

High-level conference towards a renewed partnership with **Africa**

22 November 2017



Many positive changes such as rapid economic progress, the strengthening of institutions and rule of law have taken place on the African continent over the last two decades. At the same time, challenges remain linked to security deficiencies, including terrorism, climate change, desertification and environmental degradation, the outbreak of famine, poverty and unemployment, all of which cause migration flows. The dynamic demographic trend that will make Africa the youngest and most populous continent in the world with 2.5 billion inhabitants by 2050 is both a challenge and an opportunity.

Taking Africa forward is a shared goal. The continent needs to be stabilised and attract major investment through economic diplomacy crafted to develop an industrial base, improve skills and create jobs that will enable young Africans to build a future in their own countries. The European Union should be at the forefront of this effort as we share common values and interests with Africa.

As we celebrate ten years since the adoption of the joint Africa-EU strategy, 2017 is proving to be crucial in our relationship as many political and legislative measures taken at EU level will strengthen our ties. In May, the High Representative and the European Commission issued a joint communication for a renewed impetus of the Africa-EU Partnership. In June, the European Consensus on Development was signed and the Council adopted conclusions stressing the EU's strategic interest in deepening its longstanding partnership with Africa. In September, the European Parliament and the Council adopted the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD), the centerpiece of the EU's new External Investment Plan.

In addition to legislative and democratic support, the European Parliament has had a defining role in strengthening political and economic ties with Africa by inviting both the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the President of Côte d'Ivoire, to address the plenary in Strasbourg.

The European Parliament is therefore taking the lead in encouraging other EU institutions and Member States to be more ambitious, going beyond the existing partnership and financial instruments. Our priority must be an Investment Plan for Africa. The EFSD is a step in the right direction but its means remain limited if we want it to be a game changer. New economic and academic diplomacy is needed that focuses on infrastructure, technology transfers, resource efficiency, vocational training and a conducive environment for private sector growth. The EU should promote legal migration while cooperating with third countries on fighting irregular migration. Finally, further support for scholarships for African students under the Erasmus+ programme and extending cross-border exchange programmes for young entrepreneurs to African countries would also be invaluable.

The aim of the high-level conference is thus to continue to raise the visibility and importance of our partnership, to open a debate on the need to maximise existing instruments and resources in view of discussing the post-2020 EU budget. It also comes at the right time: one week before the fifth African Union-European Union summit that will take place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

This year, the focus of the summit will be on "Investing in youth", a key priority for both Europe and Africa. Other priorities of the partnership that will be tackled include peace and security, governance including democracy, human rights, migration and mobility, investment and trade, environmental preservation and climate change, skills development and job creation.

The conference is being organised in conjunction and with the participation of key parliamentary committees and Members of the European Parliament - in particular with rapporteurs on critical files and stakeholders. This will greatly contribute to strengthening the message conveyed by the European Parliament's delegation to both the Parliamentary summit and the one with Heads of State and Government.

#PartnershipAfricaEU



European Parliament

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Preliminary draft programme

13:00 **Registration**

14:00 - 15:30 **Opening session**

Antonio Tajani, President of the European Parliament

Alpha Condé, President of the African Union (tbc)

Faustin-Archange Touadéra, President of the Central African Republic

Roger Nkodo Dang, President of the Pan-African Parliament

Werner Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank

Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank (tbc)

Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission

15:30 - 19:00 **1st Roundtable: Peace & Security and democracy, good governance
and human rights (in parallel)**

Part I: Peace and Security

Chaired by the AFET Chair, David McAllister

Guest speakers:

Ibrahim Sani Abani, Secretary General of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)

General Salif Traoré, Malian Minister of Security and civil protection (tbc)

Serge Michailof, Associate Research Fellow at IRIS

Padre Giulio Albanese, Italian missionary and journalist

Topics for discussion include:

- The long-term perspective of addressing conflicts and ensuring post-conflict reconstruction: the Sahel and the Horn of Africa;
- Cooperation and coordination of efforts for African capacity building and counter-terrorism;
- Security sector reform (SSR) & Disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR):
- Old and new threats: conflicts, terrorism, hybrid warfare in Africa.

Part II: Democracy, good governance and human rights

Chaired by the DROI Chair, Pier Antonio Panzer

Guest speakers:

Denis Mukwege, Laureate of the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought 2014

Cessouma Minata Samate, African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs (tbc)

Topics for discussion include:

- Electoral observation missions;
- Human rights situation in Africa;
- Women and the informal economy.



15:30 - 19:00 2nd Roundtable: Attracting investments for sustainable and inclusive development and growth

Introduction by Günther Oettinger, European Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources (tbc)

Part I: Focus on Manufacturing, Infrastructures and Energy

Co-chaired by the DEVE Chair, Linda McAvan and ITRE Chair, Jerzy Buzek (tbc)

Guest speakers:

Amani Abou-Zeid, African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy

Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (tbc)

Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Topics for discussion include:

- Infrastructures;
- Manufacturing;
- Energy including renewables.

Presentation of the EFSD by Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation & Development

Part II: Focus on Climate Change, Environment and Water management

Co-chaired by the DEVE Chair, Linda McAvan and ENVI Chair, Adina-Ioana Vălean

Guest speakers:

Miguel Arias Cañete, European Commissioner for Energy and Climate Action (tbc)

Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (tbc)

Sanusi Imran Abdullahi, Executive Secretary of the Commission of the Lake Chad Basin (tbc)

Albert M. Muchanga, African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry (tbc)

Sacko Josefa Leonel Correa, African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture (tbc)

Topics for discussion include:

- Water management and agriculture;
- Circular Economy, including dealing with plastics pollution;
- Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Environment and Biodiversity;
- Implementation of the Paris Agreement.

15:30 - 19:00 3rd Roundtable: Migration, youth and human development (in parallel)

Part I: Migration

Chaired by the LIBE Vice-Chair, Sergei Stanishev (tbc)

Guest speakers:

Dimitris Avramopoulos, European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship

Mohamed Anacko, President of the Regional Council of Agadez

Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon, Deputy Director of the ILO Regional Office for Africa

Amira El Fadil, African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs (tbc)

Topics for discussion include:

- Cooperation with third countries on fighting illegal migration and smuggling and on returns, taking into account the needs of countries of origin;
- Legal migration;
- Resettlement.

Part II: Youth and human development

Chaired by a CULT Vice-Chair (tbc)

Guest speakers:

Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society

Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport (tbc)

Firmin Edouard Matoko, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Africa

Giulio Rapetti (in art Mogol), Italian music lyricist

Topics for discussion include:

- Erasmus + programme;
- Creative industries, entrepreneurship;
- Digitalization for start-ups;
- Cultural heritage.

19:00 - 20:00 Closing session

Jean-Claude Brou, Minister-of-Industry-and-Mines, Côte d'Ivoire (tbc)

Jyrki Katainen, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness (tbc)

Andrus Ansip, Vice-President responsible for Digital Single Market

Louis Michel, Chair of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

Leaders of the Political Groups

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