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LINK!



INSIDE THE AFRICA - EUROPEAN UNION PARTNERSHIP



Newsletter of the European Union delegation to the African Union

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Addis Ababa, July-Aug. 2009

A FEW WORDS from the Ambassador



DEAR READER, CHER LECTEUR,

I'm proud to present to you LINK!, the first newsletter from the European Union Delegation to the African Union, in joint cooperation with all EU Member States representations to the AU.

The establishment of the EU Delegation to the AU last year was an important political statement by the EU: the recognition that the AU and its Commission had become a strategic partner in our relations with Africa, and that, if we wanted to be taken seriously in this partnership, we had to strengthen our presence in Addis. As many of our partners in the AUC put it: "now we know you take us seriously." In that sense, the Delegation will be an even stronger **LINK!** between Addis and Brussels.

We are almost halfway through the first action plan of the Lisbon partnership. I'm confident that in the coming months we will be able to show that many new projects are ready to deliver. Our monthly newsletter aims also at raising awareness of important ongoing activities and mobilising further support.

A strong partnership needs a strong AU Commission. The work and leadership of the new Commission that took office last year in April are impressive. It can count on all our support to achieve the important challenges that lie ahead. Together we have to ensure that Africa recovers the momentum of economic expansion it has been building up for several years and that the important progress in the field of governance is strengthened.

Il est vrai que l'Afrique est durement frappée par l'impact de la crise économique et financière globale. Nous sommes cependant fermement convaincus que cette crise présente aussi des opportunités pour l'Afrique. Le monde sera différent lorsqu'elle sera terminée. Et l'Afrique, riche de son fort potentiel économique et humain, est prête à jouer un plus grand rôle au sein de ce nouvel ordre mondial émergent. Il est dans l'intérêt de l'Europe de la soutenir dans cet effort.

Ce travail sera effectué en partie ici, à Addis. La délégation de l'Union européenne, de concert avec tous ses collègues de l'Union européenne, continuera de soutenir cet élan dans un esprit de respect mutuel et de confiance. Un maillon essentiel et enthousiaste dans ce partenariat global.

LINK! est une lettre d'information mensuelle. Ce premier numéro, qui couvre exceptionnellement les mois de juillet et d'août, est un grand cru. Non seulement le Président de la Commission de l'Union Africaine, S.E. M. Jean Ping, a fait l'honneur d'accepter notre demande d'interview, aussi le Commissaire Louis Michel nous témoigne de sa conviction africaine à la fin de son mandat. Le Haut Représentant Javier Solana appellera plus loin pour un engagement accru de l'UE en soutien de la Somalie. Vous trouverez également des réflexions des Ambassadeurs de la République Tchèque et de Suède à l'occasion de la passation de la Présidence du Conseil de l'Union Européenne. Plusieurs événements et travaux sont enfin abordés, sans oublier les dernières nouvelles relatives au Partenariat. Dans la rubrique PERSONALIA, notre collègue Ambassadeur des Pays-Bas nous livre quelques impressions avant son prochain départ d'Addis.

Nous devons pour ce faire nous rapprocher physiquement de l'Union africaine. C'est chose faite depuis notre récent déménagement dans nos nouveaux locaux situés à proximité de la Commission. Lorsque nous serons définitivement installés, nous espérons pouvoir vous inviter lors de l'inauguration.

Je vous souhaite une bonne lecture et vous donne d'ores-et-déjà rendez-vous en Septembre 2009 pour le second numéro de **LINK!**

Koen Vervaeke

*Chef de la Délégation de l'Union Européenne
auprès de l'Union Africaine*

INTERVIEW of the month

“Le partenariat Afrique – Europe prend racine dans notre héritage commun. Il résulte d’une longue ère de brassage entre l’Afrique et l’Europe, qui remonte à des siècles avant la colonisation ; et c’est ce qui lui confère ce caractère privilégié.”

**Interview avec:
JEAN PING,
Président de la
Commission de l'Union
Africaine (de Syrte, Libye)**

Quels sont selon vous, M. Le Président, les enjeux spécifiques qui caractérisent le treizième sommet de l'Union Africaine qui se déroule ici à Syrte ?

J. Ping : Vous n'êtes pas sans savoir que le thème de ce 13ème Sommet de l'Union africaine est «Investir dans l'agriculture pour la croissance économique et la sécurité alimentaire ». Ce thème est très vaste et nous rappelle plusieurs défis et autant d'enjeux. J'entends par là, le défi de la disponibilité financière et l'ensemble des infrastructures qui feront de l'Afrique un continent dont l'autosuffisance alimentaire ne fera plus l'ombre d'un doute. Ces dernières années dans plusieurs pays africains, la crise alimentaire et financière a poussé dans la rue des milliers de



Dr. Jean PING, Président de la Commission de l'Union Africaine

manifestants. C'est une situation qui est potentiellement explosive. Selon la FAO, le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim dans le monde atteint le chiffre record de 1,02 milliard de personnes. Cela représente un sixième de l'humanité et 265 millions de personnes en Afrique. Donc, lors de ce 13ème Sommet de l'UA, l'enjeu sera de renouveler notre engagement à bâtir une Afrique à l'abri de la peur et à l'abri du besoin en s'attaquant aux causes profondes des facteurs de crises sur le continent.

Certaines situations sécuritaires et humanitaires sur le continent constituent des défis qu'il nous faut relever à tout prix. Je veux parler de la Somalie, la situation humanitaire la plus complexe au monde. L'état de la Somalie met en danger non seulement les Somaliens mais aussi toute une région. Il nous faut régler le problème de la piraterie qui n'est que le reflet du désordre qui règne dans le pays. Nous devons également trouver une solution à la problématique des réfugiés et des déplacés internes en Somalie et partout où ce problème se pose en Afrique. Dans le monde, deux réfugiés sur trois sont africains. C'est énorme ! Enfin, pendant le sommet, les Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement vont débattre de toutes les situations qui mettent en danger la stabilité en

Afrique sans omettre bien entendu de féliciter ceux qui contribuent à faire de l'Afrique un havre de paix et de leur pays un exemple de respect des valeurs que nous partageons : démocratie, liberté, gouvernance et transparence.

Les sommets de l'Union africaine sont aussi des moments privilégiés pour souder ou ressouder l'Afrique si besoin est, et renforcer nos positions communes sur des sujets tels que la crise financière, la place et le poids de l'Afrique dans le concert des nations. Le sommet, c'est un moment de communion vers l'objectif commun qu'est l'intégration complète pour la croissance, le développement économique et humain.

Notre lettre d'information relate les avancées au quotidien du partenariat stratégique Afrique-Union européenne. S'il est encore trop tôt pour dresser un premier bilan de ce partenariat (les résultats du premier plan d'action seront présentés lors du troisième sommet Union européenne - Afrique en 2010), quel est cependant votre point de vue sur ses points forts ? Quels premiers résultats retenez-vous ? A l'inverse, quels secteurs souhaiteriez-vous voir progresser plus vite eu égard à leur importance pour les populations d'Afrique et l'Europe ?

J. Ping : Le partenariat Afrique – Europe prend racine dans notre héritage commun. Il résulte d'une longue ère de brassage entre l'Afrique et l'Europe, qui remonte à des siècles avant la colonisation ; et c'est ce qui lui confère ce caractère privilégié. Il s'agit d'une relation particulière qui a évolué au fil des jours en réponse aux changements intervenus aux niveaux national et régional et international. L'ancrage dans l'histoire serait, donc, le premier point fort de ce partenariat.

Une autre spécificité à mettre en exergue est que ce nouveau partenariat politique et stratégique pour l'avenir, scellé entre les deux continents à Lisbonne, avait marqué le début d'une nouvelle ère

dans les relations entre nos deux peuples, sur la base de valeurs partagées (elles ne sont pas forcément communes), d'objectifs communs et du respect mutuel, d'aucuns parlent de partenariat d'égaux, ce que je partage. Je me réjouis de cette mutation qualitative qui sous-tend nos rapports actuels et partant consolide nos relations à venir. Même si les réalités sont encore largement différentes, l'orientation prise vers plus de réciprocité multiplie les chances de réussite de notre entreprise.

