiated by the intentional policies of developing countries. It might be a reaction to bad governance in failed states, to bad financial management or other reasons. But we have already included all these elements – human rights and good governance – in our rights-based approach to development, and we have conditionalities and political dialogue that actually address these issues and also determine if they are related to the root causes of migration from those countries.

But in general, I would really like to see common action that would also include our immigration policy and readmission agreements with transit countries and countries of origin to the extent that it could actually include our impact on development in the countries of origin of the migrants.

1-090

**Charles Goerens (ALDE).** – Madame la Présidente, Monsieur Mimica, quelle doit être, de votre point de vue, la place de la culture dans la politique de développement?

1-091

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > Some might argue that culture is a neglected part of the sustainable development goals, but I would not be among them. When we speak of

social sustainability, it goes far beyond providing just basic social services – it might be part of our health-related actions – but when it comes to the broader social sustainability, then the social sustainability includes everything related to social development, including human rights, including cultural rights and cultural development in the developing countries, including the minority rights and their capacity to develop their identity and cultural and other ethnical identity. In that context I would be – and I will be – among those who would take cultural development, cultural programmes, also to be part of our sustainable, especially social sustainability, of our SDGs.

1-092

**Ádám Kósa (PPE).** – Tisztelt Biztos-jelölt Úr! Biztos Ön által is ismeretes, hogy a szakbizottságunk számára az egyik fontos terület az ACP-országokkal történő együttműködés fejlesztése. Az érvényben lévő megállapodás, a cotonoui megállapodás 2020-ban lejár, és már érzékelhetem a szakbizottság részéről az aggodalom, hogy hogyan is lesz a folytatás. A kérdésem a következő, rendkívül egyszerre a kérdés, ha Önt megválasztják biztosnak, mit kíván tenni annak érdekében, hogy ez a megállapodást követő időszakban megszülessen, és milyen egyeztetések várhatók ennek érdekében?

1-093

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-delegate.** > The Cotonou Agreement is an important example of how the North-South partnership could work. It expires in 2020 – we still have five years – but this is not enough if we do not approach the new or the post-Cotonou framework early enough. Therefore, I intend immediately next year, at an early stage, to launch a broad consultation including Parliament, including the Committee on Development, on our new approach to the post-Cotonou framework. I already in my opening statement clarified that it is not a question whether we shall continue such a partnership with ACP countries, especially with Africa. Yes, we shall do it – in my view it is very necessary to do so. But we have to adapt to some of the new realities, which means that maybe we can think of having overarching principles agreed with the ACP countries that would cover all aspects of our future cooperation, and then to develop specific programmes for Africa or for regions or for groups of countries within ACP countries.

This is an initial approach that I might have right now, but the final outcome of this public consultation actually would define our approach that we shall bring together with ACP countries for the post-2020 period.

1-094

**Seb Dance (S&D).** – It is really just to build on the renewed Cotonou agreement that you have just mentioned. You have spoken a lot about the strengths of the agreement. I just want to ask really about one of the weaknesses. The agreement includes a mechanism for consultation and possible aid suspension if serious breaches of human rights and democratic principles occur. However, it has proven to be inadequate in tackling breaches of basic



fundamental human rights. Last year, when Uganda and Nigeria were considering anti-homosexuality legislation, the EU was incapable of reacting in an appropriate way.

Firstly, do you agree that a renewed partnership should have a more clearly stated human rights-based approach and that an effective sanction mechanism should be put in place? Secondly, how do you intend to enhance the credibility of the EU's role as a defender of human rights given the ineffectiveness of the Cotonou agreement in enhancing the rights of minorities? And thirdly, what should be the role of EU delegations in promoting human rights and non-discrimination on the grounds of Article 21 of the Lisbon Treaty?

1-095

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > Yes, in my view and in my actions, in the post-Cotonou framework I would be very much in favour of keeping and enhancing the human rights approach to the overall principles that would guide our cooperation and partnership with the ACP countries. In that respect, I would very much rely on the assessment of the already-existing mechanisms of conditionality and political dialogue we have with the ACP countries. I would like to keep this conditionality primarily as a process conditionality that would actually enable us to go into some kind of early reaction to the disrespect of human rights.

