

JOINT STATEMENT

25th EUROPEAN UNION-SOUTH AFRICA INTER-PARLIAMENTARY MEETING

18 - 19 APRIL 2018

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, STRASBOURG, FRANCE

1. The 25th South Africa-European Union Inter-Parliamentary Meeting between Members of the South African Parliament and Members of the European Parliament took place at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 18 – 19 April 2018. The discussions focused on the strategic partnership between the EU and South Africa, as well as on broader issues of mutual interest between the two counterparts. This also bodes well for a constructive relationship between the African Union and the EU.
2. Members wished the newly elected President Matamela Ramaphosa well in his efforts for development in South Africa, cooperation with the EU, and the integration of Africa, based on close cooperation within the framework of the African Union.
3. Both Delegations agreed that the European Parliament would adopt a Resolution on the centenary celebrations for the late former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela.
4. Members called for the next SA - EU Summit to take place before the end of 2018.
5. The South Africa Delegation called for the support of the EU for increased Development Cooperation funding post-2020 to address the national developmental challenges that South Africa is facing. In the framework of the on-going mid-term review of the Multiannual Indicative Programme for South Africa, Members from both Parliaments welcomed the planned increase in the Development Cooperation Instrument allocations to support the EU - SADC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).
6. Both sides acknowledged the aspirations to self - determination of the people of Western Sahara and are united in the hope that a sustainable and lasting solution can be found quickly.
7. The South African Delegation welcomed the EU Parliament's offer of EU knowledge, skills and technologies that can be used to address water shortages in South Africa. All Members stressed the need for a holistic approach, bringing together all parties involved, i.e. the national government, local government, regulators, farmers, and others.

8. Both Delegations condemned, in the strongest terms, the slave trade and other severe human rights violations against migrants in South Africa, the European Union, Libya and elsewhere, in particular those affecting vulnerable populations such as women and children; they further called for the development and tightening of legislation to address modern day slavery involving inhumane labour conditions and human trafficking.
9. The South African Delegation emphasised that the issue of an amendment in the Constitution to allow for expropriation of land without compensation would be handled with the utmost care and that the process will include wide public consultations. Both sides agreed that any land reform measures should have a sound legal basis and be handled in a constitutional, democratic, and peaceful manner. The South African side looks for support from the EU on this issue.
10. The EU Delegation supports South Africa in its bid to become a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.
11. Both Delegations agreed that it is critical for South Africa's minerals to be beneficiated in the country and for mining companies to contribute to the development of the local communities in which they operate. The South African Delegation noted that in terms of transformation in the mining sector, the role of legislation such as the Mineral and Petroleum Development Act (MPRDA) and the implementation thereof is important.
12. Both Delegations took note of the significant economic impact that all measures affecting trade flows of citrus, poultry, textile and wheat have on their respective farmers, producers, workers, consumers and local communities. They agreed to enhance collaboration and oversight on all these issues to ensure minimal impact.
13. Both Delegations recognised and welcomed the developments in Zimbabwe towards the re-establishment of democracy and democratic institutions. The South African Delegation and the EP side encouraged the EU Member States to consider lifting sanctions.
14. Members called upon the South African government and the European Commission to elaborate steps towards the participation of South Africa in the new European External Investment Action Plan.
15. Following the conclusions of the fifth AU - EU Summit in Abidjan, Members urged both sides to translate into practice in particular the education, skills and job-matching needed for the creation of economic opportunities for youth. They called for a greater involvement of youth in decision-making processes, as per the outcome of the 4th Africa - Europe Youth Summit.

16. Members reiterated their recognition that Inter-Parliamentary Meetings have played an important role in strengthening SA-EU relations, and fostering the implementation of the strategic partnership.
17. Instructs its Co-Chairs to forward this statement to the President and Members of the European Parliament, the President of the European Commission, VP/HR Federica Mogherini and the European External Action Service (EEAS), and the Parliament of South Africa.

Strasbourg, 19/04/2018