La Stratégie conjointe adoptée par le sommet de Lisbonne en décembre 2007, est le reflet des vastes processus d'intégration en cours sur les deux continents, ainsi que des mutations géographiques intervenant dans le paysage international, les défis de la mondialisation en particulier. L'Afrique et l'Europe ont convenu d'examiner ensemble les défis communs et trouver les solutions concertées aux problèmes d'envergure mondiale. Les premiers résultats à retenir ne sont peut-être pas, aussi tangibles que nous l'aurions espéré, mais les progrès notables accomplis en ce qui concerne la définition d'une architecture institutionnelle de qualité nous positionnent sur le bon chemin. L'instauration d'un dialogue approfondi, plus régulier et plus intense entre les partenaires européens et africains est aussi une source de confiance quant à la solidité de notre œuvre commune qui nous transporte bien au delà du syndrome de l'assistance traditionnelle en matière d'aide et de développement. Nous avons la ferme volonté de produire des résultats mesurables au cours des prochaines années et nous sommes bien partis pour.

Certes, il nous faut établir des priorités dans notre action ; mais y a-t-il, réellement, un seul secteur de coopération qui ne soit pas prioritaire et qui devrait progresser plus vite que l'autre ? L'accent mis à ce jour, sur l'architecture institutionnelle a, certes, quelque peu retardé la mise au point des plans d'action, mais une approche du co-développement axée sur la personne humaine et qui engage toutes les deux parties à investir leurs ressources et

biens pour l'intérêt commun, est en gestation, mieux elle commence à voir le jour.

Laissez moi, cependant dire que notre partenariat doit s'inscrire aussi solidement que possible dans le cadre de la vision et de la stratégie de développement bien définies de l'UA en privilégiant l'accélération du processus d'industrialisation, le développement de l'infrastructure, la promotion et l'acquisition de la technologie et du savoir-faire et le développement du capital humain, autant d'objectifs soulignés dans le Plan stratégique de la commission 2009-2012 et le programme NEPAD de l'Union Africaine.

La persistance des zones de conflit et de crises, l'accroissement de la pauvreté et des grands fléaux sociaux tels que la pandémie du VIH/SIDA, les endémies du paludisme et de la tuberculose, la dégradation de l'environnement, les atteintes à l'état de droit et à la démocratie, sont autant d'autres défis et de menaces qui dépassent souvent nos frontières et auxquels il importe que les deux partenaires y trouvent urgemment des solutions globales.

L'Union Africaine et l'Union Européenne ont leurs propres histoires et leurs propres défis. Est-ce que l'Union Africaine peut s'inspirer des changements institutionnels de l'Union Européenne à un certain degré ? Ou bien doit-elle trouver ses réponses à travers d'autres modèles existants ?

J. Ping : S'inspirer oui, mais ne pas copier des modèles préfabriqués qui n'ont pas leur répondant sur le terrain. Le mimétisme n'a jamais été un signe de bonne santé et l'histoire est pleine d'enseignements à ce propos. L'Union Africaine est une organisation faite par les Africains pour les Africains. Ses réponses, elle doit les trouver dans sa propre réalité selon son propre rythme. C'est une organisation jeune, stable et en même temps en pleine mutation. Elle est le porte parole du Continent et son porte drapeau. Nous nous trouvons actuellement dans un contexte international en constante et rapide mutation, marqué par de multiples menaces et de nombreux défis. Face à une telle situation, l'Afrique et ses peuples ont de plus en plus les yeux tournés vers l'Union Africaine, cadre régional où s'expriment dans toute leur diversité, les préoccupations et les aspirations du continent.

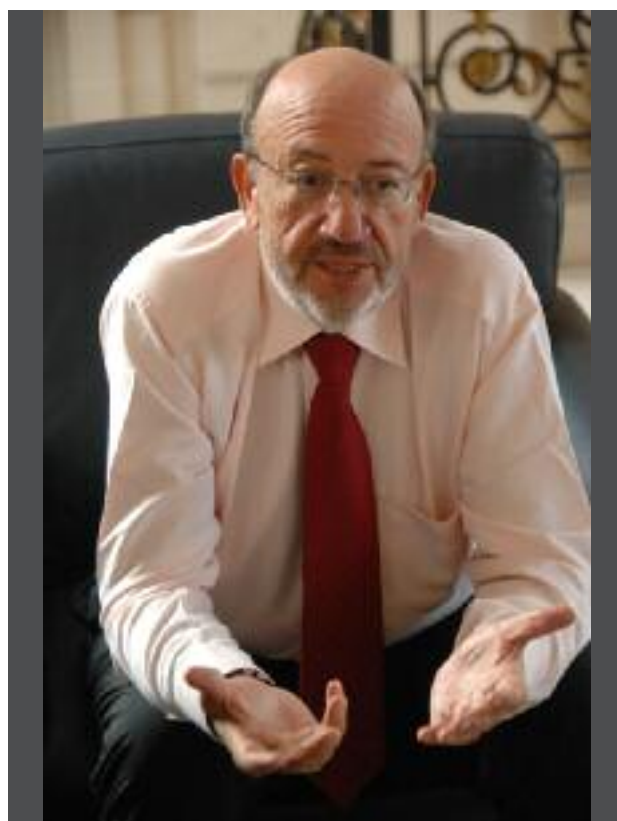
"Je crois très fort dans la vertu des processus d'intégration en Afrique, qu'ils soient régionaux ou continentaux"

Interview avec:
Louis MICHEL,
Commissaire européen, en charge du Développement et de l'Aide humanitaire

Pourquoi votre présence à ce 13ème Sommet de l'Union africaine?

Tout d'abord je tiens à dire qu'en tant que Commissaire européen en charge du Développement et de l'Aide humanitaire, j'ai bien évidemment assisté plusieurs fois au Sommet de l'Union Africaine. Cette participation-ci est bien sûr un peu spéciale dans la mesure où comme vous le savez certainement, il s'agit de ma dernière participation en tant que Commissaire européen. Je vais prendre prochainement mes nouvelles fonctions en tant que député au Parlement européen et ce sommet sera pour moi l'occasion de dresser un bilan de la coopération de l'Union européenne avec l'Union Africaine ces 5 dernières années. L'Union Africaine joue un rôle de plus en plus important non seulement sur le continent africain mais aussi sur la scène internationale et j'ai eu le privilège de contribuer au renforcement des relations entre l'Union européenne et l'Union africaine.

Partenariat stratégique Afrique-UE: Quel premier bilan faites-vous? A la lumière des évolutions survenues en Afrique depuis un an et demi (donc depuis le sommet de Lisbonne en décembre 2007), les enjeux essentiels de ce partenariat sont-ils toujours les mêmes, tant pour les populations africaines qu'européennes? Ou bien y a-t-il de nouvelles urgences ?



Louis MICHEL, Commissaire européen, en charge du Développement et de l'Aide humanitaire

Le partenariat stratégique Afrique-UE avec son plan d'action pour la période 2008-2010 articulé autour de huit partenariats thématiques est bien lancé. Il répond à la volonté de refonder notre relation sur une place plus équilibrée et moderne, et intègre toutes les dimensions de cette relation qui ne se résume pas à la seule question du développement. L'Union européenne et l'Afrique travaillent ensemble pour faire face à des défis globaux comme le changement climatique ou l'immigration clandestine. Divers résultats concrets ont d'ailleurs déjà été obtenus comme, par exemple, l'adoption d'une déclaration conjointe UE-UA sur le changement climatique en amont de la conférence de Poznan fin 2008, l'adoption d'une déclaration conjointe entre les Commissions européenne et de l'Union africaine sur l'importance d'un accès à l'énergie pour les populations, l'adoption d'une nouvelle Facilité de la Paix pour l'Afrique au centre d'un dispositif global d'1 milliard d'euros d'appui de l'UE à l'architecture institutionnelle et aux opérations de paix et de sécurité de l'Union africaine ou bien encore l'ouverture du Centre d'Information

et de Gestion des Migrations (CIGEM) au Mali. Il y a maintenant de nouvelles urgences auxquelles l'Afrique est confrontée, causées tout d'abord par la crise alimentaire puis par la crise économique et financière. Nos partenaires africains savent qu'ils peuvent compter sur l'Europe pour les aider à gérer ces urgences. De nouveaux moyens ont d'ailleurs déjà été mobilisés, comme par exemple une facilité d'un milliard d'euros pour soutenir le secteur agricole, dont la moitié pour l'Afrique. Un montant global de 1,35 milliard d'euros vise à soutenir l'intégration régionale en Afrique. Enfin, par le biais du Fonds Fiduciaire UE-Afrique pour les infrastructures, 500 millions d'euros sont mobilisés sous forme de dons, et environ 2,5 milliards sous forme de prêts à des conditions favorables.

