

Stefano Manservisi

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Stefano Manservisi is Director-General for International Cooperation and Development at the European Commission since May 2016.

An Italian national, he previously served as Head of the Private Office of Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Commission Vice-President.

In 2014, he was the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey. Before that, he held different positions at the Commission, including as Director-General for Migration and Home Affairs, and Director-General for Development and Relations with African, Caribbean, and Pacific States. He has also headed the Private Offices of the Commission's President Romano Prodi and Commissioner Mario Monti and served in the Private Offices of the Commission's Vice-President Filippo Pandolfi, and of Commissioner Francesco Vanni d'Archirafi.

A lawyer by training, he enjoys teaching and has been a visiting professor at the University of Bologna, University of Roma III, and the College of Europe.

Digital for Development: the EU Perspective

The Digital Single Market of the European Union is the second biggest contributor to Europe's economy. This success can be replicated in partner countries.

The digital economy is not only a driver for constant innovation, but if used and developed properly, it can also be a key driver for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Therefore, the digital economy should be an integral part of EU-Arab cooperation at both business and governmental level.

The EU has made a strong effort over the past years to mainstream digital services and technologies into EU development policy. The aim is to support partner countries in addressing the key challenges that digitalization and the technical revolution will bring, and at the same time allow digitalization to play a central role in improving people's lives. A growing number of EU-supported projects and programs shows the increasing importance of digital, with funding for approved projects doubling from 2017 to 2018. New initiatives focus on the priority "digital as enabler" and cover various key thematic areas such as energy, education, health, governance and agriculture. Yet, the EU can and will do more in the future. The EU has created innovative financial instruments to boost private investments in Africa and the area by lowering risks and creating conditions for deployment of digital technologies.

It is fundamental to join forces and foster regional policies and local digitalization agendas for stable and prosperous economic growth and international collaboration. This will leverage innovation, enhance inclusion and unlock the potential of the digital economy worldwide.