



PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT
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PARLAMENTO PAN-AFRICANO
البرلمان الأفريقي

Ad-hoc committee for relations with the European Parliament



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT
PARLAMENTO EUROPEU
EUROPEES PARLEMENT

Ad-hoc delegation for relations with the Pan-African Parliament

The Chairpersons

Note for the attention of:

- the Presidencies-in-office of the African Union and of the European Union
- the Members of the African Union Commission and of the European Commission responsible for the Joint Africa-EU Strategy

On:

THE ROLE OF THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE JOINT AFRICA-EU STRATEGY

Through the Pan-African Parliament's ad-hoc committee for relations with the European Parliament and the European Parliament's ad-hoc delegation for relations with the Pan-African Parliament, our Parliaments discussed their role in the implementation and monitoring of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and the "First Action Plan (2008-2010) for the implementation of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership".

In a correspondence between the Chairs of the parliamentary delegations and the Member of the European Commission and of the African Union Commission responsible for the Africa-EU strategy, several suggestions for the involvement of the parliaments in the implementation and monitoring were made, both by the Parliaments and by the Commissions.

On the basis of this correspondence and other contacts between the institutions, the Pan-African Parliament's ad-hoc committee for relations with the European Parliament and the European Parliament's ad-hoc delegation for relations with the Pan-African Parliament would like to submit the following concrete proposals to the Presidencies and Commissions of the European Union and the African Union. We suggest to discuss these proposals at the earliest possible occasion and at an appropriate level with the members of the EU and AU Troika, with a view to reaching an early agreement before the next Africa-EU Ministerial Troika on 28 April 2009 in Luxemburg. Concretely, we suggest that such a discussion be organized in the margin of the Twelfth African Union Summit in Addis Ababa between 26 January and 3 February 2009.

I. Principles

1. For our Parliaments, the starting point is the recognition of the fact that the Pan-African and the European Parliament are part of the institutional architecture of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership¹ and that, in line with their specific remits in relation

¹ As acknowledged in paragraph 104 of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy

to the joint Africa-EU Strategy², this reality should be reflected in the manner in which our Parliaments are involved in the implementation and monitoring of the Action Plans established under the Joint Africa-EU Strategy.

2. Our Parliaments also recognize that the success of the Strategic Partnership requires the commitment from all European and African stakeholders involved. All stakeholders should therefore actively contribute to the implementation of the Strategy and the Action Plan, in line with their institutional role and competencies and with their capacity to mobilize the necessary resources.

II. Specific role of the Pan-African and the European Parliaments in the implementation and monitoring of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy and the First Action Plan

Paragraphs 116 and 117 of the Joint Strategy lay down the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms:

“116. The two Commissions and the EU Council Secretariat will – on an annual basis and in cooperation with the AU and EU Presidencies – coordinate the preparation of a joint report on the progress made in the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, focusing on the policies and actions outlined in the Action Plans and using clear indicators and concrete benchmarks and timetables to ensure that implementation is on track. These reports will be presented to the Africa-EU Ministerial Troika meetings which will monitor progress and ensure that implementation is on track: every third year, these reports will be presented to Heads of State and Government, meeting at Summit level, alternately in the EU and in Africa.

117. In parallel, the European Parliament and the Pan-African Parliament are invited to organise joint hearings and to prepare political reports on progress made.”

In conjunction with the mandate established in paragraph 96 of the Joint Strategy for our Parliaments, together with the EU Council and the AU Executive Council and the Commissions, to “review progress and provide political guidance to the partnership”, this leads to the following concrete proposals for the involvement of our Parliaments and the relationship between them and the other institutions of the Joint Africa-EU strategy:

1. Participation in the informal Joint Expert Groups

As indicated in our correspondence, the European Parliament and the Pan-African Parliament have jointly identified four priority partnerships for our initial parliamentary involvement (Peace and security, Democratic governance and human rights, Trade and regional integration, MDGs), and both Parliaments intend to participate at an adequate level in the meetings of the corresponding Joint Expert Groups (JEGs).

² See inter alia paragraph 96 of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy: “The political momentum and visibility of the new partnership will also require political engagement and commitment of the leaders of Africa and the EU in the period between the Summits. To this end, the Presidents of the EU Council and the AU, of the European and the Pan-African Parliament and of the European and AU Commissions, will – in the period between Summits and on a regular basis – meet their institutional counterparts, alternately in Africa and the EU, *to review progress and provide political guidance to the partnership.*”

We understand that the work of the Joint Expert Groups is prepared on the European side by Implementation Teams bringing together technical experts from the Commission, the Council Secretariat and interested Member States, and that the African side is setting up a similar structure as the basis for the African contributions to the Joint Expert Groups.

