



5.10.2023

MISSION REPORT

following the ad-hoc Delegation to Senegal

Committee on Development

Members of the mission:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Catherine Chabaud | (Renew) (Leader of the mission) |
| Maria-Manuel Leitão-Marques | (S&D) |
| Karsten Lucke | (S&D) |
| Ryszard Czarnecki | (ECR) |
| Ádám Kósa | (NI) |
| Carlos Zorrinho | (S&D) in his capacity as chair of the delegation to the ACP-EU JPA |

Introduction

Senegal is a strong partner for the European Union and its Member States. It is a crucial regional player in Western Africa especially in terms of trade, stability and security while it also plays an important role in strengthening the continent's pharmaceutical sovereignty. Team Europe in Senegal has developed important investments in agriculture (food sovereignty), transport (green mobility), education (technical and vocational), health (vaccines) and energy (just transition) sectors.

The three-day mission was the first ad-hoc DEVE delegation to Senegal and to the whole West African region in the ninth legislative term. The agenda centred on (i) vaccine development and manufacturing, (ii) the Great Green Wall initiative, (iii) climate adaptation of coastal communities in mangrove areas and (iv) women empowerment. The delegation had also the opportunity to follow up on MEP Catherine Chabaud's previous mission in 2021 and assess the evolution of EU cooperation portfolio since then. The programme consisted of one day of meetings in the capital Dakar and two days of field visits in the Fatick region. The overall political situation upon arrival was tense due to the expected sentence in a trial of the main opposition leader (Ousmane Sonko) on 16 May. The verdict was eventually postponed at last minute and this allowed for a smooth mission.

The ad-hoc delegation followed on other Parliament committees' visits to the country (AFET in April 2023, BUDG and PECH in February 2022). The DEVE committee previously visited the country in 2018, focusing on migration.

Scene-setter - Political, social and economic volatility

Although Senegal has been a real beacon of stability and democracy in the region, the current situation is socially and economically volatile, mainly due to the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and the fallout of the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine. Political tension was due to the judicial condemnation of the major opposition leader, Ousmane Sonko (*Pastef party*) and the uncertainty around Macky Sall's third presidential bid, which would have been against the spirit of the Constitution. The government has a very narrow majority in the National Assembly and faces a deteriorating geopolitical context with a fragile economy -11% inflation rate over the last year and reduced budgetary margins. President Macky Sall's attempt to relaunch the economy in 2021 through a revision of the 2014-2035 "Plan Sénégal Emergent" has not so far fully met the demands of the population, particularly the youth. In the meantime, however, the country is on a path to a new political transition in view of the election in February 2024 as President Sall decided not to run for a third mandate.

EU - Senegal cooperation as regards the mission thematic areas

The EU-Senegal cooperation is structured around three main priorities: (i) Green and inclusive growth for job creation; (ii) Human capital development; and (iii) Good governance as reflected in the Joint Programming Document 2018-2023. The Multi-Indicative Programme (MIP) further develops on these main priorities, with a budget of EUR 222 million for the period 2021-2024.

Senegal has the ambitious objective to cover 50% of its needs by 2035 through **local**

pharmaceutical production and achieve sovereignty in this regard. The EU and its member states massively support the national pharmaceutical sector with a particular focus on the *Manufacturing in Africa for Disease Immunization and Building Autonomy* project (MADIBA), of which the European Investment Bank is the first financial partner. Moreover, the Senegalese pharmaceutical sector is a strong component of the Africa-Europe "Global Gateway" investment package and more specifically of a continent-wide European initiative - *Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, medicines and health technology products in Africa* (MAV+). Echoing the ambitions of the *Partnership for Local Vaccine Manufacturing in Africa* initiated by the African Union in April 2021, MAV+ aims to create an appropriate pharmaceutical investments ecosystem, supporting the development of local manufacturing capacities and production plants. Team Europe is contributing a total financial volume of approximately EUR 155 million to this end.

In order to accelerate the **transition towards food sovereignty** and linking to the *Regreening Africa programme*, the Team Europe Initiative « Économie verte au Sénégal » supports the country's various agropoles (agro-ecological areas), with a particular focus on the 'Agropole Centre'. The Team Europe Initiative EU Ripostes, in partnership with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), aims to sustainably support key value chains and strengthen their competitiveness for the creation of decent jobs, with women and youth as primary beneficiaries. The DEVE delegation visited the Kaydara School Farm, which is supported within Ripostes.

Furthermore, the EU has made the **Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative** one of the Africa-Europe Global Gateway flagship projects. Launched by the African Union in 2007, the initiative aims to halt desertification and boost (green) jobs creation. Through land restoration and regenerative agriculture, it fosters livelihoods' development and builds resilience to climate change, which is projected to affect nearly 41 million people in the Sahelian strip. During the 2021 *One Planet Summit*, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) launched the *Great Green Wall Accelerator* along with six main development objectives to achieve by 2030, jointly coordinated with the Pan Africa Agency for the Great Green Wall. On the same occasion, EU Commission's President Ursula Von der Leyen pledged more than 700 million per year to the initiative, and further highlighted its importance at the 2022 AU-EU Summit. Since then, the EU has committed to implement targeted GGW programmes at both national and regional level in over 9 countries, with concrete commitments reaching EUR 714,5 million for 2021.

