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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, Sept. 2009
Issue 2



DEAR READER, CHER LECTEUR,

In December 2009 in Copenhagen, the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) aim to reach an agreement on global action to combat climate change covering the period after 2012 when the Kyoto Protocol will expire. Less than three months before this crucial rendez-vous for the world, LINK! wants to take stock of where both Africa and the EU stand in their preparation. President Barroso, just re-elected by the European Parliament, sets out an ambitious agenda to deliver in Copenhagen. You can also read views by AU Commissioner Tumusiime and Staffan Tillander, Swedish ambassador for climate. Driss Isbayene, co-chair of the Africa-EU Joint Expert Group on Climate Change gives some insights on the partnership.

For the first time, Africa will send a single team empowered to negotiate on behalf of all the member states of the African Union. Hence, it should be able to present a strong common position, with binding emission cuts together with adequate, additional and predictable funding for adaptation.

The EU welcomes a common African position. Not only it is committed to working constructively for a global agreement to control climate change, but is also already taking its fair share of that effort and accordingly has committed to achieve at least a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. It is

ready to go further provided others, all according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities, follow suit.

L'UE reconnaît que l'Afrique qui y a le moins contribué, sera la plus durement frappée par les effets du changement climatique, et ne dispose que de moyens de réaction limités. Le Haut Représentant Javier Solana attire une attention toute particulière sur le lien qui existe entre le changement climatique et la sécurité en Afrique.

La coopération Afrique-UE sur le changement climatique avait déjà abouti à une déclaration commune à Poznan en Décembre 2008. Elle souligne les préoccupations communes et les attentes de l'Union Européenne et de l'Afrique sur ce sujet; elle démontre également que les points de vue peuvent s'accorder face à l'urgence du réchauffement mondial.

Aujourd'hui, plus que jamais, les liens qui unissent l'UE et l'Afrique devront prouver leur solidité. Un proverbe Efik du Nigéria, *Edim idepke okom kiet*, nous apprend que *la pluie ne tombe pas sur un seul toit*, c'est-à-dire que tout le monde est affecté. Si nous souhaitons inverser la tendance et récolter les bénéfices d'une action déterminée, ni l'Europe ni l'Afrique ne peuvent se permettre un échec à Copenhague.

Koen Vervaeke

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

INTERVIEW of the month

“Africa is seriously hit by the impact of climate change. The African Union, as a lead pan-African institution on the continent, regards climate change as a very critical issue.”

Interview with Rhoda Peace TUMUSIIME, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture

What is the African Union's general view on climate change?

Africa is seriously hit by the impact of climate change. The African Union, as a lead pan-African institution on the continent, regards climate change as a very critical issue and attaches great importance to it. Several decisions relating to climate change have been taken recently at the level of the African Heads of State and Government.

What are the main objectives and actions in shaping the African position ahead of Copenhagen?

Firstly, on the occasion of the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa in February 2009, it was decided that the ongoing climate change negotiations should give Africa an opportunity to demand compensation for the damages caused to its economy due to the global warming.



H.E. Mrs. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime
African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture

It was also stated that Africa should be represented by one delegation to speak with one voice at Copenhagen. This delegation should be empowered to negotiate on behalf of all Member States. The African Union was mandated to work out the modalities of such representation. The First Meeting of the Conference of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change that convened on 31 August 2009 in Tripoli adopted a negotiating process, structure and coordination mechanism for Africa's Common Position on global climate change negotiations.

Secondly, a number of decisions related to climate change were also taken during the Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in July this year in Sirte, Libya. The African Union Commission has been given a clear mandate to forge ahead with the implementation of the climate change programme in partnership with other strategic institutions. It was also decided to establish a Conference of African Heads of State and Governments on Climate Change (CaHoSCC) as well as to set up a Unit of Climate Change at the AUC. Finally, the African Heads of State also agreed that the African Union becomes a state party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as well as to the Kyoto Protocol.

How would you assess EU support for the AU in shaping the African position? How could it be improved?

The African Union and the European Union are major trading blocks from the economic point of view. Under the Lisbon agenda we also have a common platform and shared values. The EU has more experience in dealing with climate change and has a lot of expertise and various resources which could be provided to Africa in order to have effective negotiation. The EU already has a clear vision of where they would like to go with regard to the climate change issue and is also a member of G8

which has climate change high on its agenda. So for us, building a partnership with the European Union on climate change is a distinct advantage. I would just like to add that the implementation of the climate change partnership is not easy for us. It is costly and requires much information and data. We always need the support of the EU in this regard. We appreciate the support being extended by the EU through continental programmes such as the Great Green Wall Sahara and Sahel, ClimDev Africa and the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development and the Disaster Risk Reduction. We look forward to building on this.