We therefore propose that the European and Pan-African Parliament be also represented at an adequate level in the preparatory expert groups for the partnerships which are of particular interest to our Parliaments.

The JEG co-Chairs, the EU Council Secretariat and the two Commissions are therefore requested to ensure that our Parliaments' representatives receive the agendas, minutes and all other documents related to the work of the JEGs and the respective Implementation Teams (or equivalent bodies on the African side) at the same time as the other members of these bodies, and well enough in advance to allow for internal consultations and for an informed participation in the meetings of these bodies.

2. Annual progress reports

As indicated in our correspondence, our Parliaments propose that the main "political report on progress made" should consist of the analysis, recommendations and suggestions relating to the annual joint progress reports on the implementation of the Strategy. The following format and timing are proposed:

- i) Starting point is the adoption of the annual joint progress report by the ministerial Troika; it is suggested that the chairs of the competent parliamentary bodies from the PAP and the EP for the follow-up of the Joint Strategy (in principle the chairs of the ad-hoc delegation/committee for relations with the other parliament) be invited as observers to the Troika discussion preceding the adoption of the joint annual progress report;
- ii) After its adoption, the annual joint progress report should be formally forwarded to the Pan-African and European Parliaments;
- iii) Our Parliaments intend to react in the form of a parliamentary report or resolution by each of the two parliaments, or – whenever feasible – a joint report or resolution by both parliaments, indicating Parliaments' assessment of the progress made as well as recommendations and suggestions for the continuation of the work on the Joint Strategy;
- iv) The individual or joint parliamentary report(s)/resolution(s) will be presented by the chairs and/or rapporteurs of the appropriate parliamentary bodies from the PAP and the EP to the next ministerial Troika and will be jointly debated by the members of the Troika and the chairs and/or rapporteurs of the PAP and EP bodies (who will be invited for this specific point on the agenda of the Troika meeting);
- v) The next joint annual progress report should indicate how the Parliaments' suggestions and recommendations have been taken into account.

Whenever necessary, Parliaments will also draft joint reports, resolutions or any other form of joint parliamentary document containing recommendations and suggestions on

specific subjects or actions pertaining to the partnerships for the attention and reaction of the ministerial Troika.

3. Participation in the AU-EU Task Force

The First Action Plan describes the AU-EU Task Force as a part of the institutional architecture and as the body in the framework of which monitoring of progress in the implementation of the Action Plan will take place. Our Parliaments have indicated that, if this is the case, they feel that they ought to be represented (in a capacity to be agreed amongst the institutions) in this Task Force.

The Commissions have underlined that the Task Force so far has been functioning as a working body in charge of promoting the technical and administrative cooperation between the two Commissions. We feel that this discrepancy should be rapidly resolved. We also feel that there is a need to ensure greater coherence between the work of the eight thematic Joint Expert Groups and better coordination between the technical and the political / decision-making level. We suggest that this function could be carried out by a reformed Task Force. We therefore propose to adapt the function of the Task Force to the reality of the Lisbon arrangements and the requirements on the ground, and to ensure that the other institutions with a mandate to "review progress and provide political guidance to the partnership" are duly involved in its work.

4. Parliamentary involvement in the Africa-EU Summits

The Summits are the supreme policy setting bodies for the Africa-EU Partnership. It is therefore only logical that all relevant institutions be able to participate in these Summits.

Our Parliaments therefore suggest that, following the precedent set at the 2007 Lisbon EU-Africa Summit, all institutions agree that the Presidents of the Pan-African Parliament and of the European Parliament will be invited to attend and address these Summits and to present our Parliaments' conclusions on the implementation of the Action Plan and their suggestions for the future orientations of the Strategy.

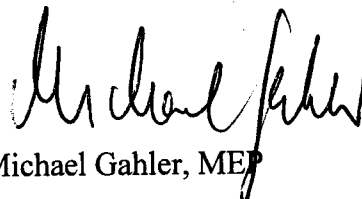
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This note does not discuss the necessary alignment of procedures between the Pan-African and the European Parliament in order to enable them to take joint action, nor the parliamentary activities and initiatives for the promotion of the Joint Strategy. We estimate that these are matters of the exclusive competence of our respective parliaments and belonging to the remit of their competent parliamentary bodies (the PAP's ad-hoc committee for relations with the EP, and the EP's ad-hoc delegation for relations with the PAP).

17.12.2008



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