Even Uganda and Nigeria are, I would say, good examples of where political dialogue actually gave some of the contributions to dismantling human rights breaches in those countries. But I would really like to open a broad consultation on it. I would like also to come to informal dialogue in the Committee on Development in order to discuss and agree on a best possible way for a conditionality that would actually be effective in terms of dismantling the negative impact of human rights breaches and keeping the assistance programmes to those who are really in need.

1-096

**Joachim Zeller (PPE).** – Herr Mimica! Sie treten Ihr Amt in einer interessanten Zeit an: Im nächsten Jahr werden wir die Millenniumsziele abrechnen, und die Europäische Union trägt dem Rechnung, indem sie 2015 als Jahr der Entwicklungspolitik ausgerufen hat. Ihr Dossier steht damit in einem ganz besonderen Fokus. Nun werden wir sicherlich sehen, dass viele der Ziele, die 2000 erdacht wurden, von der Verwirklichung weit entfernt sind, sodass da viel zu tun sein wird.

Entwicklungshilfe ist Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe für die, die Hilfe brauchen. Mir hat gefallen, dass Sie gesagt haben, die Hilfe solle direkt an diejenigen gehen, die der Hilfe bedürfen. Nun wissen wir, dass es oftmals nicht die Regimes und Machthaber in den Entwicklungsländern sind, die der Hilfe bedürfen, sondern die Menschen – und die wohnen zunehmend in immer

größer werdenden Städten. Dort wird Bildung gebraucht, Hygiene, Gesundheitsvorsorge und auch eine gute Verwaltung. Aber dort entsteht auch Zivilgesellschaft.

Werden Sie daran arbeiten, auch eine städtische Agenda in der Entwicklungspolitik aufzubauen? Entwicklungspolitik ist oftmals eine Sache der Regierungen. Aber Sie sagten, 70 % der Menschen in der Europäischen Union befürworteten Entwicklungspolitik. Wir sollten sie mitnehmen, das heißt, auch dort eine regionale Komponente einfügen, damit Entwicklungspolitik nicht nur Sache der EU ist, sondern auch unserer regionalen Gebietskörperschaften.

1-097

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate** > Urbanisation or cities' development is one of the important and very relevant aspects of sustainable development. Actually more urbanisation threatens the sustainability of the overall development, not only in development countries. Maybe in Europe it is a slightly better situation. Exactly because of that fact, we in Europe manage to manage urbanisation and city development by the activities primarily of the local authorities at local authorities level. We are now in a need and in a position to bring or to transfer this experience, these programmes, these actions, to the developing world.

So therefore I shall rely very much on the contribution of civil society organisation, and especially on local authorities' inclusion into programmes that would bring more sustainability to the urbanisation of very urbanised parts of the countries in the developing world. They have to deal with their local authorities. They are very often sometimes at a lower level of overall governance competence, but sometimes even dealing with the local authorities could assist in jumping over some of the hierarchy or jumping over some of the inconsistencies of the poor governance. Maybe at local level we can make some of the programmes more feasible and develop them. So my answer would be: yes, more civil society organisations and more local authorities are to be engaged into our own programmes when programming, when operating in the developing countries.

1-098

**Louis-Joseph Manscour (S&D).** – Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Commissaire désigné, je vais vous interroger sur les accords de Cotonou. Je constate que je suis le troisième collègue qui pose cette question. Je m'en réjouis, cela prouve l'intérêt que l'on peut porter à un tel sujet. En effet, de par la variété des sujets qu'il couvre, ce partenariat Nord-Sud est par ailleurs le plus complet et le plus important qui existe actuellement – cela il faut le savoir. Vous aurez la lourde tâche de renégocier l'année prochaine ce contrat de partenariat Nord-Sud.

Je voudrais compléter par deux questions. D'abord, comment comptez-vous réintroduire un certain nombre de questions qui sont restées en suspens lors de la révision de 2010? Je pense aux problématiques migratoires, à la gouvernance fiscale, dont la lutte contre les paradis fiscaux, et je pense également au renforcement, comme des collègues l'ont dit sous d'autres formes, des clauses relatives aux droits de l'homme, ce qui me paraît très important.

1-099

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-delegate.** > Post-Cotonou framework is a real priority for me. It will be a real priority because we have to start developing and rethinking the best framework for future in our relationship with the ACP countries, especially with Africa.