Cela ne sera possible que si nous trouvons un terrain d'entente qui nous permette malgré tout de parvenir à une conclusion positive, et c'est à cet égard que la réunion des dirigeants mondiaux ici à New York peut à mon avis s'avérer déterminante.

Il faut d'abord que tous les pays développés clarifient leurs plans relatifs aux réductions d'émissions à moyen terme et fassent preuve d'un volontarisme qui soit au moins à la hauteur de leurs responsabilités à l'égard des émissions du passé. Si nous voulons parvenir à une réduction minimale de 80 % d'ici 2050, les pays développés doivent s'efforcer de réaliser les réductions collectives requises de 25 à 40 % d'ici 2020. L'UE est prête à porter l'objectif de 20 à 30 % si les autres font des efforts comparables. En outre, les pays développés doivent dès maintenant reconnaître explicitement qu'ils devront jouer un rôle important dans le financement des mesures d'atténuation et d'adaptation que prendront les pays en développement. Selon nos estimations, ces pays auront besoin d'ici 2020 d'environ 100 milliards d'euros (150 milliards de dollars) supplémentaires par an pour lutter contre le changement climatique. Une partie de ce montant sera autofinancée par les pays en développement les plus avancés sur le plan économique. L'essentiel devrait provenir du marché du carbone, pourvu que nous ayons le courage de mettre en place un système ambitieux à l'échelle mondiale.

Ces mesures devront toutefois être également financées par des flux d'argent public des pays développés vers les pays en développement, pour un montant qui pourrait aller de 22 à 50 milliards d'euros (30 à 70 milliards de dollars) par an en 2020. Près de la moitié de ce montant sera nécessaire pour soutenir les mesures d'adaptation, en donnant la priorité aux pays en développement les plus vulnérables et les plus pauvres. En fonction du résultat des discussions relatives à la répartition de cette charge au niveau international, la part assumée par l'Union européenne pourrait être comprise entre 10 et 30 %, c'est-à-dire atteindre les 15 milliards d'euros (22 milliards de dollars) par an. Autrement dit, nous devons être prêts à apporter une contribution importante à moyen terme et à envisager, peut-être dès l'année prochaine, un

financement «de démarrage» en faveur des pays en développement. Je suis impatient d'aborder cette question avec les dirigeants de l'Union lors de notre rencontre fin octobre.

Nous devons donc montrer que nous sommes prêts à parler d'argent cette semaine. En contrepartie, les pays en développement, à tout le moins les plus avancés d'entre eux sur le plan économique, doivent dire beaucoup plus précisément ce qu'ils sont prêts à faire pour atténuer leurs émissions de carbone dans le cadre d'un accord international. Les pays en développement mettent déjà en œuvre des mesures nationales pour limiter ces émissions, mais ils doivent de toute évidence redoubler d'efforts – en particulier les plus avancés d'entre eux. Ils soulignent, et c'est bien naturel, qu'ils ne pourront prendre des mesures d'atténuation que si des financements «carbone» des pays riches sont disponibles, ainsi qu'il a effectivement été convenu à Bali. Mais il est également vrai que les pays développés ne pourront rien financer si aucun engagement n'est pris en faveur de ces mesures.

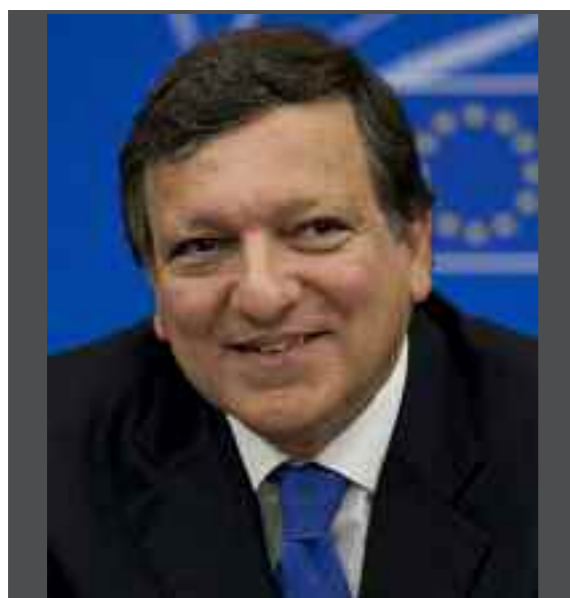
Moins de 80 jours de calendrier nous séparent du sommet de Copenhague. Depuis la réunion du mois dernier à Bonn, le projet de texte compte quelque 250 pages: une pléthore d'options différentes, une forêt de crochets typographiques. Si nous n'y mettons pas d'ordre, ce document risque de devenir la lettre de suicide collectif la plus longue de l'histoire.

