

JOINT STATEMENT

24th SOUTH AFRICA-EUROPEAN UNION INTER-PARLIAMENTARY MEETING

19 - 20 APRIL 2017

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

1. The 24th South Africa-European Union Inter-Parliamentary Meeting (IPM) between Members of the South African Parliament and Members of the European Parliament took place at the South African Parliament in Cape Town on 19 – 20 April 2017.
2. The discussions focused on the strategic, bilateral relationship between the EU and South Africa, broader issues of mutual interest between the two counterparts as well as Southern African Development Community economic and political developments.
3. Members from both Parliaments emphasised the importance of strengthening the relationship between SA and the EU and ensuring more active roles by both Parliaments on decisions taken by the EU and the South African Government.
4. Members of the South African Parliament welcomed the European Union's funding of the Legislative Sector Support Programme (LSSP) for the South African Parliament.
5. Both sides underlined the importance of transparency, efficiency, accountability and sound financial management of EU money spending, as well as of the fight against corruption. More attention should be put on sharing of good practices, on promotion of positive examples of successful and sustainable EU projects in SA and on their added value and performance.
6. Both Delegations recognised the importance of the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The European Parliament recognised South Africa's effort on the implementation of its National Development Plan.
7. While exports of citrus to the EU have been steadily increasing, differences on citrus black spot remain. South Africa remains concerned about the high costs of complying with the regulations of citrus exports. Both parts remain committed to the resolution of scientific differences through the International Plant Protection Convention mechanisms.
8. The South African Development Community – European Union Economic Partnership Agreement (SADC-EU EPA) came into force in October 2016. While welcoming its entry into force, South African Members requested that the EU reviews the wheat quota agreement and its application to ensure that it benefits

all not only a few larger companies. The EP Members call on the European Commission to explore a possible follow-up to this request.

9. While acknowledging the progress made by South Africa in the mining sector on mine safety and recognising the strategic need of South Africa to benefit from its own mineral resources for the purpose of economic growth and job creation, it was emphasised that more needs to be done for mining communities to benefit from mining activities and to live in a safe and healthy environment.
10. Both sides acknowledged the progress made in SA and the EU in advancing gender equality and creating opportunities for women. However, both delegations recognised that much more needs to be done in areas of access to education, finance, entrepreneurship, labour market and all parts of society.
11. South Africa welcomed the commitment of the European Union to look into possible barriers affecting the exporting and racing of horses.
12. Both Parliaments agreed on the need of compliance with the existing international agreements on climate change. South Africa focused on the Carbon Tax legislation and emphasised the need for all parties to adhere to the COP 21 Paris Agreement specifically regarding funding commitments between developing and developed nations. The European Union noted that there are opportunities for both parties to learn from one another in this regard, and develop further cooperation.
13. Both sides noted the impact of the recent drought on food security and nutrition for South Africa and the sub-region. State intervention was acknowledged as instrumental in strengthening South Africa's national resilience. The importance of effectively mitigating where possible the impact of climate change was also recognised.
14. Both Parliaments recognised the rights, as enshrined in international treaties, for refugees and asylum seekers. The need for proper integration policies, based on acceptance of rights and duties by the immigrant population, was also stressed.
15. The two sides recognised the need of a stronger cooperation in the fight against terrorism. They encouraged greater exchange of information and called on tackling the threat of radicalisation.
16. Both parties resolved to continue to strengthen the relationship between EU and SA, which should remain as strong as ever despite the exit of the UK (Brexit).

17. Both Parliaments take into consideration the challenges arising from the fourth industrial revolution and its impact on youth, education, training and employment.
18. Members recognised that the Inter-Parliamentary Meetings have played an important role in strengthening SA-EU relations, fostering the implementation of the strategic partnership and in addressing trade challenges faced by both parties. Furthermore, Members appreciated the use of this platform for information and knowledge sharing.

Wueth
20 April 2017

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