

FIRST ANGOLA-EUROPEAN UNION MINISTERIAL MEETING



BRUSSELS 17OCTOBER 2014

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

To strengthen and enhance cooperation between the Republic of Angola and the European Union, the first Ministerial meeting was held in Brussels on 17 October 2014. The meeting was organised in the framework of the EU-Angola Joint Way Forward document, which is intended to be the basis for a permanent process and an inclusive dialogue and cooperation at various levels in a range of areas. The ambition is to progressively broaden these areas to make the process as wide-ranging as possible. The process is based on the recognition of common interests, and seeking the most efficient way to achieve outcomes with mutual benefits for both parties and to work together to tackle global challenges.

The Ministerial meeting was held under the Co-Chairs of H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Angola, Georges Rebelo Chicoty, H.E. Minister of Planning and Territorial Development of the Republic of Angola, Job Graça, and H.E. Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Italy, Lapo Pistelli, representing the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, and the Commissioner of Development, Andris Piebalgs.

The Parties reaffirmed their joint commitment to the intensified political dialogue and cooperation agreed in the Angola-EU Joint Way Forward and discussed namely the topics as presented below, as ways of developing prosperous and strong societies.

The Parties reaffirmed their support to the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, which remains the overall political framework for the relations between the two continents and welcomed the positive outcome of the recent EU-Africa Summit (Brussels, 2-3 April 2014).

PEACE AND SECURITY

As important actors in support of peace and security in Africa and beyond, both sides pledged to work increasingly together and reaffirmed their commitment to peace and security in conformity with the aims and principles of the UN Charter. The Angolan membership of the UNSC 2015/16 adds an important new dimension to this. The EU commended in particular Angola's current leadership as chair of the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region and as vice chair (and upcoming chair) of the Kimberley Process.

On Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), both sides expressed support for the implementation of commitments taken under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Frame-

work (PSCF) and agreed to the urgent need to end the activities of armed groups in the DRC, in particular the FDLR.

The need to stimulate private sector development in the region and increased regional economic integration was underlined.

The two parties discussed the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) and reaffirmed the importance of the international community, including the EU and UN, working together with neighbouring countries and regional organisations to restore a peaceful political and security environment in the country. They reinforced the message to all parties that only dialogue, not violence, can bring a solution to the country's political problems.

Both sides confirmed the importance of improving maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, the EU pledging its support for the conclusions of the Yaoundé Summit of June 2013 and welcoming the organisation of a conference in Luanda in 2015 on maritime and energy security in the Gulf of Guinea.

Parties agreed to work together to achieve common objectives in these contexts and to undertake regular exchanges on peace and security issues, including in a formal Article 8 political dialogue in Luanda at least once a year. Parties underlined the benefit of further consultations on peace and security and will seek synergies where possible.

GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Parties had an open exchange on issues of good governance, democracy and human rights and reaffirmed their commitment to the Universal Periodic Review process. The upcoming review for Angola in November will evaluate progress on specific recommendations.

The EU commended Angola for the realization of the first population census allowing to guide sustainable growth policies and has encouraged the Government to pursue with the reforms of the justice sector with the aim of consolidating rule of law and good governance.

Parties agreed to exchange information on Good Governance and Human Rights in a formal political dialogue according to Article 8 in Luanda at least once a year.

MIGRATION

Recalling the EU-Africa Summit Declaration on migration, and recognizing that both parties are facing similar challenges, they agreed on the need to maintain close cooperation in this area.

Both parties underlined their satisfaction with Angola's collaboration with Frontex, notably the participation of Angola in the Africa Frontex Intelligence Community and the invitation to participate in the International Border Police Conference (Warsaw, 22-23 October). Angola's interest in the Seaport Cooperation (SEACOP) project, aimed at combatting transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking by maritime route, was also welcomed.

Parties highlighted that their cooperation in this area will continue, aiming at better fighting irregular migration and trafficking as well as improving mechanisms to allow adequate legal migration and mobility and supported the increased Angola's participation in the new cycle of MIEUX programme.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The EU supports Angola's objective to enhance its economy's diversification aiming at creating and ensuring sustainable development.

The Parties furthermore highlighted the importance to expand the economic relationship between Angola and the EU and the mutual opportunities for growth in trade and investment. Parties agreed that economic diversification is an important component for ensuring sustained growth of the Angola economy.