La semaine qui commence à New York et à Pittsburgh s'annonce cruciale, ne fût-ce que parce qu'elle révélera dans quelle mesure les dirigeants mondiaux sont prêts à s'investir dans ces négociations pour obtenir une issue positive. L'alternative est simple: pas d'argent, pas d'accord. Mais aussi: pas d'actions, pas d'argent!

Copenhague représente une occasion unique d'infléchir collectivement les émissions de façon à maintenir le réchauffement climatique sous la barre des 2 °C (3,6° Fahrenheit). C'est donc cette semaine à New York que la contre-attaque doit commencer.

José Manuel Barroso, président de la Commission européenne

DOSSIER CLIMATE CHANGE



José Manuel Barroso est réélu comme président de la Commission Européenne

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Au bord du gouffre – l'heure d'agir concrètement contre le changement climatique

Le changement climatique se réalise plus rapidement que nous ne le pensions il y a encore deux ans. Si nous ne changeons pas

nos habitudes, des changements climatiques dangereux, voire catastrophiques, se produiront presque certainement au cours de ce siècle. Il s'agit du défi le plus important auquel la génération de décideurs politiques actuelle soit confrontée.

Je suis désormais très inquiet quant aux chances de réussite du prochain sommet de Copenhague. Les négociations sont à présent dangereusement proches de l'impasse, et cette impasse pourrait aller jusqu'à empêcher toute reprise des discussions l'année prochaine. Celles-ci risquent de se solder par un échec amer, avec peut-être, en toile de fond, une fracture profonde entre les pays développés et les pays en développement. Or, en l'état actuel des choses, le monde ne peut se permettre une telle issue désastreuse.

C'est pourquoi j'ose espérer que cette semaine, alors que les dirigeants mondiaux réunis à New York et à Pittsburgh contempleront l'abîme qui s'ouvre à nos pieds, nous concluons ensemble que nous devons tout mettre en œuvre pour faire progresser les négociations.

L'heure n'est pas aux parties de poker. Il s'agit maintenant de mettre sur la table des propositions aussi ambitieuses que nos contraintes politiques le permettent. C'est exactement ce que l'Europe a fait, et ce qu'elle continuera à faire.



This large banana plantation was wiped out in Honduras when Hurricane Mitch struck the region in 1998. The hurricane - which also hit Nicaragua - killed more than 17 000 people and left three million homeless. The damage was estimated at US\$ 3000 million.

IFRC/Nigel Dickinson



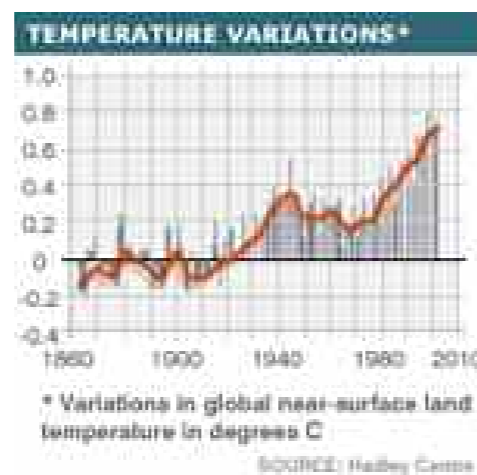
The recent flooding in Uganda is a disaster of great dimensions. It destroyed 40% of the country's road network and caused widespread crop failure. In a country where 40% of the population is not using proper water sources, flooding increases the risk of diseases such as malaria and cholera.

Danish Red Cross/Jakob Dall

Drought in north India, forest fires in Greece, heavy typhoons in Taiwan, increased desertification in the Sahara region, glaciers melting in Antarctica; these are all signs that climate change is already happening and represents one of the greatest environmental, social and economic threats facing the planet. As far as developing countries are concerned, climate change will have a strong impact on their ability to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and on their development policies in general, with increased pressure on agriculture, water demand and supply, health and political stability.

According to the Fourth Assessment Report (2007) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) the Earth's average surface temperature has risen by 0.76° C since 1850 and the temperature rise is accelerating. Without further action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the global average surface temperature is likely to rise by a further 1.8° to 4.0°C during this century and in the worst case scenario by up to 6.4°C. Even the lower end of this range would take the temperature increase since pre-industrial

times above 2°C. This is considered the threshold beyond which irreversible and possibly catastrophic changes become far more likely.



For the world to control the rise in temperature within the 2°C range, a new ambitious global agreement to cut emissions must be reached.

In December 2009 in Copenhagen, the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC) aim to reach an agreement on global action to combat climate change covering the period after 2012 when the Kyoto Protocol will expire. Discussions to prepare the new agreement were launched at the end of 2007 in Bali, Indonesia. The Bali Action Plan forms the core of an agreed 'roadmap' that sets the agenda for the negotiations.

The European Union has been developing its position on post-2012 action since 2005. In January 2009, the European Commission proposed a comprehensive vision for the agreement in its 'Copenhagen Communication.' This was endorsed by the EU's environment ministers in March 2009 as well as by EU leaders at their European Council summit later the same month.

