

## **Re-balancing European voices in the EU international cooperation agenda: ETTG - PISM dialogue on resilience**

Warsaw, 8 April 2025  
Diplomatic Academy, Miodowa 10, Warsaw

### **Background**

The past five years have seen a series of unprecedented crises that have deeply affected the European Union's development cooperation policy and international partnerships. The EU's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the war against Ukraine, the growing number of unconstitutional changes of government in the Sahel and, last but not least, the conflict in the Middle East have fuelled resentment about the EU's (sometimes ineffective) responses and real or perceived double standards, seriously undermining its relations with key international partners. The EU is finding itself in an increasingly challenging situation, with growing internal divisions and the challenges to reform the multilateral system, that are hampering its ability to react swiftly to crises and with the need to redefine its development narrative to be able to offer an effective alternative to the one of non-like minded competitors. Against this backdrop, fragility is increasing in several regions of the world, with a growing number of countries struggling with poorer governance if not military coups, increased debt burdens and reduced fiscal spaces, rising inequalities, worsening food insecurity levels and significant reversals in the trend towards the reduction of poverty. New voices and approaches to development within the EU are thus needed to respond to this polycrisis and to strengthen partner countries' resilience at the country level and within local communities. In the context of the Polish presidency of the Council of the EU and the forthcoming enlargement of the Union, the Central and Eastern European countries can bring unique perspectives and successful stories to foster effective cooperation projects with the EU's partners. These countries can help redefine the sectors where the EU's development agenda can be more impactful, for instance by expanding the Union's position in areas such as digitalization, green finance or smart agriculture.

### **Aim and format of the event**

The aim of this event is to assess the role of the EU as a global development actor and better seize the Central and Eastern European views on the development cooperation, (i) in the beginnings of the next political cycle, (ii) the critical junctures of the Polish presidency of the Council of the EU and the forthcoming enlargement of the Union, and (iii) the need to take stock of the important shift of EU development cooperation towards a more pragmatic approach, revolving around the implementation of the Global Gateway. With this aim, ETTG

and PISM are organising a **closed-door Chatham House workshop** in Warsaw to discuss (i) the priorities of the EU's development cooperation with the new EU Commission, looking in particular at how the EU can operate in fragile contexts (ii) as well as which role EU members can play in reshaping or diversifying the EU's development agenda and (iii) to discuss the optimal balance between the support to Ukraine, the preparation for the enlargement and the very much needed response to development challenges at a global scale and in other regions.

The **workshop** will be held in the margins of the informal meeting of the Directors General for Development Cooperation and for Humanitarian Affairs of the EU Member States scheduled in Warsaw on April 8-9 2024. This event will also target representatives of the EU Commission, think tankers and Civil Society Organizations. This event will offer the possibility to present ETTG and PISM reflections on **fragility and resilience**, which will serve as a basis to organise a discussion that will (i) take stock of the EU's geopolitical Commission approach towards international partnerships from a variety of geographical perspectives (reflecting the diversity of views within Europe) and (ii) reflect on the challenges ahead for the EU as a global development actor within the framework of EU relations with the Global South.

#### **15.00-15.10 Welcome addresses**

- Jarosław Ćwiek-Karpowicz, Director, Polish Institute of International Affairs
- Iliana Olivié, Director, European Think Tanks Group

**15.10 - 15.20** Keynote speech by Jakub Wiśniewski, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland

**15.20 - 16.30** Panel discussion

#### **Guiding questions:**

- *How have we collectively approached fragility so far, especially in politically constrained contexts? What are the lessons learned?*
- *What do we need to do better or differently to respond to global challenges and build resilience in partner countries in the spirit of the Human Development Peace nexus approach? How to improve the effectiveness of the EU development policy in the context of discussions on the future Multiannual Financial Framework?*
- *How can development policies be better designed to build and strengthen the capacities of local populations and local governments and promote self-reliance in fragile contexts? How can assistance be integrated into broader peacebuilding and statebuilding efforts in a way that does not interfere with states' self-determination?*
- *How can the Global Gateway strategy be applied to fragile and/or politically constrained contexts? What would Team Europe need, to implement Global Gateway effectively in fragile settings? Are there good lessons learned and best practices on how the EU and its members can attract private sector investments and resources in fragile contexts?*

**Panel**

- Maciej Popowski, Director, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, European Commission
- Patryk Kugiel, Analyst, Polish Institute of International Affairs
- Julian Bergmann, Senior Researcher, German Institute of Development and Sustainability

Moderator: Jago Salmon, Principal Policy Fellow, ODI Global

**16.30 - 16.45 Closing remarks**

Aleksandra Piątkowska, Director, Department of Development Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland

**19.30 Dinner** - Villa Foksal, Foksal 3/5, 00-366 Warsaw