Vous achevez votre mandat de Commissaire au sein de l'Union européenne. Vous agirez désormais en tant que parlementaire européen. En termes d'action et d'impact, qu'est-ce que cela change concrètement ?

Ce n'est pas la fonction qui compte, ce sont les convictions. Que ce soit en qualité de Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et Vice-Premier Ministre de la Belgique ou bien de Commissaire européen au Développement et à l'Aide humanitaire, j'ai toujours œuvré à l'établissement d'une relation d'égal à égal et privilégiée entre l'Europe et l'Afrique. C'est selon moi la meilleure façon de mener le continent africain vers la prospérité. J'ai aussi l'intime conviction que l'alliance entre l'Afrique et l'Europe est indispensable car nous sommes dépendants les uns des autres et le destin de nos peuples est un destin commun. Je continuerai à travailler dans ce sens en tant que député européen, avec le même engagement et la même énergie.

Un dernier message du Commissaire Louis Michel à l'adresse de tous vos partenaires de l'Union africaine ?

Je l'ai dit souvent : l'Afrique est le continent du futur. Elle a les richesses naturelles et le potentiel humain pour réussir son développement. Ce développement, il ne tient qu'aux Africains de le réaliser. Je crois les Africains lucides sur les handicaps qui minent le développement et sur les problèmes qui les affectent. C'est à eux de définir leur mode de développement et leur mode de gouvernance capable de rallier l'adhésion des populations. S'il est une chose que les Africains peuvent apprendre de nous Européens, c'est l'expérience même de l'Europe et de son intégration. Grâce à la construction d'une Union entre ses pays et ses peuples, l'Europe a su se relever de l'abîme dans laquelle la folie destructrice de 2 guerres mondiales l'avait menée. L'intégration nous a permis de générer développement et croissance, paix et stabilité. C'est pourquoi je crois très fort dans la vertu des processus d'intégration en Afrique, qu'ils soient régionaux ou continentaux. C'est également la raison pour laquelle j'ai déployé beaucoup d'efforts pour que l'Union européenne apporte résolument tout son soutien à l'Union Africaine.

Je souhaite d'ailleurs remercier à cette occasion M. Jean Ping, le Président de la Commission de l'Union africaine pour qui j'ai beaucoup d'estime et avec qui j'ai pu établir des liens de profond respect et de réelle amitié. N'oublions pas la phrase d'un des pères de l'Europe, Jean Monnet : "rien n'est durable sans les institutions, rien n'est possible sans les hommes".

SOMALIA: High Representative Javier Solana calls for a "global and determined action"



EU HR Javier Solana with UNSRSG for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould Abdallah



EU HR Javier Solana with Somali President Sheikh Sharif and UNSG Ban ki Moon at the Brussels conference

In a letter addressed last 28 May to all ministers for Foreign Affairs and all Ministers of defense of the EU, the High representative Javier Solana suggests to "build on the success of the EU naval operation Atalanta" and to "look at longer term durable solutions for stability in Somalia and the region - both at sea and on land".

"Working in coordination with all the partners, our counter-piracy efforts have been successful in bringing greater security to the waters off Somalia" M. Solana emphasized. "Today we need to move forward and look closer at the root causes of the phenomenon", he added. "I have developed a number of proposals in the 6-monthly report of the naval operation EU NAVFOR-Atalanta for possible concrete actions along two axes: the strengthening of EU NAVFOR, and six new potential areas of work". he said. These areas include reinforced support to the AU in Somalia, capacity building for the Somali Security sector and a long term assistance strategy for Somalia. Also the development of a regional maritime capability and of a reinforced international legal framework to increase the risks and decrease the profits for pirates would be looked at.

M. Solana's call for a " global and determined action" takes place after the Council of the European Union has given its full political support

to the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia. On 15 June, the Council agreed to extend the mission EU-NAVFOR Atalanta until December 2010. In July, under the Swedish presidency the EU will consider further options for support to Somalia in line with Solana's call.

Since 2008, the European Commission and the EU Member States have financially supported the African Union's military operation AMISOM in Somalia. The European Commission alone has so far contributed a total amount of 35,5 million Euro to AMISOM. The international conference in support of the Somali security institutions and AMISOM, in Brussels on 22-23 April has demonstrated strong EU commitment to the Transitional Federal Government. The pledges made by the countries participating in the Conference totaled \$ 213 millions.

The European Commission alone pledged an additional 60 millions Euros in support for AMISOM, through the African Peace Facility. This will be complemented by additional financial support by individual EU Member States. Furthermore, substantial support will be given to the build-up of the Somali security institutions, notably through the UNDP's police training programme.

More information about operation ATALANTA

What is Atalanta?

Since 8 December 2008 the European Union has been conducting a military operation, named EU NAVFOR Somalia-Operation ATALANTA to help deter, prevent and repress acts of piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalis. This operation – the European Union's first ever naval operation - is being conducted in the framework of the European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP).



EU NAVFOR-ATALANTA Mission in action

The Naval Force itself comprises 13 frigates from France, Germany, Spain, Greece, Sweden, Italy with organic helicopters and 3 Maritime Patrol Aircraft (France, Spain, Germany). Norway will join in August 2009 for a period of 6 months and one Dutch and one Belgian frigate will join in September. Several other third countries have decided to join and be integral part the EU operation.

The overall basis is provided by the recent UN resolutions (1846 and 1851), the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Council Joint Action of 10 November 2008. In addition, a solid legal framework has been forged at regional level to enable naval units to operate efficiently, for instance in conducting reverse hot pursuit. Territorial waters should no longer be a refuge for presumed pirates.

The new Operations Commander of EU NAVFOR –Atalanta, Rear Admiral Peter Hudson, commands the operation from the Operational Headquarters (OHQ) at Northwood, United Kingdom. There he plans and conducts the operation as directed by the authorities of the European Union.

What are the missions of Atalanta?

The priority mission of Operation Atalanta is to escort World Food Programme (WFP) shipments. More than 220.000 tons of food aid have been successfully escorted to Somalia, providing direct relief to the Somali population.

Additionally, Atalanta is contributing to the protection of all vulnerable ships where appropriate by providing escorts. This activity does include dedicated protection for AMISOM's shipments to Mogadishu.



The task to deter, prevent, interdict and detain pirates is regularly performed during focused operations. Some have led to the detection of mother ships and the capture of suspected pirates. The handover of suspected pirates for prosecution is made possible by mechanisms of legal cooperation.

Atalanta's recognized international leadership

Since the launching of the operation, the proportion of successful attacks has fallen significantly as a result of coordination between the international maritime community and the military forces.

Cooperation at sea with other countries in the Gulf of Aden (like Russia, China, Japan or India) or other entities (US-led Combined Maritime Force - Task Force 151) is excellent.

The Atalanta Headquarters has spearheaded a number of initiatives and innovations, including the simplification of the transit routes in the Gulf of Aden, the creation of the Internationally Recognized Transit Corridor (IRTC) as of February 1, 2009 and the development of the Maritime Security Centre-Horn of Africa (MSC-HOA : www.mschoa.eu).

CHANGE OF HANDS of the EU Presidency

"Sweden has a long tradition of engagement in Africa"

Interview with Swedish Ambassador Jens ODLANDER in Addis Ababa

Sweden is getting set to take over the Presidency of the Council of the EU. From July 1st until the end of the year, Sweden will lead the work of the European Union. What are the challenges that you expect during this period, particularly regarding the Africa-European Union Strategic Partnership?

I would say we are going to face both internal and global challenges during our presidency.

First, there will be a power vacuum not only at the level of the European Parliament but also at that of the European Commission. Due to the coming European parliamentary elections, the European legislation will be postponed; there will be no co-decision until September. We will also have a new European Commission in October and it will probably take some time for it to "warm up". I therefore think that member states will be more prominent than usual and that there will be more leadership for us. Another internal challenge is related to the Lisbon Treaty and the reform of the European institutional architecture, particularly the creation of an external action service.