The EU proactive policy response

The European Union is committed to working constructively for a global agreement to control climate change, and is leading the way by taking ambitious action of its own.

In the 1990s the EU was instrumental in securing the Kyoto protocol and embarked on an 8% reduction of its greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by 2012. Indeed it is one of the few parties to the UNFCCC to be on track to reach its commitment¹.

However the new post-2012 agreement needs to be far more ambitious. The EU has agreed to take its fair

¹ EC- Greenhouse gas monitoring and reporting – Progress Reports 2008



A rise in temperature and more variable precipitation add to the already severe drought conditions, in Niger. Water and food scarcity have big impacts on the health of already vulnerable communities.

WHO/Marko Kovic

share of that effort and accordingly has committed to achieve at least a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990.

A common destiny

No matter how ambitious, EU action alone will not be sufficient to halt climate change. This is why the EU has been so vocal in international fora for a climate change agreement where the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and

respective capabilities would be at the core of action. Concretely, and as recommended by the IPCC, that means that developed countries should reduce their emission in the range of 25 to 40% by 2020 and 80 to 95% by 2050, below the 1990 levels. The EU Heads of state and government have committed to scale up their emissions reduction to 30% by 2020 provided other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emissions reductions, and economically more advanced developing countries contribute adequately according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities.

As developing countries expand their economies, their emissions are increasing. It is therefore indispensable that developing countries, and in particular the more advanced emerging economies, also commit to start limiting their emissions growth and developing in a less carbon intensive way. The industrialised countries, for their part, will have to commit to provide the necessary finance and support technology transfer and capacity building.

Building trust for a low carbon world

With a view to the vital climate negotiations in Copenhagen, the EU has developed the concept of low carbon development strategy as a way to ensure appropriate financial support and implementation of climate policies. The EU view is that each country should develop with its low carbon development strategy that demonstrates how



A traffic policeman wears a mask to help protect himself from air pollution at a busy crossing in Kolkata, India. In 2002, more than 120 000 people died in India from diseases exacerbated by air pollution. Changing to more sustainable transport systems and cleaner fuels could simultaneously cut greenhouse gas emissions and deaths from air pollution.

LHIL/Sudipto Das

it will move towards a low carbon future, and how this would be financed, both domestically and with international support. That also implies that a financial architecture needs to be put in place with substantial contribution from the main and richest emitters from both private and public sources. This discussion will be at the heart of the Copenhagen talks.

EU support to the most climate vulnerable developing countries

A climate change regime should also include ambitious provisions supporting most vulnerable countries' adaptation policies so that today's progress is not hampered by tomorrow's climate change. In order to concretise the EU international leadership in the climate change area and to provide a framework for EU action towards its partners, the European Commission launched at the end of 2007 a new initiative, the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) between

the European Union and poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change.² The GCCA, a 40 millions Euros initiative, intends to step up dialogue and cooperation between the EU and the developing countries that are hit earliest and hardest by climate change and have the least capacity to react. These are typically the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Alliance is based on two pillars: first, an enhanced dialogue on climate change issues between the EU and those countries. This enhanced dialogue resulted in a Joint ACP-EU Declaration adopted in May 2009 and similar political Declarations at regional level. The joint declarations highlight specific challenges and common views and feed into the discussions on the post-2012 climate agreement. The idea is to support the convergence of visions between Europe and the developing countries on the shape of an ambitious agreement. Second, the Alliance promotes enhanced financial support for the adaptation of targeted countries to

² Communication on Building a Global Climate Change Alliance between the European Union and poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change - COM(2007)540.

the impact of climate change and, where beneficial for the achievement of poverty reduction aims, for mitigation measures.

Based on a number of criteria, 15 countries, of which 8 are in Africa, have been identified to start up activities under the GCCA in 2009 and 2010 (Tanzania, Mali, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal and Seychelles). This list is not exhaustive and other countries within the overall target group of the GCCA may be added from 2010. Support at regional level is also being considered, for example to selected African Regional Economic communities (RECS) as well as at pan-African level.

Final sprint to Copenhagen: EU and Africa joining forces

The Climate Change Partnership of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, adopted at the Africa-EU Summit in December 2007, is the framework in which Africa and the EU pursue their common vision and have engaged in political dialogue and an exchange on concrete actions to respond to climate change. This increased dialogue has resulted in a joint Africa-EU declaration on climate change in December 2008. This joint declaration highlights the common concerns and expectations of EU and Africa on climate change and showed

how views can be reconciled against the urgency of global warming. Some of the immediate priority areas for action identified in the Declaration are: capacity building of African countries for climate change negotiations; investment and financing possibilities in support of adaptation and mitigation initiatives in Africa; strengthening African capacities to better exploit opportunities under the carbon market, and support for reduction of deforestation.

