The tension between competence delimitation within the Treaties and the need to speak with one voice to the world seems to have been engrained in the mandate and structure of the EEAS. The extent to which the EEAS can provide support to the HR on issues pertaining to the external assistance to neighbouring countries is limited by the notion of the ‘normal tasks’ of the Commission. The only responsibility which is shared between two neighbourhood desks of the Service and the Commission’s DG DevCo and DG ELARG/ENP concerns the first three programming stages of external assistance financing. The degree of consistency in aid policy towards the neighbourhoods is therefore dependent on the extent to which these bureaucracies are able and willing to cooperate. The allocation of themes in the organigram of the EEAS complicates matters further. ‘Development policy coordination’ is embedded in the structures of the ‘Global and multilateral issues’ department of the EEAS. Therefore, one may assume that the cross-cutting theme of development policy is mainstreamed in the geographic desks. But where does the development leadership really lie? How is this mainstreaming done? How effectively? Does post-conflict rehabilitation remain apart? These and other questions will be explored.