

Brussels, - 6 JAN. 2010
DR/amw/D(09) 1116 - A(09) 2611

*Dear Vice-President Mugenyi,
Dear President Gahler,*

I have taken good note of your joint letter dated 11 November 2009, whereby you express your wish for a better involvement of the Pan African and European Parliaments in the Africa-EU Ministerial Troika meetings.

The European Commission has consistently supported an increased role for the EU's and AU's continental parliamentary assemblies in the implementation and in the institutional architecture of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership. We have set out this approach in the informal 'hexalogue' discussions organised in Addis Ababa and Strasbourg in January and March 2009 respectively, and we have welcomed the agreement reached on the various issues, as set out in the Annex 1 of the Ministerial Troika Communiqué of April 2009.

In the run-up of the 13th Ministerial Troika meeting in Addis on 14 October 2009, our respective services discussed on several occasions the involvement of the EP and PAP in this event. The Commission services then recommended to your collaborators that the request for an EP-PAP meeting with the Troika be made jointly and in a timely manner by both Parliaments to EU and AU Presidencies in their function as the leaders of the Troika. The recommendation was also made that the PAP services establish early contacts with the AU as hosts of the Troika meeting to agree on practical organizational aspects.

In addition, your services received relevant preparatory documents in advance of the Troika, so that the EP and PAP could prepare for the discussions. Finally, the European Parliament was represented at the Africa-EU Joint Task Force, in the week preceding the Ministerial Troika meeting, where key documents related to the JAES mid-term review were discussed and reviewed.

*Mrs Mary MUGYENYI
Vice-President
Pan-African Parliament
Delegation for relations with the EP*

*Mr Michael GAHLER
MEP, Chairman of Delegation
European Parliament*

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Like you, I regret that contacts between the Parliaments and the Troika could not take place in Addis in the envisaged format, not least due to the fact that the joint EP-PAP letter to the Presidencies was sent at a very late stage. I would recommend that the EP and PAP contact the respective AU and EU Troika members sufficiently early ahead of the Ministerial meetings. You will be aware that the next Africa-EU Ministerial meeting will take place in Luxembourg on 27 April 2010. I have instructed my services to draw the attention of the incoming Presidency of the EU to this issue.

Last, but certainly not least, the AU and all relevant players in the EU's new institutional context should be contacted soon to ensure an adequate participation of the Pan African and European Parliaments in the next Africa-EU Summit of December 2010, in line with our agreement of April 2009.

On the working level, the Commission services are ready to organise, jointly with EP Delegation for relations with the PAP, an information session on the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership for Parliamentarians and staff of the relevant Committees and Delegations in order to ensure its mainstreaming into their regular work and ensure the adequate level of participation in the various working bodies of the Joint Strategy. My services avail themselves to organise this session with your services.

Yours sincerely,



Karel DE GUCHT