As for the global challenges, I see two main priorities. First the preparation of the Copenhagen summit on climate change in December 2009. I foresee that we will try to negotiate a common position between the European Union and Africa. We will negotiate with Asia, the USA and China to prevent warming and climate change as much as possible. Second, we will have to coordinate a continued response to the



Swedish Ambassador Jens Odlander

crisis: in Africa, we will face several challenges such as in Madagascar, in Mauritania, Sudan, Somalia, and Zimbabwe. We will also follow the elections in Ethiopia, in May 2010. I think there are not less than 16 planned elections this year in Africa alone. We also want to help the more vulnerable developing countries of Africa.

Our Presidency will be marked by some significant events, such as the review of our Africa-European strategic partnership in October 2009 (Ministerial troika). We will assess what we have achieved, what we did well, what we did less well. Next October, in Addis Ababa, the political committees of the European Union and the African Union will meet to discuss some of the challenges faced by Africa and Europe. At the beginning of September 2009, the European Union – South African summit will take place. The Swedish presidency plans to meet President Zuma. Climate change will be a major topic on the agenda.

As a Swedish diplomat, what is your experience of Africa?

In fact, most of my experience is related to Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan.

As a teenager, I lived in Kenya for four years and have always wanted to come back to Africa. I returned four years ago, when I set up the Swedish Embassy in Sudan. Then, as a Special Envoy Ambassador, I worked for two



Each year, 6500 Somalis request a residence permit at the Swedish embassy in Addis

years on the Somali peace process. It is interesting for me to be in Addis Ababa now, as it is like being at the top of a mountain and having an overview on different issues. My time in Africa has been very useful with regard to network, historical and cultural references and security issues.

I also have some experience about integration, which I find very useful at a time when the African Union is discussing this topic. For instance, in Europe, I worked for three intergovernmental conferences. Furthermore, I was Press Secretary to the Swedish Europe Minister during the Swedish referendum for the membership of the Union. I was also advisor to the Swedish Prime Minister during the Euro referendum.

What advice would you give a young diplomat about to work in Africa?

I think it is important to socialize and to smile. This is a place where you

definitely have to relate to people. It is also crucial to be practical. You can not purely be a bureaucrat. In Sudan, I used to sometimes face very practical issues. So, more than anywhere else, it is essential to "smell, taste and develop your senses". I must say that after having spent more than 10 years in Europe, most of the time in various conference rooms, it was very challenging for my own personality to be in Africa.

What do Swedish citizens know about Africa? Is there an important Swedish Diaspora in Africa?

Sweden is one of the major recipient countries of African refugees per capita. There are about 30,000 Somali people in our country, the second most important African community is Ethiopians and Eritrean (about 20,000 people all together). Each year, 6500 Somalis request a residence permit at our embassy in

Addis. This brings different perspectives to our country. On one hand there are some sensitive issues related to family reunification. On the other, this makes Sweden more engaged in Africa. In Somalia for instance, you will find few western embassies, such as the US, the UK, Italy, Norway and ... Sweden.

In fact, Sweden has a long tradition of engagement in Africa. We are pioneers. The first project for development aid was developed by the Swedish Government. We were also pioneers in the fight against apartheid in South Africa and we supported liberation movements in Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe. In addition, during the 60s, we strongly supported some East African countries such as Kenya and Tanzania in their development. We therefore have a long tradition for African development policy, and no colonial past.

"For the three and a half years I have been accredited to the African Union I can see remarkable progress."

**Interview with:
Czech Republic Ambassador in
Addis Zdenek DOBIAS**

How would you assess the performance of the European Union Czech presidency with regard to the Africa-European Union strategic partnership?

The Joint Africa EU Strategy and its First Action Plan was just one year old when the Czech Republic took over the Presidency. This document gave us a solid framework for different areas of co-operation, upgrading the EU-African relations into a comprehensive strategic partnership. In fact, the progress in the implementation of the strategy has been one of the priorities of the Czech Presidency in co-operation with Africa. We set our priorities on peace and security, human rights and good governance, trade and regional integration and energy.

During the Czech Presidency the second EU-Africa Joint Expert Groups (JEGs) meetings were held and roadmaps for each partnership were drafted. The joint priorities and main projects are now more clearly identified but efforts will still be needed on the way forward, bridging from the political level to a more professional, technical and result oriented level. Moreover, the current economic and financial crisis is a challenge for both sides to address together. One of the important tasks for the Czechs has been promoting the strategy, not only among the member states, but also encouraging other institutions such as the Pan-African and European Parliaments, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), civil society as well as the private sector to participate in the



Czech Republic Ambassador in Addis
Zdenek DOBIAS

implementation. Despite the fact that the role of the two Parliaments was specified during the last EU-AU Ministerial Troika meeting in April, there is still need to get more of those important stakeholders on board to give the Joint Strategy a people-centered dimension.

What thematic partnerships are the most essential for Africa- EU relations?

The strategy and its partnerships reflect in particular four main objectives, the area of Peace and Security, governance and human rights, free trade and regional integration and sustainable development issues (MDGs). Both Europe and Africa are aware of the necessity of peace and security for political and economic development on the national and regional level. Have a look, for example, at the situation in Somalia. The piracy off its coast and in the Gulf of Aden is a major threat to regional security and also has an impact on international trade. We think that questions of security, good governance and the rule of law are of paramount importance before any other steps forward have a real chance to be achieved. In this context, supporting the effective African Peace and Security Architecture as one of the priority actions of the first partnership, so that Africa can better address conflicts on its continent, is very

important for both sides. If we look at one of the priorities of the Czech Republic, we have been giving particular importance to the promotion of good governance and human rights. This aspect of our foreign policy has its roots in our own historical experience and lessons learned.

Beside the themes just mentioned, the strategy is offering a great potential to work on common projects and positions related to other global challenges in today's increasingly interdependent environment. To name only some, the partnership is important for Africa's and the EU's common interests in the agenda of climate change and the preparation of the post-Kyoto agreement at the Copenhagen conference. We shall also need deeper coordination on our efforts to beat the difficult economic environment. This period is also crucial in progressing the MDGs in many African countries and from the EU perspective, in the on-going efforts to contribute to their achievement, as part of its overarching objective to eradicate poverty.

The EU Czech presidency is about to end. What message would you like to convey to your colleagues of the African Union ?

First of all let me seize this opportunity to thank all friends and colleagues from the African Union for their friendship and collaboration during the last six months of the Czech Presidency. We organized, by invitation of the Czech Prime Minister, an official visit

of H.E. Jean PING, the Chairperson of the Commission to the Czech Republic. It stressed the need to further the co-operation between Europe and Africa. My thanks go as well to all commissioners, DGs and working level personnel of the AU Commission whose facilitation efforts helped the Czech Presidency very much. I also want to thank – for friendly and effective co-operation to my colleagues – the permanent representatives of African countries. The list would not be complete without mentioning the newly created delegation of the European Union to the African Union headed by H.E. Ambassador Koen VERVAEKE and his team who did a wonderful job; and of course the Government of Ethiopia for their support.

From more than 32 years of my experience in Africa I know that there will still remain numerous demanding tasks in the AU agendas. Africa is inevitably integrating – in the economic sphere. We know from the EU, how difficult and long the process of integration can be. We are also witnessing crucial changes in AU strategic planning for the forthcoming years, in which the issue of capacity building will certainly play an important role. At the same time, there are new challenging situations coming up on the continent and the AU is making intensive efforts, playing each time a more important role in conflict management. For the three and a half years I have been accredited to the AU I can see remarkable progress, so I wish my African as well as European colleagues active in African agendas much success the coming years.

LATEST NEWS About the Partnerships

PEACE AND SECURITY

Paix et Sécurité: Nouvelle étape préparatoire dans le cadre du cycle AMANI AFRICA

L'Union Africaine et l'Union Européenne ont franchi ensemble une nouvelle étape préparatoire dans le cadre du cycle de formation et d'exercice AMANI AFRICA ("Paix en Afrique" en swahili). Du 8 au 12 juin dernier, la réunion de montage intermédiaire (Mid planning conférence) s'est tenue au quartier général de l'Union Africaine à Addis Abeba.