So in that context I would very much like to come into an early contact with a group of African eminent persons who are already dealing and reflecting on the African approach to future post-Cotonou framework, and also I would like to visit some of the leading African leaders and countries, including African Union headquarters as well. This would be a part of my preparations for the public consultation that I already mentioned that I would like to launch as early as possible next year, where a number of contributions of the various stakeholders would be needed in order to finalise European approach to post-Cotonou framework.

But what I see right now is that the part of our approach that should remain is a human rights-based approach, fiscal governance approach, avoiding tax evasion and tax havens. So this is something where we have to think how to build it in the best possible way into principles and into operative actions in our post-Cotonou framework.

1-100

**Maurice Ponga (PPE).** – Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Commissaire désigné, le partenariat qui lie les pays et territoires d'outre-mer à l'Union européenne a été renouvelé à la fin de l'année dernière. Si les relations ont été approfondies et répondent mieux aux besoins des pays et territoires d'outre-mer, le fait que ceux-ci relèvent toujours du Fonds européen de développement, destiné à lutter contre l'extrême pauvreté, a été à plusieurs reprises critiqué par le Parlement européen.

Monsieur le Commissaire désigné, la Commission européenne entend-elle proposer pour la période post-2020 un instrument propre aux pays et territoires d'outre-mer qui soit plus flexible que le FED et qui serait inscrit au budget de l'Union européenne?

1-101

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > There has been a discussion on financing of the overseas territories and regions on how to best encompass financial needs for some time. The

present regulation is that part of the EDF would be devoted to this financing, but of course I would be ready to continue this discussion, having in mind the need for a real, as flexible as possible, financial arrangement. Maybe we can start from a good fact that in the 11th EDF the percentage of the financing for the overseas countries and territories is increased by 12%, and this is a good starting point. The EDF under the present budgetary constraints is a more flexible mechanism to really finance the needs of the OCT (Overseas Countries and Territories). I would really like maybe even not to wait for the mid-term review or to the post-Cotonou review; maybe we can bring this issue again to the table when starting a public consultation on the post-Cotonou framework. I will be glad to be part of this discussion.

1-102

**Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D).** – Señora Presidenta, señor Mimica, a lo largo de esta comparecencia han sido numerosas las preguntas que han puesto de relieve la evidencia de que los países en desarrollo solo pueden lograr crecimiento integrador, prestar servicios y ayudar a sus ciudadanos a salir de la pobreza si son capaces de sacar el mejor provecho de sus recursos naturales, sus flujos financieros y la ayuda que reciben. Lo cual está impedido, evidentemente, por la alta corrupción y las negociaciones irresponsables que conllevan una desviación de cerca de un trillón de dólares respecto de los objetivos de la ayuda al desarrollo, particularmente la desviación fuera de África y la malversación conducente al lavado de dinero y al abuso de recursos naturales.

Hemos escuchado respuestas por su parte relativas a las medidas que la Comisión puede adoptar para garantizar que la asistencia financiera de la Unión Europea sirve a los fines previstos en lugar de ser desviada. Pero yo tengo otras dos preguntas adicionales y concretas. La primera, en el contexto de la Directiva sobre el blanqueo de capitales: ¿está usted de acuerdo en exigir que los veintiocho Estados miembros creen un registro central de beneficiarios efectivos a fin de poner esta información a disposición del público? Y la segunda: ¿puede comprometerse a ampliar la legislación propuesta sobre minerales de guerra para incluir la obligación de las empresas de declarar el destino de sus beneficios y no una declaración voluntaria de acuerdo con la propuesta, tal y como sucede en los Estados Unidos?

1-103

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > Combating corruption, combating money laundering and all other forms of misuse of development funding and finance, and misuse of local resources, is an important part of the overall European development policy. I come from a country, Croatia, which went through the process of building the rule of law, building a democratic society, fighting against corruption and fighting for a better judicial system during accession negotiations. What I learned is that the true beauty of enlargement is reform – reforming everything and everybody, including the mind-sets of people. So in that context, we can also build on this enlargement experience in the developing countries when it comes to the fight against corruption, against inefficient judiciaries, or against money laundering.

