

Agenda of the European Commission

12 – 18 May 2014

**Background notes from the Spokespersons' service for journalists.
The European Commission reserves the right to make changes.**

Tuesday 13 May:

New EU communication on the private sector: Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries

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The news:

On 13th May, the European Commission will adopt a Communication on the role of the private sector in development in which it will define the future direction of EU policy and support to private sector development in its partner countries. The Communication will outline a new framework to ensure the highest development dividend from private sector operations in developing countries, for the benefit all members of society – particularly women and young people. It will include actions and tools to improve regulatory business environments, to accelerate the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises that are essential to create decent jobs, and will advocate a 'differentiated' approach to the private sector – providing different incentives for businesses to contribute to development. It will also define principles for working in partnership with the private sector for boosting development; for example in sectors like agriculture, energy, and infrastructure, where inclusive and sustainable growth could be stimulated through blending.

The background:

This communication comes in response to the European Commission's 2011's Agenda for Change (its blueprint to refocus its development policy to prioritise those countries and sectors most in need and where it can have the biggest impact), which recognised the private sector as a main partner in EU development cooperation. It follows extensive consultations with the EU and partner country stakeholders, including European and local private sector representatives. The private sector accounts for some 90 percent of jobs in developing countries, making it an essential partner in the fight against poverty. The European Commission has been a very active partner in supporting the creation of an enabling business environment and local enterprise development in partner countries and with the creation of regional blending facilities has been a leader in developing new tools for implementing private sector development.

The sources

[Agenda for Change](#) (documentary - ref. I-074362)

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