Consistently the Africa- EU Partnership has identified capacity building for climate change as one of the priority areas to be addressed. Other specific initiatives to support include the ClimDev Africa programme (in particular the establishment of an Africa Climate Policy Centre) and the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative. Finally, joint work has started to integrate climate issues into the existing cooperation frameworks, including the country and regional strategy papers. A road map is being developed to pave the way for concrete outcomes on the basis of those agreed priorities.

Today, more than ever, the links between the EU and Africa will have to prove their strength. If we want to avoid the main threat and reap the benefits of early action, neither Europe nor Africa can afford a failure in Copenhagen.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY: A "THREAT MULTIPLIER"

In 2003, the European Security Strategy had already identified the security implications of climate change. 5 years later, in March 2008, the High representative Javier Solana and the European Commission presented a report to the European Council which described climate change as a "threat multiplier". It threatens to overburden those countries and regions which are already fragile and conflict-prone.

Natural disasters, environmental degradation and competition for resources exacerbate conflict, especially in situations of poverty and population growth. Climate change can also lead to disputes over trade routes, maritime zones and resources previously inaccessible.

"It is important to recognize that the risks are not just of humanitarian nature: they also include political and security risks that directly affect European interests"

(Paper from EU Higher Representative Javier Solana and the European Commission to the European Council)

The security dimension of climate change should therefore not be underestimated. The impact of climate change on international security is indeed not a problem of the future but already exists and one which will stay with us. Even if progress is made in reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases, weather patterns have already changed, global temperatures have already risen and, above all, the effects of climate change are already being felt around the globe.



EU HR Javier Solana,

UPCOMING CHALLENGES

In his report on the implementation of the European Security Strategy, presented to the European Council in December 2008, HR Javier Solana noted that "We have enhanced our conflict prevention and crisis management, but need to improve analysis and early warning capabilities. The EU cannot do this alone. We must step up our work with countries most at risk by strengthening their capacity to cope. International co-operation, with the UN and regional organizations, will be essential."*

*(Report by the High representative on the implementation of the European Security Strategy, presented to the European Council in December 2008.

Early action to address the security implications of climate change is therefore essential. Knowledge and awareness are key. The current EU early warning instruments must focus more on climate change and environmental degradation, alongside relevant variables such as governance, demographic pressures or regional conflicts.

Dialogue with Third countries and organizations is critical. The EU is committed to achieving a global and ambitious new international agreement at Copenhagen in December 2009. Neither reducing emissions nor addressing the security dimension can be done by the EU alone. The EU focuses therefore on key global partners, such as the US, China, India and Russia, and organizations representing regions at

particular risks, such as the Alliance of Small Island States, the Arab League and the African Union.

Investment in mitigation, to avoid worst case scenarios, as well as ways to adapt to the unavoidable consequences should go hand in hand with efforts to address the international security threats.



"The EU-Africa partnership offers a basis for bridge building and joint efforts"

Interview with **Staffan TILLANDER,** Swedish Ambassador for climate

Could you remind us briefly why climate change is a priority for Sweden and for Europe?

Climate change is happening and we need to act globally and as decisively and quickly as possible. Climate change is a threat but also an opportunity.

In terms of threat, the daily lives of people around the globe will be affected in a negative and dramatic way. Especially in the least developed countries, and for the most vulnerable countries, climate change makes daily life much harder. We need to act now to minimize such effects.

In terms of opportunity, a low carbon development offers new and interesting economic and developmental opportunities. We need to act



Staffan TILLANDER,
Swedish Ambassador for climate
Photo Swedish Embassy, Addis Ababa

now to make sure new technologies are being developed and that those available are being used.

If we do not deal with climate change now, we will all have to pay a much higher price later on. A global agreement that paves the way for a low carbon development would be good for Europe as well as for the rest of the world.

The Copenhagen Climate Change Summit will take place in less than three months (beginning of December). What are the main outcomes the EU is trying to reach? What are the actions the Swedish Presidency has been taking to this end?

We want to see an ambitious agreement in Copenhagen. One that compels all of us, globally, to take quick and decisive action in accordance with our different capabilities and responsibilities.

EU has taken important decisions that show that we are serious about doing our share in terms of mitigation and financing. By 2020, we will have cut emissions by 30% assuming there is an international agreement with comparable efforts by industrialized countries and adequate actions from developing countries. We are not there yet. The challenge now is to bring others with us to enhance efforts sufficient to counter global warming and keep it within acceptable limits. Copenhagen in December offers an excellent opportunity to agree on global goals and measures, an opportunity we cannot afford to miss.

You were previously the Swedish Ambassador to Ethiopia. Africa and the EU have engaged in a partnership that provides for dialogue, cooperation and exchange on concrete actions to respond to climate change. In your view, how do you see the role of this partnership in the overall cooperation regarding climate change ?

