The Council has not yet taken a decision on the Commission’s proposal for a Council decision on signature and provisional application of the new Partnership Agreement between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States of 7 July 2021. The new EU-ACP Partnership Agreement can therefore not yet be applied. In its conclusions of 21 June 2020, the Council decided on the budgetisation of the European Development Fund, stating that the expenditure for ACP will be integrated into the Heading 6. There is therefore no funding available under the new EU-ACP Partnership Agreement, as the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-) Global Europe would finance the geographic cooperation with the ACP States.

The NDICI-Global Europe is an EU regulation. The EU’s competence on development cooperation is interpreted by the standing case-law of the EU Court of Justice in a broad manner, as encompassing not only the eradication of poverty but also general objectives of the EU’s external action, referred to in Article 21 Treaty on EU.

With respect to Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), the European Consensus on Development stresses the need for universal access to CSE. The EU’s longstanding commitment to sexual and reproductive health and rights is reflected in the Gender Action Plan III and in programming support.

There is overall strong support for CSE. It featured in the outcome document of ICPD-25, the G7 last year, and many United Nations resolutions. This is also in line with the Parliament’s resolution on ‘Sexual and reproductive health and rights in the EU, in the frame of women’s health’, including a section on CSE (24 June 2021).

The programming of funds under the NDICI-Global Europe was completed at the end of 2021. Human Development is prioritised in OACP States. They will be translated into specific actions. It is too early to have precise indications on their content and modes of implementation. The conclusion of a financing agreement between the Commission and a partner country ensures its agreement with an action and creates obligations on both parties on the implementation of EU funds.

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1 COM(2021)312final.  
2 See Conclusions of the European Council of 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 July 2020 para 118.  
3 Judgment of the Court of 2 September 2021, Commission v Council, Case C-180/20, ECLI/EU/C/2021/658, para. 49 and case-law cited.  
5 https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers%E2%80%99-meeting-communiqu%C3%A9_en  