



Representation of the State
of North Rhine-Westphalia
to the European Union



A high-level policy debate hosted by the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), the Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union, the European Association of Development Institutes (EADI), and the European Think Tanks Group (ETTg).

“Renewing the mission of EU development policy in times of global polycrisis”

Tuesday 16th April 2024, 5.00 pm- 7.30 pm followed by a Reception

Location: Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union, Rue Montoyer 47 (EU Quarter, near the European Parliament), 1000 Brussels

Context and objectives

This year, the [German Institute of Development and Sustainability \(IDOS\)](#) celebrates its 60th birthday and six decades of development research, policy advice and training. IDOS has played a key role in German development cooperation, providing evidence-based policy advice on development and sustainability. When it comes to informing European development policy processes and research, IDOS works closely with the [European Association of Development Institutes \(EADI\)](#), which celebrates its own 50th anniversary in 2024, and with the [European Think Tanks Group \(ETTg\)](#) that it co-founded in 2009.

European development policy faces a turbulent global environment. As a key advocate and driver of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the EU has a special responsibility for advancing the agenda’s ambitions. Nevertheless, while progress towards many key SDGs is off-track, much attention is drawn towards addressing the simultaneous polycrises of the Russo-Ukraine War, conflict and upheaval in the Middle East, an unequal recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, and the deepening crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. The EU has reacted quickly and consequently to some of these challenges, but struggles with the changing nature of its relationships with ‘the Global South’, where many countries have very different interpretations of these crises.

Ahead of the European Parliament elections and a subsequent appointment of the next EU Commission, many questions regarding the strategic orientation, instruments and approaches for EU development policy remain open. How can the EU ensure that its democratic values are promoted and not compromised while cooperating with authoritarian governments, including through the Global Gateway initiative? How can trade-offs between protecting rights and managing migration be addressed? What contribution can EU development policy make to lasting peace in the Middle East? What priorities should Europe set with a view to accelerating the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda?

IDOS, the State of North Rhine Westphalia, EADI and the ETTg are bringing together decision makers and experts to discuss the challenges the EU faces in addressing today’s polycrises, and to

scope the possibilities for action. We invite you to join this debate in person at the Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union on 16 April 2024.

Draft Programme

5.00 pm	Registration	
5.30 pm	Opening remarks	Dr. Mark Speich Secretary of State for Federal, European and International Affairs and for Media, North Rhine-Westphalia
5.45 pm	Welcome and Introduction	Prof. Dr. Anna-Katharina Hornidge Director of IDOS and Professor for Global Sustainable Development at the University of Bonn
5.50 pm	Panel debate Renewing the course and mission of EU development policy in times of global turbulence Moderation: Dr. Niels Keijzer Senior Researcher & Project Lead, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)	Dr. Udo Bullmann Member of the European Parliament Ms. Erica Gerretsen Director for Human Development, Migration Governance & Peace, DG International Partnerships, European Commission Prof. Dr. Anna-Katharina Hornidge Director of IDOS and Professor for Global Sustainable Development at the University of Bonn Ms. Belén Martínez Carbonnel Managing Director for Global Agenda and Multilateral Relations, European External Action Service (EEAS) Dr. Iliana Olivié Senior Analyst at the Elcano Royal Institute and Director of the ETTG Prof. Andy Sumner Professor of International Development at King's College London and President of EADI
7.30 pm	Reception	

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