There are specific actions that must to be incorporated into capacity-building, into monitoring procedures and into our audits and parliamentary scrutiny in the Committee on Budgetary Control. My short answers to money laundering and this public register: my answer would be yes; yes I am in favour. I would be in favour of having this as public as possible, and as broad and comprehensive as possible. On conflict minerals and an obligatory or legally-binding scheme, my answer would be no at this moment. I have already spoken about it. Let us try a voluntary scheme first.

1-104

**Cristian Dan Preda (PPE).** – Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Commissaire désigné, on vous a posé pas mal de questions sur vos engagements, sur vos choix.

J'aimerais discuter un peu avec vous de ce qui s'est passé ces cinq dernières années. La politique de développement n'est pas une politique très mature, c'est très récent, et j'aimerais savoir ce que vous auriez fait différemment de l'actuel commissaire. Quel est le point le plus faible des cinq dernières années? Ensuite, mettez-vous à notre place en tant que membre de la commission du développement. Qu'auriez-vous fait différemment, vous qui possédez également une expérience parlementaire en tant que membre de notre commission du développement?

1-105

**Neven Mimica, Commissioner-designate.** > When looking back not only five years ago but looking back to the European engagement in the development cooperation, I would say that the Millennium goals as they were set and implemented were really focused on the economic development and economic sustainability of the developing countries only. In that context, our overall approach to development policy was more donor-oriented or official development assistance-oriented. We were more donor-oriented country and we act towards the recipients.

The change of a paradigm is now in front of us. Changing from Millennium goals to sustainable development goals is not just formal negotiations and formal adoption of a new set of rules, it is a complete policy shift towards more coherency, more partnership between developing and developed countries setting the universal goals. This is what I would like to contribute to this, to have Europe not any longer as a payer but to have it as a player in the development field. This is the change that we can make. We must keep our leading role in the development area, not only because we finance most of the development needs of the developing countries but because we do it in a very sustainable, inclusive way. We built many aspects into our approach, and this is what I would like to keep and to change when compared to the previous approach.

1-106

**Knut Fleckenstein (S&D).** – Hopefully it is understood that we need a Commissioner who is political, who is ready to defend in the name of policy coherence for development a

development perspective with his colleagues in the College in any EC policies that affect developing countries, international trade, fisheries and so on. You must get involved and the services of DG DEVCO as well. And we also need someone who will be independent from the High Representative while being able to cooperate with her to promote progressive development policies. Together you must lead the negotiations for the next international development framework. The EU is the world's biggest donor and must be more present on the international stage.

My question is simple and the last from our side. How will you ensure a stronger EU voice in an international debate?

1-107

**Neven Mimica**, *Commissioner-designate*. – My overall approach, which I tried to explain during this hearing, was very much focused on the important elements you now pointed out in your question. Actually your question somehow goes very much into the closing remarks that I wanted to present to you, because you enumerated the number of approaches that I would really like to be part of, starting from the political commissioner to political independence and integrity when it comes to bringing the European development aspects angle to all the other Commission services and Commission policies.

I see that what we have to develop within the external action services is not to work within the silo mentality and have a standalone policy, for instance in foreign and security policy standing alone, in humanitarian assistance alone and development policy alone. We have to make this coordination much better, not in order to have a subordination of any by any other policy but to have this kind of strong political impact of one Commissioner to the coherency of the policy of the other. I would be very engaged in such work with the Commissioners, including the Vice-President and the High Representatives.

I see that our first contacts – discussions – go exactly along the lines I tried to explain, so I do not foresee that this will be a Commission of subordination; this will be a Commission of coordination and of coherent policies and I will really contribute to it to my utmost.

1-108

**Davor Ivo Stier (PPE)**. – Gospodine Mimica, tijekom saslušanja podržali ste pristup koji je baziran na poštivanju i promicanju ljudskih prava.

Da se vratim na SDGs, cilj br. 16. Me utim u njemu se nedovoljno referira na koncepte dobrog vladanja ili dobrog upravljanja i vladavine prava. Ho e li vaš pristup biti da se u pregovorima takva formulacija mijenja ili je sa uvati pa onda u implementaciji pristupiti,

onime što bi nazvali, pristupom utemeljenim na promicanju ljudskih prava - to je jedno pitanje.