En quoi consiste AMANI AFRICA ?

Ce type de réunions permet d'organiser les différents événements du cycle AMANI, un cycle conçu à partir du projet EUROCAMP proposé par l'Union Européenne, et devant permettre à l'Union Africaine d'évaluer et de valider sa propre capacité à gérer une opération de paix multidimensionnelle. Il s'agit notamment des structures, des procédures et des moyens qu'elle a mis en place à cette fin.



Général de brigade zambien WISDOM M LOPA (gauche), doyen de l'Association des attachés militaires d'Addis Abeba et Général d'armée français Henri BENTEGEAT (droite), Président du Comité militaire de l'Union Européenne.



La Commission de l'Union Africaine et l'Union Européenne ont organisé le vendredi 21 novembre 2008 au siège de l'UA à Addis Abeba la Conférence d'initialisation du cycle AMANI AFRICA.

Plus spécifiquement, le cycle AMANI s'appuie sur une situation fictive avec toutes ses dimensions (géographiques, politiques, etc...) qu'on appelle scénario. Tous les fondamentaux d'une situation pouvant dégénérer en crise y sont présents et certains seront par la suite utilisés afin de faire vivre le scénario, à l'instar d'une crise réelle. Pas moins de 500 personnes participeront à AMANI, soit en tant que "joueur", soit en tant qu'animateurs, évaluateurs ou contrôleurs.

AMANI AFRICA s'inscrit parfaitement dans le cadre de la seconde action prioritaire du partenariat UE-Afrique en matière de paix et de sécurité, qui vise à rendre pleinement opérationnelle l'architecture africaine de paix et de sécurité (AAPS), dessinée à Maputo en 2002. L'outil d'intervention de cette architecture est la Force Africaine en Attente (FAA), qui regroupe des capacités militaires et civiles de gestion de crise et doit atteindre ses pleines capacités en 2010.

Mission du Président du Comité militaire de l'UE auprès de l'Union

Africaine. C'est également dans le cadre du partenariat UE-Afrique en matière de paix et de sécurité, notamment le renforcement du dialogue concernant les défis en matière de paix et de sécurité, que le Président du Comité militaire de l'Union Européenne, le général d'armée français Henri Bentegeat s'est rendu au siège de l'Union Africaine à Addis Abeba le 19 Juin. Objectif principal de sa mission: échanges sur l'engagement de l'UE pour la stabilité du continent et sur le rôle du Comité Militaire de l'Union Européenne.

Pour plus d'informations à propos du cycle AMANI, veuillez consulter le site suivant <http://www.amaniafricacycle.org/>

Latest news about the African Peace Facility Capacity Building programmes

On 1 and 2 June 2009, the Steering Committee met in Addis Ababa in order to take stock of the progress of the implementation of the African Peace Facility Capacity Building programmes designed to strengthen the relations between the African Union Commission and the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (REC/RM). It was also the aim of the steering committee to determine the work programme for the next twelve months for the two programmes allocating a total of €27.5m to contributing, among other, to the reinforcement of the REC/RM's capacities in the build-up of the Continental Early Warning System and the African Standby Force. They also fund the REC/RM Liaison Officers to the African Union.

After opening remarks delivered by the Acting Director of the Peace and Security Department, Mr. El Ghassim Wane, the meeting was chaired by Mr. Sivuyile Bam, Head of PSOD, and attended by 2-3 representatives from each of the REC/RM. The participants jointly reviewed the priorities of the two ongoing programmes and discussed the activities planned for the remaining 12 months of the implementation period. The meeting also allowed for a forward-looking discussion on future capacity needs in the operationalisation of the African Peace and Security Architecture. This discussion will be the starting point for a comprehensive consultation process, which will lead to determining the priorities for the programming of the €65m available under the Capacity Building component of the new African Peace Facility within the framework of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF).

The African Peace Facility was created in 2004 and is the main funding source for the European Commission's contributions to the African Union and the REC/RM in the area of peace and security. In February 2009 the African Union and the European Commission signed an agreement to establish the new African Peace Facility (under the 10th European Development Fund), to which a total amount of €300m was allocated for the period 2010-2013.

ENERGY

Successful participative workshop held in Uganda for the Africa-EU Energy Partnership

A successful two-day technical workshop on the road map for the Africa-EU Energy Partnership was held in Entebbe, Uganda on 6-7 May and was carried out with a high level of participation from a broad array of experts from relevant African institutions such as RECs, power pools, and the African Energy Commission as well as from selected national energy ministries. The workshop was hosted by the Ugandan Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, carried out at the invitation of the African Union Commission, and supported by the EUEI Partnership Dialog Facility (EUEI PDF) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) – exemplifying the spirit of multi-stakeholder cooperation needed in the Joint Africa EU Strategy. The key rationale for this workshop was to provide African energy experts with the opportunity to contribute to the development of the road map from a technical perspective in the areas of energy access, energy security and

renewable energy. The workshop aimed to identify actions proposed in the road map that match African needs and are technically feasible and sustainable. It was also preceded by inter-African dialogue during a meeting of the African Implementing Team for the Energy Partnership on 5 May. During the two days of the workshop consultation, specific regional and sub-regional needs were discussed and the opinions of the energy experts on priorities for implementation until 2010 and thereafter were gathered and analysed. The relationship to existing initiatives and projects such as the “Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa” (PIDA) and regional master plans were also explored, which should help to identify and exploit synergies during the implementation of partnership activities. During the meeting, the participants also had the opportunity to hear about the process for creating the road map up until the workshop, to ask representatives from the EUEI PDF about European priorities and processes, and to learn about relevant upcoming events such as the Joint Experts Group Meeting held in Brussels on 18-19 June. The results of the workshop were communicated to the European Implementing Team and the suggestions resulting from this consultation were also integrated into the road map and sent back to the participants for further comments. The workshop was accompanied by lively professional exchanges throughout and complemented by a field trip offered by the Ugandan hosts to visit a local hydropower project, waterfalls and a fruit market.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Inauguration of the AU-AMESD Satellite receiving Station

Last April 29, 2009, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr. Jean Ping together with the Director General of EUMETSAT, Mr Lars Prahm, and a representative of the European Union, Christophe Kamp, inaugurated the satellite receiving station of the AU- African monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AU-AMESD).



The event also included a presentation of the activities of the AU-AMESD program and of the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellite (EUMETSAT), which is providing real-life satellite data free of charge through EUMETCast and has been providing technical support to the AMESD program.

What is AMESD?

The African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) is a pan-African program that addresses the need for improved environmental monitoring towards sustainable management of natural resources in five regions of sub-Saharan Africa (CEMAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, IOC and SADC).

AMESD aims to provide all African nations with the resources they need to manage their environment more effectively and ensure long-term sustainable development in the region. Most importantly, AMESD aims to improve the lives and prospects of the 350 million disadvantaged people from 46 African countries currently enduring poverty and hardship, whose livelihoods depend heavily on their environment.

The project is the first concrete action in the field of environment within the framework of the Africa-European Union strategic partnership on climate change.



Mr Christophe KAMP, European Union delegation to the African Union

What is expected from AMESD ?

The *expected results* of the programme will ensure:

- 1- Improved access by African users to existing basic Earth Observation, field and ancillary data.
- 2- Operational information services are established to improve decision-making processes in the fields of environment management and other policies.
- 3- Political and policy development of African governments in global environmental surveillance.



Jean PING, President of the Commission of the African Union (Photo AMESD)

The audience of the inauguration at the African Union headquarter (Photo AU)

Who is funding AMESD ?

The AMESD program is funded through the European Development Fund for 21 million Euros. More precisely, it is financed under the 9th EDF Intra-ACP funds (EUR 8 million) and 9th EDF Regional Indicative Programs of CEMAC (EUR 2 million), ECOWAS (EUR 3 million), SADC (EUR 3 million) and ESA (EUR 5 million).

The launching ceremony at the headquarters of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, took place in the presence of Mrs. Rhoda Peace TUMUSIIME, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union, Dr. Elham Mahmoud Ahmed IBRAHIM, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union, Mr Basher Abdullahi AYADARUS, Ethiopian Minister of Agriculture, Dr Lars PRAHM, Director General of EUMETSAT and Mr Christophe KAMP, acting representative of the European Union delegation to the African Union.