There are three aspects:

First, we need to overcome the unfortunate divisions we sometimes see between developed and developing countries. The EU-Africa partnership offers a basis for bridge building and

joint efforts. We should make sure that a global agreement contains commitments and actions far-reaching enough to respond to the challenges. In this effort, the interests of the least developed countries, and Africa, should play a role. The industrialized countries must take the first step, but we also need action from the major emerging economies. If we all do our share, our global response will be sufficient. Otherwise it will not.

Second, our partnership Africa - EU should be used to respond to the threat of climate change and also grasp the opportunities of a low carbon development. This is a long term effort and our cooperation should have a long term focus.

Third, the climate issue affects different sectors and policy areas that are included in our partnership. We should use this broadly based EU-Africa cooperation and try to find appropriate policy tools in different areas. One example could be emissions trading and the flow of technology and investments that follow. Such flows are already at a considerable level and will probably increase over the coming decade. So far, African countries have benefited to only a limited extent. Together we could look at measures needed to make sure that Africa can get an increasing share of such flows of investments and technology.

A few words on the Swedish Commission on Climate Change and Development



Dr Johan Schaar, Director,
Commission on Climate Change and
Development.

In 2007 the Swedish government established the international independent Commission on Climate Change and Development (CCCD). The Commission gathered 13 renowned individuals and was chaired by the Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation Ms. Gunilla Carlsson. A secretariat, headed by Dr. Johan Schaar, was established under the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in order to support the Commission.

Emphasizing that context matters, the Commission has studied climate change impacts in vulnerable environments in different parts of the world. Cambodia, Mali and Bolivia have different exposure to climate risks; they have different political and governance characteristics; hence they will require different solutions to adapt to climate change effects.

For the poorest communities the priority is to build people's adaptive capacity and resilience, i.e. their ability to manage risks and shocks. In more affluent

contexts, adaptation will emphasize technical measures that might not have been necessary without climate change. In practice, each country will require a mix of human and technical measures – the challenge will be to get the balance right.

Institutions have a crucial role to play everywhere. They mediate resources and services. Through them needs are expressed and accountability exercised. Most importantly, climate change actions, development planning and disaster risk reduction must come together. This requires that they are led from the highest political and organizational level.

The report of the Commission was launched in New York at a UN seminar in May 2009 in the presence of Secretary General to the United Nations Ban Ki-moon. During fall 2009 the CCCD will arrange regional presentations of the report. One of the occasions will be in Cape Town, South-Africa on September 11th. In connection with the EU-Africa Summit. Dr. Schaar will attend the African Partnership Forum in Addis Ababa on the September 3rd.

“The meeting provides an important venue for exchange of views on climate change. We need a better understanding of African priorities as well as identifying shared goals for the Copenhagen negotiations in December. The Commission on Climate Change and Development has expressed its desire to see adaptation high on the agenda and a deal that meets the priorities of vulnerable communities and countries.” Dr. Schaar says.

VU D'ADDIS...

" Nous sommes là pour dépasser le stade de Copenhague"

**Interview avec:
Driss Isbayene ,
Interview de Driss Isbayene,
adjoint de l'Ambassadeur à
l'Ambassade du Maroc en
Ethiopie et co-président du
Groupe conjoint des experts
sur le "Changement climatique"
dans le cadre du partenariat
Afrique-Union européenne.**

Le Maroc et la France sont les pays Chefs de file du groupe conjoint des experts sur le Changement climatique du Partenariat Afrique-Union Européenne. Quel est le travail de ce groupe au quotidien, ici à Addis ?

Il faut savoir qu'en matière de changement climatique en Afrique, nous en sommes encore au stade d'information des communautés locales. Les groupes conjoints des experts ont été créés pour mettre en œuvre la stratégie conjointe Afrique-UE. Il est important de commencer ce travail par la base. Concrètement, notre rôle est donc de trouver les moyens d'informer les communautés locales afin qu'elles puissent s'adapter et atténuer les effets du changement climatique. Nos premiers projets adoptés dans ce premier Plan d'action 2008-2010 se focalisent sur la gestion des ressources de l'eau et l'adaptation dans le domaine de l'agriculture.



Driss Isbayene, adjoint de l'Ambassadeur à l'Ambassade du Maroc en Ethiopie et co-président du Groupe conjoint des experts sur le "Changement climatique" dans le cadre du partenariat Afrique-Union européenne.

Nous essayons également, en tant que Groupe, d'intégrer dans nos travaux d'autres grands projets qui existaient avant même la création de notre groupe: le programme ClimDev (informations climatiques pour les besoins du développement en Afrique), et l'initiative " Muraille verte pour le Sahara et le Sahel".