Drugo - s obzirom da se radi o razliku od milenijskih ciljeva, SDGs primjenjivati i na sve članice Europske unije, kakva će biti vaša uloga odnosno kako vidite ulogu Europske komisije što se tiče implementacije pa i cilja br. 16 u državama članicama?

1-109

**Neven Mimica**, *kandidat za povjerenika*. > Hvala lijepa na ovom važnom pitanju. Moj pristup odnosi se na utvrđivanje svih ciljeva, pogotovo ovog cilja koji govori o dobrom upravljanju, po meni bi trebao govoriti i eksplicitnije i o drugim elementima ili konkretnijim elementima dobrog upravljanja koji se odnose na demokraciju, ljudska prava, vladavinu prava, međutim u ovom trenutku imamo nacrt ovakav kakav je. Moj je pristup da već na Vijeću za razvoj pokušamo do kraja godine utvrditi zajednički europski pristup koji bi išao za tim da pokušamo mijenjati, popraviti, unaprijediti tekst koji definira taj cilj. U mjeri u kojoj ćemo to uspjeti, to će se odraziti u konačnom dokumentu, ali bez obzira na to kako izgledao konačni dokument, ja vas mogu uvjeriti da ću ja kao povjerenik za razvoj, za razvojnu suradnju, ako me potvrdite danas nakon ovog saslušanja, da ću raditi na tome da ovakvi ciljevi ljudskih prava, dobrog upravljanja, pristup koji je vezan na prava kao dio ukupne održive razvojne politike, da se on odražava u našim i programskim i političkim dokumentima i operativnim dokumentima koji će definirati europsku razvojnu pomoć i europsku razvojnu suradnju. I čak ako i ne bude u dovoljnoj mjeri jasno definiran u *SDG-ju* (ciljevima održivog razvoja) bit će u našem operativnom djelovanju sigurno izraženiji i odražavat će ono o čemu se svi ovdje, vidim i uvjeren sam, slažemo, a to je da zadržimo naglasak na dobrom upravljanju i vladavini prava, ako ne u *SDG-ju*, onda u našim konkretnim akcijama.

1-110

**Chair**. > Thank you, Commissioner-designate. You will be relieved to hear that that was the last question to you. You can now if you wish take the floor for up to five minutes to make any additional points or cover anything that you did not have time to say in your answers.

1-111

**Neven Mimica**, *Commissioner-designate*. > Madam Chair, honourable Members, I would really like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to briefly approach our discussion and the main points of our discussion as we approach the end of this hearing. The world is changing rapidly. Old patterns such as the donor/recipient ideology do not fit the new global context. The next few years will be critical to adapt our global development framework to these new realities, to design a new development partnership for a better world.

The paradigm shift from the current Millennium Development Goals to sustainable development goals is a great opportunity. An opportunity to better fight poverty through the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions. An opportunity to deepen partnerships with developing countries and build partnerships with fellow donors and new development players.

Similarly, the preparation for the post-Cotonou framework allows us to reconfirm our stronger commitment to ACP countries and Africa in particular. The European Union should and will be at the centre of these processes. This endeavour goes far beyond setting a universal development framework. We are dealing here with one of the most far-reaching challenges for Europe and our partners worldwide: how to shape, streamline and master globalisation. This is at stake in our sustainable development goals debate.

Madam Chair, honourable Members, I very much look forward to working with you on these priorities and beyond. I will be taking a great deal away from this hearing. I know that together we can extend Europe's global solidarity. A solidarity that strengthens Europe's standing in the world and that benefits both our partners and our citizens. So thank you very much and I really look forward to working with you on these important developments that will shape our world in the next decades.

*(Applause)*

1-112

**Chair.** > Thank you, Mr Mimica. According to our rules, the Chair and coordinators are going to meet now in camera to draw up an evaluation letter.

1-113

**Paul Rübzig (PPE).** – Frau Vorsitzende, ich hätte eine Bitte: Es hat auf Twitter viele Beschwerden darüber gegeben, dass die Übertragungskanäle nicht ausgereicht haben und dass das Internet im Haus nicht funktioniert. Ich bitte darum, dass man das für die nächsten Anhörungen verbessert.

1-114

**Chair.** > I heard something similar at the meeting of the Committee on International Trade – people could not hear the questions – but we will come back to that. We will now hold the evaluation.

*(The meeting closed at 21.45)*