Inauguration (Photo AU)

The Danish Africa Commission: Five international initiatives for a more prosperous Africa

Launched in 2008 by the Prime Minister of Denmark to help Africa benefit more from globalization, the Danish Africa Commission delivered its recommendations at a meeting in Copenhagen on May 6. All 18 members were there, including President Kikwete, Dr. Luisa Dias Diogo, Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, Dr. Mo Ibrahim, Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Dr. Chairperson Jean Ping and Dr. Donald Kaberuka. To address the significant challenges and the new opportunities facing the African continent, the Danish Africa Commission recommends the development of a refocused agenda for international development cooperation with Africa. In its final report under the title "Realising the Potential of Africa's youth", the Danish Africa Commission has identified five key areas of main concern to growth, employment and competitiveness. Each area corresponds with a concrete initiative.

I - Competitiveness

Improve Africa's competitiveness in the global economy by increasing research-based knowledge and public awareness of the key constraints to competitiveness, including gender inequality.

In this regard, the initiative **benchmarks for African competitiveness** will follow a two-pronged approach. First, it will ensure coverage of a significant number of African countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index, a well-established and respected index. Second, it will encourage policy impact through measures to engage business and government leaders in dialogue on the results. A related goal will be to raise public awareness about the importance

of enhancing competitiveness (through media and other channels) to galvanize support for the reform process.

2- Investment finance

Provide access to finance for small-and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) for investments necessary to grow and expand production and employment.

Access to investment finance for SMEs is part of the framework of the initiative. The Danish Africa Commission will develop an African Guarantee Fund (AGF) in partnership with the Africa Development Bank to foster the growth of financial resources available for the investment needs of SMEs and for capacity development of financial institutions.

Furthermore, the Commission will launch a complementary facility for enterprises to improve their business management and technical skills in order to gain access to investment finance. By sharing the risk of this type of loan, and doing so in coordination with other activities that build upon the recipient's capacity, this initiative would also create more productive employment, especially for youth.

3- Young entrepreneurs

Give young entrepreneurs opportunities to contribute to growth and job creation by helping them turn their innovative ideas into profitable businesses.

The Africa Commission will launch an initiative called **Unleashing African Entrepreneurship**, targeting young African entrepreneurs. The initiative will offer packages of assistance to young would-be entrepreneurs complementing entrepreneurship training with advisory services, mentorship, and access to finance. In order to strengthen the

sustainability of this initiative, all enterprise-support services will be offered through existing local providers such as business associations, youth-led organizations, private consultancies and training providers, or public agencies.

4-Sustainable energy

Exploit the huge potential for renewable and climate-friendly energy in local communities by developing the markets that enable SMEs to invest effectively in production, distribution and efficient use of decentralized energy sources. Local businesses, institutions, households, and particularly women, will benefit significantly.

The Africa Commission will launch an initiative called **Access to Sustainable Energy** addressing the African energy deficit. The energy initiative will stimulate and expand the emerging market for sustainable energy, primarily in rural and peri-urban areas, by strengthening the role of SMEs in delivery and productive use of energy from local and renewable energy sources. It will build upon positive experiences with decentralized energy systems in Africa, where technologies are becoming increasingly reliable and profitable.

5-Post-primary education and research

Improve the skills of young Africans through upgrading existing traditional apprenticeship schemes and developing demand-driven technical and vocational training in under-served communities. Link university education, research and private sector development in agriculture to increase the business skills of graduates and promote innovation in agricultural value chains.

In order to address the challenges related to the educational deficit, the Africa Commission will launch two initiatives. It will (i) **promote**

innovative ways to expand technical and vocational skills development focusing on out-of-school youth and (ii) foster better links between higher education, research and businesses in sustainable agriculture.

This important agenda will be promoted in the framework of the MDG goals and the Africa–EU Joint Strategy. Both partners in the public and private domain as well as youth organizations in Africa will be engaged. The AUC, the AFDB and UNECA will equally support implementation.

The final report "Realizing the Potential of Africa's Youth" can be found on www.africacommission.um.dk



LOW: from the left to the right: Dr Donald KABERUKA, Dr Asha-Rose MIGIRO, H.E Jakaya Mrisho KIKWETE, Mr Lars Lokke RASMUSSEN, H.E Dr. Luisa Dias DIOGO, H.E Jean PING

MIDDLE: from the left to the right: M. Klaus AAGARD BUS-TRUP, Dr. Mohamed Ibn CHAMBAS, Ms. Ulla TORNAES, Dr. Ngozi OKONJO-IWEALA, Ambassador Koen VERVAEKE

UP: from the left to the right: M. Robert CALDERISI, Dr. Greg MILLS, Ms. Betty MAINA, Mr. Lauritz B. HOLM-NIELSEN, Dr. Mo IBRAHIM, Ambassador Ellen Margrethe LOJ

African delegates observe the European Parliament elections



Pan-African delegation in Brussels (Photo EU)

Two pan-African delegations have visited Europe from 1 to 8 June, to attend a seminar on election observation and to attend the election of members of the European Parliament (EP).

One delegation, invited by the European Commission and the Belgian government, consisted of a dozen representatives of national electoral commissions, parliamentarians and representatives of civil society from francophone African countries (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo-Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Gabon, Madagascar, Central African Republic). It was accompanied by a representative of the African Union Commission.

The programme included a theoretical part on good practices and methodology in the field of election observation, and a practical part on the European Parliament and regional elections in Belgium, including meetings with representatives of major political parties and the visit of polling

stations using traditional and automated systems on 7 June, up until ballot count and the publication of results by the media.

The second delegation was invited by the European Parliament and was composed of members of the pan-African Parliament (PAP). After an introductory session on the institutions and the electoral mechanisms in Brussels, it embarked on the Eurostar to London, where it observed the elections in different polling stations on 4 June, after a visit to the British Parliament and a meeting with the Minister for Cooperation and Relations with Africa, and some members of the European Parliament belonging to different British political parties. The delegation then flew over to Wiesbaden, Germany, to meet with election officials at federal, regional and municipal levels and accompany a campaigning MEP. It observed elections on 7 June, before flying back to the European Parliament in Brussels for the publication of results.

**Interview avec:
Samuel Azu'u FONKAM
Président de "Elections
Cameroon," et membre de la
délégation de l'Union Africaine
présente à Bruxelles début Juin
2009.**

En quoi l'observation des élections parlementaires européennes était utile pour vous ?

La mission d'observation des élections
Parlementaires Européennes et l'élection régionale
belge a permis à la délégation de l'Union Africaine
(UA) de voir comment des élections sont
organisées dans une vieille démocratie du nord
comme la Belgique.

Nous avons pu observer le processus électoral au
niveau de la campagne électorale avec certains
partis politiques belges de la région francophone
de Wallonie (PS, ECOLO, MR et CDH) ;
l'organisation matérielle du vote traditionnel et
automatisé (électronique) au niveau du Ministère
de l'Intérieur et l'observation du scrutin tant
traditionnel qu'automatisé.

Nous avons également pu observer le
dépouillement et la déclaration des résultats de
ces deux scrutins. Ceci nous a permis de tirer
quelques leçons, par exemple concernant le vote
obligatoire dans ce pays qui a pour conséquence
directe un taux de participation de plus de 90%.

La délégation a enfin relevé que malgré le fait
qu'en Afrique Subsaharienne il y'a l'exigence des
urnes transparentes pour la crédibilité des
élections, dans ce pays l'inexistence des urnes
transparentes ne met pas en cause la crédibilité de
celles-ci. Il y a donc lieu dans nos jeunes
démocraties de tout faire pour que nos
populations puissent avoir foi en leurs institutions.



Monsieur Samuel Azu'u FONKAM
Président de "Elections Cameroon"

Qu'est-ce qui vous a particulièrement surpris ?

Cette mission d'observation de l'Union Africaine
nous a surpris à cause de son caractère inhabituel
car en général les missions d'observation viennent
du Nord pour le Sud et non du Sud pour le Nord.
C'est d'ailleurs ce caractère inhabituel de cette
mission de l'Union Africaine qui a amené certains
observateurs belges à nous demander si nous
étions là pour apprendre pour rentrer faire la
même chose chez nous.