Notre Groupe s'est rencontré plusieurs fois à Addis-Abeba et Bruxelles. Mais, pour faciliter nos contacts on a eu recours aux vidéoconférences avec Bruxelles. Nous sommes pour l'implication des Communautés économiques régionales (CER) dans nos réunions.

En tant qu'acteur de ce processus, quelle première évaluation en faites-vous ?

Avec nos partenaires européens, la coordination est extraordinaire. Nous avions, je vous le rappelle, réussi à adopter une position commune Afrique-Union Européenne sur le changement climatique avant la conférence de Poznan. Mais nous ne sommes qu'au début de ce travail, c'est encore jeune. C'est un travail de longue haleine. Il y a une réelle volonté politique. Nous

manquons plutôt de moyens financiers permettant de mettre en œuvre ces projets. Nous comptons certes sur l'Union Européenne et ses membres mais nous insistons également pour que les pays africains puissent également financer certains projets. Au sein du groupe, nous manquons d'une réelle expertise du côté africain et cela handicape un peu nos travaux.

Quels sont les enjeux du prochain sommet de Copenhague, en Décembre 2009 ?

Pour nous, Copenhague n'est qu'une étape. Ce que nous attendons de ce sommet, c'est un engagement

politique de tous les Etats et une conscience universelle du problème du changement climatique. Cela nous aidera à mettre en œuvre les projets. Face à la crise financière, la communauté internationale s'est fortement mobilisée. Le problème sera résolu tôt ou tard. Le changement climatique, lui, est un problème permanent, à très long terme, qui ne fait que s'aggraver. Je souhaite que toutes les initiatives actuelles en matière de changement climatique aillent au-delà de l'effet de mode. Nous sommes là pour dépasser le stade de Copenhague.

LATEST NEWS About the Partnerships

Inauguration of two Amesd-Eumetcast Satellite Receiving Stations



Inauguration by Dr. Mitrasen BIKADJEE, Director of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute, Regional Implementation Center for the AMESD for the Indian Ocean Commission region and Ir. Etienne KAISIN, Team Leader of the AMESD Technical Assistance next to the 3.70m receiving antenna installed on the roof of the MOI building in Quatre Bornes, Mauritius.

On 26th June 2009, the second AMESD-EUMETCast satellite receiving stations installed in the framework of the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) programs was officially inaugurated on the roof of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI), Regional Implementation Center (RIC) for the AMESD for

the Indian Ocean Commission region, in Quatre Bornes, Mauritius. This inauguration took place at the end of the 5th AMESD Technical Expert Meeting which was hosted by the MOI from 23 to 25 June 2009. The meeting, gathering 15 technical experts from the different regional implementation centers (RIC) of AMESD (Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, RDC, Mauritius)

led to very concrete and important results and recommendations, and constituted another important step in the AMESD implementation.

On Monday 17th August 2009, the third AMESD-EUMETCast satellite receiving station installed in the CICOS, Kinshasa, the RIC for the CEMAC Region became operational. As of today, all the 5 RIC have an operational antenna. In the near future, a supply contract will be concluded in order to supply, install and train the users, for another 47 new AMESD satellite receiving stations. The program will also ensure the maintenance and

repair of 50 PUMA satellite EUMETCast receiving stations installed in the framework of the PUMA project (also funded by EU) in each National Meteorological Service of the 47 ACP African countries.

The AMESD program is funded by the UE (21M EUR) and hosted by the African Union Commission (REA Department) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It covers the 47 ACP African Countries and South Africa.

For more information on AMESD: www.amesd.org

AMESD 1st Forum on the theme “Towards a Pan African Partnership and Networking for the monitoring of the Environment by Satellite in Africa”.

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, 1-4 December 2009. The African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development Program,

The primary objective of the Forum is to allow the putting in place of the necessary and adequate networks within Africa and also between international and African institutions for the effective development of the use of earth observation data for a better management and monitoring of the African environment.

For more information: info@amesd.org, www.amesd.org and http://www.africa-union.org/root/UA/Conferences/2009/dec/REA/1-4dec/Announcements%20N1_Final_FN_Eng160709.pdf



AU/IBAR Avian and Human Influenza workshop

From 18 to 21 August, more than 100 Directors of Animal Health and Human Health Services from 47 countries, met at the African Union's headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to discuss various practical and strategic issues with the

objective of improving the coordination of implementation of Integrated National Plans. The meeting also sought to discuss lessons learned from previous work on Avian and Human Influenza (AHI) and identify existing gaps. The opening ceremony was graced by the presence of 14 ambassadors of Member States to the African Union Commission, and the Ethiopian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, HE Addisu Legesse.

The 4 day workshop, the first of its kind, was convened by "Support Programme to Integrated National Action Plans for Avian and Human Influenza (SPINAP-AHI)" managed by the Nairobi-based AU Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR). AU-IBAR is a specialised technical office of the AU responsible for animal resources across Africa. The Director of AU-IBAR, Prof. Elsalwahi, led a team of technical and logistical staff in the successful organisation and management of the workshop.

