

JOINT CONSULTATION PAPER

Towards a new European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)

II. Lessons Learned and Questions on the Future Direction of ENP

1. *Should the ENP be maintained? Should a single framework continue to cover both East and South?*

The ENP should be maintained and even reinforced because it is important for the future and prosperity of Europe and that neighbouring countries are stable and economically developed.

Because individuality of each region should be respected we consider that East and South should be treated under different and specific frameworks.

2. *Should the current geographical scope be maintained? Should the ENP allow for more flexible ways of working with the neighbours of the neighbours? How can the EU, through the ENP framework, support its neighbours in their interactions with their own neighbours? What could be done better to ensure greater coherence between the ENP and the EU's relations with Russia, with partners in Central Asia, or in Africa, especially in the Sahel and in the Horn of Africa, and with the Gulf countries?*

Situations are different from one another, so there is not a unique single solution. The ENP must have the flexibility to adapt to every specific case, having always in mind that the principles and values of the EU must be respected.

3. *How could a more comprehensive approach with more active involvement by Member States give the policy greater weight? Would stronger co-ownership of the policy be preferred by partners?*

Situations are different from one another and dependent on the Member States, greater or smaller, existing relations with neighbouring countries

7. *Can partnerships be focused more explicitly on joint interests, in order to increase ownership on both sides? How should the ENP accommodate the differentiation that this would entail? Are new elements needed to support deeper cooperation in these or other fields?*

The European strategy for a wide Energy Union refers explicitly the need for the reinforcement of energy interconnections between EU and the surrounding countries.

In this scope, the new ENP should complement the Energy Union strategy and give a new boost to energy (electricity and gas) interconnection projects, by means of a clear framework of cooperation between countries and regions.

9. *How can the EU do more to support sustainable economic and social development in the ENP partner countries? How can we empower economically, politically and socially the younger generation? How to better promote sustainable employment? And how can these objectives be better linked to indispensable reforms in the fields of anti-corruption, judicial reform, governance and security, which are prerequisites for foreign direct investment?*

One way of supporting prosperity in EU neighbouring countries is the development of common interest businesses.

Enlarging the geographic areas for energy production and trading (as outlined in the Energy Union strategy) is a good way to create interdependence between countries and simultaneously increase energy Security of Supply, by means of increasing diversification of energy sources.

Extending European principles and energy strategies (e.g. more renewables, environmental protection, etc...) to neighbouring countries will support sustainable and social development in those regions, with mutual benefits.

13. *Is the multilateral dimension able to deliver further added value? Are these formats fit for purpose? How can their effectiveness be strengthened? Can we more effectively use other, more flexible frameworks? Can we better cooperate with other regional actors (Council of Europe, OSCE, League of Arab States, Organization of the Islamic Conference, African Union)?*

To promote a solid cooperation, EU and the neighbouring countries increase its common interests and businesses. The energy sector is vital for this approach because it brings benefits for both sides. To achieve this objective, new interconnection infra-structures must be developed in coherence with the Energy Union strategy.