En quoi cette observation peut- elle profiter aux futures observations d'élections en Afrique ?

La mission a pu permettre aux deux parties
prenantes (Union Européenne/Union Africaine) de
faire un échange d'expériences pouvant permettre
à l'avenir à l'une et l'autre institution de mettre à
profit les meilleures pratiques retenues de ces
échanges.

2009, année de défis institutionnels pour l'Europe

Du 4 au 7 juin derniers, 380 millions de citoyens et
citoyennes européens ont été conviés à élire leur
nouveau parlement européen. Le Traité de
Lisbonne, dont l'entrée en vigueur dépend des
résultats du référendum irlandais prévu pour le
mois d'Octobre 2009, prévoit des pouvoirs
renforcés pour le Parlement européen. En
octobre également, la nouvelle Commission
européenne sera mise sur pied. Une chose est
certaine: 2009 est une année de défis
institutionnels pour l'Union européenne.

Analyse des élections parlementaires

La large victoire des forces de droite et de centre
droit à travers l'Union a marqué ce scrutin
européen auquel étaient conviés environ 380
millions de citoyens.
Si le recul continu de la participation reste
inquiétant et devrait conduire les hommes
politiques à une réflexion poussée sur
l'organisation du scrutin à l'échelle de l'Union, la
stagnation des extrêmes (en dehors de quelques
cas particuliers) et le retrait des eurosceptiques
constituent des éléments encourageants et
rassurants.

La participation est en effet en recul pour ces
premières élections à 27 : 43,23% en moyenne
dans l'Union, soit -2,4 points par rapport au
scrutin de juin 2004. Les 7e élections européennes
au suffrage universel direct ont également vu la
nette victoire des forces de droite et du centre-
droit. Dans 11 des Etats membres où elles sont au
pouvoir, elles arrivent en tête du scrutin. Plus
encore que la victoire des partis de droite et de
centre droit, le recul des partis sociaux-
démocrates semble être l'événement majeur de
ces élections européennes. Enfin, à quelques rares
exceptions près, ces élections européennes
marquent un nouveau retrait des eurosceptiques.*

Rôle du nouveau Parlement européen

Dans l'hypothèse d'une ratification du Traité de
Lisbonne, le Parlement européen se verra octroyer
de nouvelles attributions importantes dans le
domaine de la législation, du budget et des accords
internationaux. En particulier, le recours accru à la
procédure de codécision permettra de placer le
Parlement européen sur un pied d'égalité avec le
Conseil, qui représente les États membres, pour la
majeure partie des actes législatifs européens.

Plus précisément, en matière **législative** tout
d'abord, la procédure de codécision (rebaptisée
procédure législative ordinaire) est étendue à
plusieurs domaines. Concrètement, cela signifie
que le Parlement acquiert un réel pouvoir de
législateur à égalité avec le Conseil dans certains
dossiers pour lesquels il n'est à ce jour pas associé
ou simplement consulté. L'immigration légale, la
coopération judiciaire pénale (Eurojust, prévention
du crime, rapprochement des normes pénales,
infractions et sanctions), coopération policière
(Europol), ou encore certaines dispositions
relevant de la politique commerciale ou de la
politique agricole communes en sont quelques
exemples. Ainsi, le Parlement européen
interviendra dans la quasi-totalité des dossiers
législatifs.

En matière **budgétaire**, le Traité de Lisbonne
consacre la pratique établie du cadre financier
pluriannuel, pour lequel l'approbation du
Parlement sera à l'avenir requise. D'autre part, le
Traité de Lisbonne prévoit que le Parlement et le
Conseil fixent ensemble toutes les dépenses, en
supprimant la distinction actuellement existante
entre dépenses dites obligatoires (aides directes
agricoles par exemple) et dépenses dites non
obligatoires. Cette innovation rééquilibre le rôle
des deux institutions dans l'approbation du budget
de l'Union.

Enfin, le Traité de Lisbonne prévoit que le
Parlement européen devra donner son avis
conforme sur tous les **accords
internationaux** qui concernent des matières
relevant de la procédure législative ordinaire.

Mise en place d'une nouvelle commission en Octobre

Une nouvelle Commission européenne sera également mise sur pied en 2009. Lors de la dernière réunion du Conseil européen, les 18 et 19 juin derniers, les chefs d'État ou de gouvernement se sont entendus à l'unanimité sur le nom de M. José Manuel DURÃO BARROSO, actuel Président de la Commission européenne, comme étant la personnalité qu'ils envisagent de désigner en tant que président de la Commission européenne pour la période 2009-2014.

Les premiers ministres de la République tchèque et de la Suède, respectivement président en exercice et future président du Conseil européen, auront des discussions avec le Parlement européen afin de déterminer si ce dernier est en mesure d'approuver cette désignation lors de sa séance plénière de Juillet. Ce n'est qu'à l'issue de ces discussions que le Conseil, réuni au niveau des chefs d'Etat ou de gouvernement formalisera sa

décision relative à la désignation de la personnalité qu'il envisage de nommer président de la Commission.

Le futur Président de la Commission nominera ensuite les candidats pour les postes de commissaires de la nouvelle Commission. Ceux-ci doivent encore être confirmés par le Parlement européen. Les Etats membres ont convenu que la nomination des nouveaux commissaires interviendra seulement une fois qu'il sera connu quel sera le Traité de référence (Nice ou Lisbonne). Le gouvernement irlandais a décidé que le référendum sur le Traité de Lisbonne aura lieu en Irlande le 2 octobre prochain.

** Ces analyses électorales sont synthétisées à partir de l'étude de Corinne DELOY, rédactrice de l'Observatoire des élections en Europe (OEE) de la Fondation Robert Schuman et chargée d'études à l'Institut d'études politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) sur les résultats des élections européennes. Cette étude est publiée par la Fondation Robert Schumann.*

Netherlands Human Rights Ambassador meets AU Commissioner for Political Affairs in Addis



Ambassador Arjan HAMBURGER with H.E. Ms. Julia Dolly JOINER, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs (Photo EU)

The Netherlands Human Rights Ambassador, H.E. Arjan HAMBURGER, visited the AU Commission on Friday 12 June in the framework of his visit to Ethiopia from June 9 to 13 June 2009. Ambassador Hamburger discussed the AU policy and instruments on Human Rights with H.E. Ms. Julia Dolly Joiner, the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs. Ambassador Hamburger explained the central role that human rights play in Dutch domestic and foreign policy, as observance of human rights relates directly to socio-economic development and stability. Commissioner Joiner stated that Human Rights have always been a crucial element of the African Union. The African Union has several instruments at its disposal to promote and safeguard the observance of human rights on the African continent, such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Banjul, as well as the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, recently established in Arusha and expected to take up its first cases in July 2009.

Commissioner Joiner stressed that the African Union is as strong as its member states want it to be. Therefore, one priority of the African Union Commission is to encourage its member states to implement the human rights policies they have agreed upon in the framework of the African Union. However, the continent is moving in the right direction, illustrated for example by the establishment of national human rights commissions in virtually all AU member states.

Ambassador Hamburger expressed the readiness of the Netherlands to support the African Union in its efforts to safeguard human rights for all African citizens, for example through the EU-Africa partnership on Human Rights. Commissioner Joiner and Ambassador Hamburger agreed that the partnership is still maturing and that both partners should do their utmost to make the partnership work to its full potential, creating added value on both sides.

Rt. Hon. Lord Neil Kinnock visits the African Union Commission

On June 2nd, 2009, an Ethiopian business forum panel discussion took place in Addis Ababa on “The Economic and Political Benefits of Continental Integration”. Lord Kinnock was joined by fellow panellists H.E. Mr Erastus MWENCHA, Deputy Chair Person (DCP) of the African Union Commission, H.E. Mrs Bience GAWANAS, AU Social Affairs Commissioner, Ambassador Brook DEBEBE, Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Koen VERVAEKE, EU Ambassador to the AU.

Mwencha’s response to it would quickly turn this relationship into that of one experienced friend advising another.

