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The European Union has inherited and prolonged Europe's long-standing relations with Africa. The Cotonou Agreement is a broad treaty binding the EU and 78 ACP countries, most of them sub-Saharan African countries, on democratic governance, trade and development matters. The African Union and the EU also share a common strategy (JAES, Joint Africa EU Strategy) on several global challenges, such as migration, security issues and climate change. Both partnerships will be reviewed in the coming months: a new Africa-Europe Summit will take place in November 2017 and redefine the JAES roadmap. As for 'Cotonou', it is set to expire in 2020, while new economic partnership agreements between the EU and African regional blocks are being implemented or negotiated. The times when EU-Africa relations were based on a donor's agenda are over: Africa is also a world of opportunities the EU is keen not to miss – but not at the cost of forgetting the fight for democratic values. This selection of EPRS publications addresses some of the most pressing issues at stake between the two continents.

[International Agreements in Progress: Economic Partnership Agreement with the SADC](#)

Briefing by Ionel Zamfir, September 2017

In 2002, the EU started negotiations on free trade agreements with different ACP regional configurations. One of these is the SADC EPA Group – of southern African countries, including South Africa. The negotiations were long but eventually the Agreement was ratified by five of the six African countries and the European Parliament. It is now in the process of ratification by EU national parliaments.

[Refugee policies in Africa: Open borders but limited integration](#)

Briefing by Ionel Zamfir, September 2017

In Europe, refugees in African countries are most often seen in the perspective of the migration crisis which the EU has faced in recent years. However, Africa itself hosts large numbers of displaced people, and while many of them find moving from country to country relatively easy, states offer little protection with the result that many end up living in overcrowded and remote camps, reliant on humanitarian aid. Indeed the lack of possibilities for integration or employment in African countries is seen as a key driver for irregular migration to Europe.

[ACP-EU relations after 2020: The end of an era](#)

Briefing by Eric Pichon, December 2016

One of the main building blocks of EU external relations, the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP), is set to expire in 2020. Due to EU institutional evolution and changes in the global balance of powers, a renewal 'as is' of the agreement is not an option. There is a need to streamline ACP-EU relations, with new EU strategies in the regions concerned, and to adapt to the ACP countries' new ambitions.

[Democracy in Africa: Power alternation and presidential term limits](#)

Briefing by Ionel Zamfir, April 2016

At the beginning of the 1990s, most African countries introduced constitutional term limits for their presidents. However, ultimately many leaders tried to constitutionally extend their position in power. In several cases, strong opposition from civil society and political actors was successful in upholding constitutional rules. In others, however, the will of the heads of state concerned prevailed, sometimes at the cost of prolonged turmoil. In this context the question arises: how essential and useful to democracy are presidential term limits?

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[Being a LGBTI person in African countries](#)

Key source by Eric Pichon and Anne Vernet, April 2016

More than four African countries out of five of have laws criminalising homosexuality, or even punishing LGBTI rights advocacy. When homophobic attitudes are encouraged or not punished by the authorities, this can favour violence towards LGBTI people, including rapes and killings. Furthermore it leads LGBTI people to live in hiding which increases mental or physical health problems among the population. On several occasions the European Parliament has reminded the EU of its commitment against all forms of discrimination, in all the places it acts.

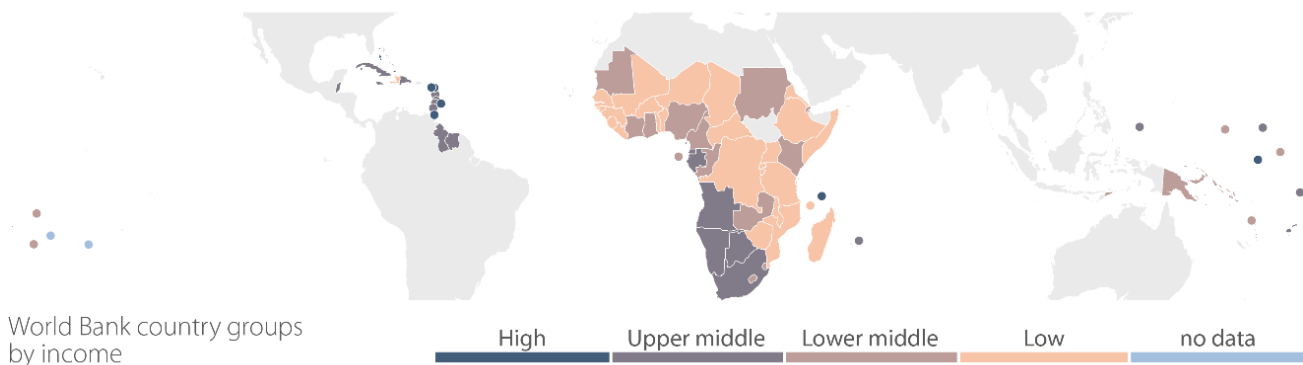
[Africa's economic growth: Taking off or slowing down?](#)

In-depth analysis by Ionel Zamfir, January 2016

Since the turn of the millennium, Africa has achieved high and sustained growth rates. As the global economic context is turning less favourable, drivers of growth other than export commodities become essential. Africa has to industrialise in order to create jobs (including low-skilled ones) and transform the economy. Building infrastructure, especially for electricity supply and transport networks, and also improving the quality of economic governance are necessary but not sufficient prerequisites for achieving further growth and creating the new jobs so much needed by Africa's young population.

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ACP Group of States in 2016 (all of them are parties to the Cotonou Agreement, except Cuba):



Caribbean countries

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, **Haiti**, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

African countries

Angola, Cape Verde, **Benin**, Botswana, **Burkina Faso**, **Burundi**, Cameroon, **Central African Republic**, **Chad**, **Comoros**, Republic of the Congo, **DR Congo**, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, **Eritrea**, **Ethiopia**, Gabon, **Gambia**, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, **Guinea-Bissau**, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, **Liberia**, **Madagascar**, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, **Mozambique**, Namibia, **Niger**, Nigeria, **Rwanda**, Sao Tome and Principe, **Senegal**, Seychelles, **Sierra Leone**, **Somalia**, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, **Tanzania**, **Togo**, **Uganda**, Zambia, **Zimbabwe**

Pacific countries

Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, **Nauru**, **Niue**, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

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