



CEPS-British Council Lunchtime Policy Dialogue: The future of EU-UK long-term partnership

The future collaborative framework for external aid between the EU and the UK

In March 2017, the United Kingdom invoked Article 50 of the Treaty on the European Union, effectively starting the process of the UK's withdrawal from the EU. This has raised the need to explore how the UK can continue its partnership with the EU institutions and Member States in order to preserve mutual benefits of more than 40 years of close cooperation. In this *Lunchtime Policy Dialogue Series*, co-organised by CEPS and the British Council, the challenges such a change entails, the obstacles to maintain a fruitful cooperation and, more importantly, how to maintain an effective EU-UK partnership will be discussed.

In this third and final *Lunchtime Policy Dialogue*, the focus will be on the future relations between the EU and the UK in the area of external aid. The departure of the UK from the EU may affect the possibility and/or the modalities of UK agencies and NGOs to participate in the across a number of external aid instruments. This would have not just budgetary consequences but it may also have an impact on the positive contribution to the delivery of the European consensus.

Working on the premise that there is a real value added in an integrated "European" approach to external aid, and aiming to improve future blending arrangements in this mixed competence area, the *Lunchtime Policy Dialogue* will tackle, among others, the following questions:

- What are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to EU-UK cooperation in the field of external aid?
- What are the strategic imperatives for continued cooperation in this field?
- Which instruments can be put at the service of attaining those goals and how?



Agenda
15 March 2018: 13.15 – 14.30
Conference Room
CEPS
Place du Congrès 1, B-1000 Brussels

12.30 – 13.15	Light Lunch
13.15 – 13.55	<p>The Future of EU-UK Partnerships in External Aid</p> <p>Welcome by Jo Beall, <i>Director Education and Society & Member of the Executive Board, British Council</i></p> <p>Moderator: Steven Blockmans, <i>Senior Research Fellow, CEPS</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Reiner Forster, <i>Deputy Director, GIZ Representation Brussels (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ)</i></p> <p>Tamsyn Barton, <i>CEO, Bond</i></p> <p>Andrew Sherriff, <i>Head of Programme, European External Affairs, ECDPM</i></p> <p>Yohannes Abraha, <i>Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Ethiopia in Brussels</i></p>
13.55 – 14.25	Questions from the audience
14.25 – 14.30	Concluding Remarks