Concerning **coastal areas management**, both in terms of preservation of biodiversity and of climate adaptation, the EU has been supporting West Africa through the PAPBIO project, implemented through the International Union for Nature Conservation (IUNC). With a budget of EUR 9.9 million, it aims to achieve integrated protection of the mangroves, crucial for the sustainability of the marine ecosystems from Senegal to Benin. Furthermore, the EU-funded FISH4ACP programme, implemented by FAO, seeks to modernize oyster-processing techniques, create jobs and protect mangrove ecosystems.

Summary account of meetings

Meetings in Dakar

Members visited the historical sight of the **Institut Pasteur de Dakar (IPD)**, located in Dakar city (Plateau). They held a roundtable discussion with the IPD CEO, the scientific director and director for partnerships around local manufacturing, training, and research and public health policies. Members discussed how to support health sector autonomy in Africa, the links between environmental pollution and epidemics as well as the opportunities for training and retention of professionals. Concerning intellectual property for vaccines, IPD CEO pleaded for rebalancing the debate, calling for “trusted partnerships” with the pharma sector. A major issue is also access to market across Africa and the role of the African Union to facilitate the appropriate regulatory framework will be critical. IPD acknowledged with gratitude that the EU is the main funder of their expansion and development. During the field visit, Members exchanged with the responsible scientist for each IPD section (tropical diseases, virology and the bio-medical lab). An example was the yellow fever production unit and the biobank, which treasures a wide collection of biological samples of human health conditions. They also saw the ongoing construction of the **African Centre for Resilience to Epidemics (CARE)**, designed to become the future training centre aimed at achieving biological security and safety in Africa. Members had the opportunity to inspect a mobile laboratory, renovated and equipped through the EU-funded **LABPLUS Africa project** and understood how it serves for early diagnostics, which is key for an efficient epidemics response. In response to Covid-19, the EU LABPLUS Africa Project (EUR 10 million grant) financially supported the joint collaboration between the IPD and the Senegalese Ministry of health in epidemics prevention and control, to strengthen resilience to contagious diseases.

The meeting with the **Ministry of Economy** was linked to its responsibility over the Plan Sénégal Emergent (PSE). The Senegalese government is committed to create jobs and reflect the youth’s perspective in the currently challenging socio-economic context. Members asked in particular about food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture, social security policies and support to people with disabilities, as well as on programmes to foster women emancipation. The EU support to the PSE was praised as valuable and substantial.

Members had the opportunity to exchange with their counterparts at the **Senegal National Assembly**, specifically with a delegation led by the Chair of the Rural Development Committee and the Chair of the Finances and Budgetary Control Committee, who both hail from the government coalition. Other participants included six members (two were women) of the said committees as well as from the Committee for Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition and the Committee for Health, Population and Social Affairs.

The Senegalese MPs presented their account of Senegal’s policy priorities and the challenges to address. The exchanges were lively, testifying to political pluralism, diverse views and to the active participation of women (the Assembly currently counts 46 % female members). The themes discussed included regional security, food security, agriculture and the use of pesticides, climate change as well as inter-parliamentary cooperation. The Senegalese counterparts underscored the need for an urgent solution to implement a new partnership agreement between the EU and ACP countries, and underlined that priority should be on supporting youth in the country as a response to irregular migration.

Ms Maria-Manuel Leitão-Marques, member of FEMM committee, who was part of the ad-hoc

DEVE delegation, chaired the meeting with six **NGOs working for women empowerment** and gender equality. Several challenges were raised by the women: lack of legislative enforcement from the authorities on forced (child) marriages and rape; limited land ownership, especially affecting rural women, and the persistent overarching influence of customs and traditions over formal possibilities. Women in Senegal still mainly engage in the informal economy, placing them in a vulnerable position. There is also a correlation between economic and political emancipation and limitations to overcome. The overall appreciation of EU support was very positive, particularly for tangible programs targeting access to credit and trainings in digital competences.

Discussions with the **EU Delegation and members states' ambassadors** focussed on current challenges in the volatile context (inflation, high energy and foodstuffs prices) and the fragile security situation in West Africa. The EU is supporting President Sall's recent emergency programme for employment and socio-economic integration of young people, in particular by promoting job creation and the private sector. The Senegalese government focuses on massive investments and therefore courts a wide variety of international partners including prominently China and Turkey. The need to bring Senegalese public opinion towards a pro-EU narrative and away from a pro-Russian one was emphasised as key. The EU supports Senegal's desire to prioritise its sovereignty: food sovereignty (agriculture, livestock and fisheries), but also pharmaceutical and health sovereignty. EU is in economic terms of exports and imports the number one partner for Senegal. In terms of modalities of cooperation, the EU is appreciated as the purveyor of subsidies and grants rather than loans (which is most often the case for other partners). In the long run the EU focus on proper governance is also perceived as an added value.