Angola outlined the main aspects of the National Development Plan and recent measures to promote economic growth, diversification and foreign investment. The EU mentioned its support to the National Development Plan through the European Development Fund (EDF), notably the focus of the 11th EDF programme for Angola on key areas such as sustainable agriculture, professional training and water supply and sanitation. It also noted the European Investment Bank availability to study financing opportunities in infrastructure development projects.

Parties further underlined the significance of domestic and foreign investments to sustain economic growth and discussed how to promote bilateral trade and investment flows and develop an enabling, predictable and business-friendly environment.

The parties welcomed the recent conclusion of negotiations for an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Southern Africa region and the EU encouraged Angola to consider joining this agreement, in view of ensuring a long-term perspective of duty- and quota-free access to the EU market for goods.

ENERGY

Recognizing the importance of the energy sector, and renewable energies in particular, the parties expressed their commitment to work together to increase the access to electricity in rural areas, contributing to ensure that the benefits of energy resources go to local communities and citizens.

Both parties agreed in particular on the importance of good governance and corporate social responsibility of companies in order to ensure sustainable growth, development and prosperity.

Both parties recognized the need to reinforce the dialogue between the Ministry of Energy & Water (MINEA) and the European Investment Bank (EIB), as to evaluate ways to reach adequate complementary financing to the investment programme in the sector.

Parties agreed to establish dialogue and more regular contacts at technical level with a view of making available EU short term technical assistance to pave the way for more

comprehensive actions, notably in the field of training, capacity building for regulatory topics and fostering private sector activities, especially in rural context.

RESEARCH and INNOVATION

With regard to research and innovation, the Parties, acknowledging the essential role of science, technology and innovation for the socio-economic transformation, poverty reduction and sustainable development, agreed to develop activities to strengthen capacities and training of human resources, to enhance mobility of scientists and innovators and to promote access to knowledge in various areas.

Parties recognise the need to work in institutional capacity with regard to certification, accreditation and evaluation of research and development institutes, as well as in the field of technology transfer in Angola.

Parties agree to enhance cooperation between the Ministry of Science and Technology and EU services, with a view of promoting knowledge sharing, exchanges of best practices and access to existing networks and projects in this area.

The EU and Angola acknowledge the importance of promoting awareness of scientific events of mutual interest.

Parties recognise the importance of the nomination for the EU of a National Contact Point for science and technology for the effective participation of Angola in programmes, projects and activities in Research & Innovation.

Parties underscored their satisfaction with the outcome of the joint workshop "Horizon 2020: cooperation between Angola and the European Union in Research and Innovation" that took place in Luanda on 13-14 October 2014. This workshop was an important contribution to exchange activities and raise awareness on research and innovation and opportunities of participation in the H2020 programme.

EU and Angola agree to enhance the cooperation in science, research and innovation including through the EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue and through existing initiatives such as the ERAfrica model and CAASTNET Plus, as well as future ones.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Parties recognize that the EU is a strategic partner of the African continent in the international dialogue on Climate Change and that the Republic of Angola has participated in the important dialogues on this topic.

They also expressed their interest in intensifying the bilateral dialogue in these areas, in particular with a view to aligning their positions in topics of global interest.

Parties agreed to proceed in a comprehensive identification of the EU programmes that would allow facilitating and supporting such dialogues.

The EU showed its availability to support Angola in the elaboration of its National Emission Plan, notably through the intensification of exchanges of experiences, includ-

ing hosting technical mission from Angola.

The EU, through the Joint Research Centre (JRC), showed interest to maintain contacts with the Angolan National Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics (INAMET), paving the way to a deeper collaboration in the areas of crops, floods, droughts monitoring and early warning systems. Under this mutually beneficial collaboration, the JRC could work together with INAMET on knowledge sharing on meteo and remote sensing products.

FOLLOW UP MEETINGS

Both parties have agreed that the next intermediate meetings will take place after this first Ministerial and the next Ministerial itself during the second semester of 2015 in Luanda, and will include technical groups for each thematic area. The meetings should discuss ways to support other sectors not yet included, but identified jointly as being of common interest, as outlined in the Joint Way Forward.

Both parties have recommended that Senior Officials involved in this process propose adequate measures to ensure a regular assessment of progress in the framework of the Joint Way Forward, including through development aid, through the 11th EDF or other actions of international cooperation.

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