This first meeting was followed up with a visit to Addis Ababa by Lord Kinnock and his Private Secretary from the British Council, James Hampson. Lord Kinnock spent a significant amount of time in closed discussion with DCP Mwencha, both alone and with his close advisers. They considered the new AU Commission’s draft



Left to right-Deputy Chairman Erastus Mwencha and Rt. Hon Lord Neil Kinnock

The audience (photos UK Embassy)

H.E Mrs Bience GAWANAS and EU Ambassador to the AU Koen VERVAEKE

The discussion revealed the panellists’ shared passion for the integration agenda and probably won over a few Ethiopians who clearly started out on the other side of the integration fence. DCP Mwencha and his commissioner spoke eloquently and along with the other panellists probably convinced many doubters and certainly gave them food for thought to take home.

This is not the first time Lord Kinnock and Deputy Chairperson Mwencha have met together. Their first meeting took place last January at the British Council office in London of which Lord Kinnock is the Chair.

On that occasion, they held a wide ranging discussion lasting over 2½ hrs. From this meeting it was clear that Lord Kinnock is well placed to offer good advice, underwritten by his priceless experience. It also became clear that Lord Kinnock’s easy going, humorous manner and DCP

strategic plan to 2012 and discussed pitfalls and approaches for dealing with them. There were also meetings with AU commissioners and senior AU staff as well as a discussion with the AUC Chairperson, H.E. Mr Jean Ping. Lord Kinnock also met ambassadors from AU member states and non AU countries and members from the EU delegation, including Ambassador Koen VERVAEKE. In all, he spent 1½ days exclusively with the AU plus additional engagements involving the AUC. He and UK Ambassador Ling also made a courtesy call to Prime Minister Meles.

Lord Kinnock is a former Labour party leader (1983-1992), former European Commissioner for Transport 1995-1999 and 1999-2004) and former Vice-President of the Commission. Lord Kinnock has substantial experience gained through reforming the Labour Party when he was party leader and leader of the opposition and later as Vice President of the European Union when he implemented a significant EU reform Agenda. He has been President of Cardiff University since 1998 and Chair of the British Council, the United Kingdom’s international organisation for cultural and educational relations, since December 2004.



Start of the the run

RING ROAD RELAY

The European Union Delegation to the African Union, on Sunday 21 June participated in the CRBC/AACRA Ring Road Relay. It was an enjoyable event with a very friendly and fun atmosphere.



From left to right: Christophe Kamp, Antonio Martins Pereira, Gaby Hagmuller, Fikirte Wendaferew, Sebele Assfow, Koen Vervaeke, Christophe Boulierac, Maaïke de Loor

PERSONALIA

Dutch Ambassador Alphons HENNEKENS is about to leave Ethiopia in July. For LINK!, he shares a bit of his African experience.



Dutch Ambassador Alphons Hennekens

effort to curb piracy in the waters around Somalia. Since my arrival in Ethiopia, I have visited Djibouti more than 10 times, not only for bilateral discussions. A number of visits were triggered by the presence of Dutch warships in Djibouti which were/are deployed in the region to secure maritime lanes from the subcontinent to the strait of Bab el Mandeb. Securing these lanes is of utmost importance to the economies of Europe and other countries. The strategic position of Africa in this context is obvious.

In 1978 I was assigned to Dar es Salaam, my first assignment and first contact in the continent. I had requested to be posted to Dar es Salaam and felt very privileged that the request was granted. I had graduated from university in the Netherlands at a time when it was generally believed that through strong state interventions, sustainable development could be achieved. Tanzania with its African Socialist Model 'Ujama' under the leadership of President Julius Nyerere was a prime example of this developmental model.

Unfortunately I left Dar es Salaam after two years disappointed; I felt that bureaucracy had taken over and that spontaneous private development was virtually impossible.

From 1989 until 1994 I served at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Africa Department, in charge of

the development cooperation with Mali, Senegal, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Gambia and Mauritania. This assignment led to frequent visits to West Africa which proved to be a useful experience for my subsequent appointment as Ambassador to Burkina Faso in 1998. I served in the land of the 'upright people' until 2002. The Burkinabès are the real asset of the country who possess an incredible sense of humor. Independent sustainable development is difficult to realize in a country with few natural resources, no oil and no natural gas and long distances for import and export. The development of a service industry might be one of the few options for President Blaise COMPAORE and Prime Minister Tertius ZONGO.

To my great surprise I was asked to fulfill the new assignment as resident Netherlands ambassador to Kigali. (Until 2002 the ambassador in Nairobi was accredited in Rwanda). Rwanda had been added to the list of target countries in the field of development cooperation which meant an expansion of the Netherlands presence in that country. Next to the development agenda, much time was devoted to political dialogue with the Rwandan authorities, not only were bilateral issues discussed; the political developments in the East of the DRC were equally important. Being ambassador in Rwanda and Burundi I lived very much in the heart of the Great Lakes Region. The economic development I have witnessed, especially in Rwanda was very impressive indeed. A country that was completely ruined, 10% of its population having been murdered by fellow citizens in broad daylight going through a challenging reconciliation process ten years after the genocide is now a well functioning state in a volatile environment.

In 2005 I received notice that I would stay abroad, in Africa, assigned to the diplomatic capital of the

continent, Addis Ababa. Our stay in Ethiopia was in some ways similar to Kigali, political and socio-economic developments being closely monitored by politicians, NGOs and civil servants. The volatile character of the Horn of Africa and the need to preserve stability in Ethiopia were challenges to realising the needed economic growth to fight the prevailing poverty effectively. However, the agenda in Addis Ababa was broader. Not only because the assignment in Addis Ababa includes the Permanent Representation to the African Union. In the last years there has been a noticeable interest from the Netherlands business community to invest in Ethiopia in a wide variety of sectors, dominated by floriculture, fruits and vegetables. The GDP of Ethiopia doubled during the last four years, although the effects of the global crisis are deeply felt in Ethiopia at the moment. I trust that Ethiopia will continue to make strides forward as the Government continues to follow the policy of strengthening the rule of law and promoting equitable economic growth, both elements being key to stability and progress.

Our stay in Ethiopia has been a very rewarding experience, one that we are thankful for.

During the last ten years Africa has witnessed a political and economic cooperation and coordination through the regional REC system and on a continental scale through the African Union. Though the sense of unity on the continent is growing, the speed and methodology to reach that goal is under debate. Noticeable in the last decade is the vastly increasing Chinese, Indian and Turkish presence on the continent. These 'new' strong links will have an impact on international world order, new alliances on the global negotiations tables will be formed, exciting times for a creative European response.

My wife and I will be leaving Ethiopia on 14 July. After having celebrated the French National Day we will fly with KLM in the evening to the Netherlands. Last March I bid farewell to the President, the honorary consul, Mr Luc Marril and authorities in Djibouti. In the same period I welcomed the Netherlands frigate HNLN Zeven Provinciën which participates in the international

UPCOMING Events

LINK!

(July, August and September)

21-23/07/09

Workshop on ASF Evaluation concept

31/08 to 04/09

AMANI MAPEX

09/09/2009

African Union Day - anniversary of the Sirte Declaration, on 9 September 1999, at the origin of the African union Constitutive Act

13-15/09/09

ZAMBIA: 10th EDF programming – Regional Seminar for East Africa

2nd half September

Sub Saharan Africa transport policy (SSATP) programme Annual General Meeting

After 21/09/09

Africa-EU Workshop on Resources for the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, back-to-back with the enlarged Joint Task Force, Addis Ababa

28-29/09/2009

NAIROBI, KENYA: 3rd EU-Africa Business Forum on Trade and Regional integration, Entrepreneurship, Infrastructure and ICT

USEFUL Links

SITES / INTERNET UTILES

Les sites internet mentionnés dans ce numéro de LINK !

www.africacommission.um.dk

A propos du cycle Amani

<http://www.amaniafricacycle.org/>

Sans oublier:

Le site de l'union africaine:

www.africa-union.org

Le site conjoint du partenariat stratégique Afrique-Union européenne

www.africa-eu-partnership.org

Un site portugais sur les questions Paix et Sécurité

<http://conflicts-in-africa.iscte.pt/>

**N'HÉSITEZ PAS À NOUS SIGNALER D'AUTRES SITES INTERNET RELATIFS À DES THÈMES
DU PARTENARIAT STRATÉGIQUE AFRIQUE-UNION EUROPÉENNE !**