Field visits

Great Green Wall initiative

Assessing the advancement of the Great Green Wall initiative was one of the four main objectives of the DEVE ad-hoc delegation. Members witnessed the impact of the **Kaydara Farm School programme**, a 7-month apprenticeship that supports youth in acquiring arable land and cultivating it through an agro-ecological approach, and then accompanies them in setting up their small agri-business start-up after completion of the programme. A large delegation representing all the various project partners welcomed the DEVE Members for a presentation. Thanks to a fruitful [discussion](#) with the school founder, local authorities (governor and mayors), the prefect, the FAO experts as well as the General Director of the Senegalese GGW agency - Mr Oumar Abdoulaye Ba, members gained insight into what underpins the economic and social viability of the project. They also had the opportunity to listen directly to the young apprentices' - male and female - experience with the Kaydara programme.

Coastal communities in mangrove areas

To assess the impact of the **EU PAPBIO project** on Senegalese coastal areas management, members were able to witness directly the integrated protection of the mangroves with the sustainable aquaculture value chain in the marine protected area (MPA) of Joal Fadiouth. They discussed with different members of the MPA Management Committee, including the chief conservator, local authorities, various women's cooperatives as well as with the International Union for Nature Conservation as implementing partner. Members also visited the Somone natural reserve, which hosts the Réseau national des Acteurs de la Chaine de valeur des Huîtres

au Sénégal (RENACVAH), set up within the **FISH4ACP framework**.

Conclusions and follow-up

The DEVE mission to Senegal facilitated members' engagement with a wide variety of stakeholders, both through institutional meetings as well as through direct exchanges and hands-on activities. The field visits brought insights into EU development projects at community level. Overall, members could see that programmes aiming at land restoration, sustainable agriculture and climate adaptation & resilience benefit from a long-term focus from the EU and that they have borne fruit thanks to close cooperation with state authorities and also local communities. The visit and exchange at Institut Pasteur was a strong example of a solid partnership between Senegal and Team Europe. The IPD Senior Management recognized and expressed gratitude for the EU substantial support in expanding the pharmaceutical sector and achieving the Senegalese ambitious agenda. Members were impressed by the vision, determination and professionalism of the IPD team as well as a high representation of women among its experts and staff and the wide variety of their activities. The delegation witnessed a clear determination to enhance the Great Green Wall as exemplified by the large multi-stakeholder engagement for the Kaydara Farm School programme. Members appreciated the EU Ripostes support, which enhances the potential for youth employment, thereby preventing migration and creating a resilient community.

The EU-Senegal bilateral agenda is solid and forward-looking. The insights gathered in the delegation will inform DEVE scrutiny of both the NDICI-GE instrument and the Global Gateway strategy, as Senegal is partner for some of its flagship projects. The mission will also feed into upcoming hearings in the DEVE committee. The European Parliament is open to explore options to support parliamentary dialogue within the National Assembly. DEVE will continue monitoring developments in Senegal ahead of the presidential elections planned for 25 February 2024. Overall, members felt that EU was well perceived as a positive partner for Senegal.

Annexes

- Final programme
- Twitter publication via @EP_Development
- Press releases

Annexe 1 – Final programme

Programme - DEVE mission to Senegal 15-17 May 2023

| Times | |
|---------------------------|---|
| | Monday 15 May |
| 9:00 - 10:00 | Meeting with Secretary General Pr. Allé Nar Diop, at the Ministry of Economy, Plan and Cooperation |
| 10:15 - 11:45 | Visit and exchange at Institut Pasteur de Dakar (IPD) Dr Amadou Sall, CEO Karine Belondrade, Director Partnerships Xavier Berthet, Scientific director |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | Briefing at the EU Delegation to Senegal with EU Ambassador and the team |
| 15:00-16:00 | Exchange with representatives of National Assembly, Chair of the Rural Development Committee, Cheikh Seck and Chair of the Finances and Budgetary control Committee, Seydou Diouf |
| 16:30 - 18:00 | Meeting with representatives of civil society |
| | Tuesday 16 May |
| 10:30 - 14:00 | Visit of Kaydara farm school (Great Green Wall) in the presence of Mr Cheikh Kanté, Minister attached to the President's office for the <i>Plan Sénégal Émergent</i> and Head of EU Delegation. Meeting and discussion with Mr Oumar Abdoulaye Ba General Director of the Great Green Wall Agency in Senegal. Exchange with local authorities, the youth and symbolic tree planting emphasizing on biodiversity. |
| 15:30 - 18:30 | Visit of the PAPBIO mangrove project (part 1) with the MPA management committee, IUCN and Wetlands international |
| | Wednesday 17 May |
| 9:00 - 12:00 | Visit of the PAPBIO mangrove project (part 2) |
| 15:30 - 18:00 | Visit exchange with the representatives of the Senegal department of the environment and classified establishments |
| END OF THE MISSION | |

Annexe 2 – Twitter

https://twitter.com/EP_Development/status/1674741722872422404



Annexe 3 – Press releases

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230505IPR84903/development-meps-in-senegal-to-discuss-vaccine-access-and-climate-change>

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/deve-ad-hoc-delegation-to-senegal/product-details/20230508MIS02062>