The European Union, by far the biggest supporter of the fight against Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Africa, has funded the SPINAP-AHI project to the tune of 24.5 million Euros with 1.2 millions Euros contribution from the AU. The project is playing a crucial role in helping 47 Africa ACP countries to reduce the socio-economic impact of avian and human influenza and the potential loss of human life, including preparing for a possible human pandemic.

The workshop was officially opened by HE Ambassador John Shinkaye. AU chief of staff on behalf of HE Jean Ping, chair person of the African Union Commission. "I believe this workshop also provides an excellent opportunity to chart the future path for the management of other diseases similar to AHI. I am aware that if our health systems have good strategies and functional

systems, they can manage better even new diseases", he said, emphasising the need for broad capacity building of health (animal and human) systems in AU member states.

During his welcome remarks, EU Ambassador Vervaeke explained the European Union's role in A H1N1 Influenza control, with the view to stimulating debate, sharing experience and exploring concrete possibilities to deepen the cooperation between Africa and Europe. Detailed presentation of EU activities on AHI was given by Mr Moustapha Magumu (DG SANCO), who actively followed the discussion through to the end.

Other key international (multilateral) players included the World Health Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the World Organisation for Animal Health, USAID, UN-OCHA, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the US Centre for Disease Control (CDC).

EC's Health and Consumers Directorate General (DG SANCO) is holding on 30 October, in the framework of EU Veterinary week 2009, a high level conference where African counterparts will be invited to share experience on the "Influenza at the interface between human and animals".

WORLD FORUM ON ENERGY REGULATION

From the 19th until the 21st of October, energy regulators from all over the world will gather in Athens for the fourth "World Forum on Energy Regulation". This important event allows public authorities and private stakeholders to share experiences and discuss the recent developments in the field of energy regulation. European Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs will be addressing the plenary during the session on security and reliability of supply through competitive energy markets. Since regional integration, exchange of know-how and capacity building (e.g. in the field regulation and the organisation of power pools) are considered priorities of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, the widest participation of African countries would be useful and would help bring the common Africa-EU agenda forward in these topical matters.

Séminaire sur les ressources pour la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie Conjointe Afrique Union Européenne.

Depuis le Sommet Afrique UE de décembre 2007 au Portugal, le Partenariat Stratégique entre les deux continents a accompli des progrès significatifs dans des domaines aussi variés que la lutte contre le changement climatique, les questions de paix et sécurité, ou plus récemment la réponse à la crise économique. La poursuite et le renforcement de cette dynamique positive dépendront de l'engagement politique, ainsi que des ressources financières, humaines et techniques nécessaires au maintien des ambitions affichées à Lisbonne.

Dans ce contexte, l'appel lancé par l'Assemblée de l'Union Africaine lors du Sommet de février 2009 invitait l'ensemble des parties prenantes à assurer l'allocation des capacités et moyens indispensables à la réalisation des objectifs de la Stratégie Conjointe. Il répondait en cela à la préoccupation partagée d'exploiter au mieux le potentiel de cette Stratégie en tant que cadre d'orientation politique et catalyseur d'une plus grande cohérence et complémentarité des actions collectives. La Troïka ministérielle Afrique-UE d'avril 2009 a donc fait écho à cette demande en appelant à l'organisation d'un séminaire dédié à la question cruciale des ressources.

Élément déterminant dans le cadre des réflexions sur la revue à mi-parcours à l'automne 2009, ce séminaire se tiendra du 5 au 7 octobre à Addis Abeba. Ces trois jours seront l'occasion de faire un état des lieux de l'ensemble des mécanismes, instruments et expertises disponibles, en vue de faciliter la mise en œuvre des activités du Premier Plan d'Action avant le prochain sommet Afrique Union Européenne. La participation d'experts des institutions continentales, régionales, des états membres africains et européens, et autres parties concernées devrait permettre des débats fructueux, essentiels pour les échéances à venir (Task Force conjointe les 7 et 8 octobre, Troïka Ministérielle le 14 octobre).

NEWS ON SOMALIA

On 27 July, the Council of the EU adopted comprehensive conclusions about the situation in Somalia. Ministers reaffirmed their support to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and encouraged constructive engagement from all regions of Somalia as well as neighbouring states.

The EU decided to step up its engagement to promote peace and development in Somalia. EU engagement will be guided by the principles of accountability, transparency and Somali ownership. Concretely, the Council will increase assistance to TFG institutions, engage further to support AMISOM and explore the possibility of additional EU support to the security sector. On top of this, additional EU support to regional maritime capabilities will be assessed. The EU will also encourage its diaspora communities to engage constructively for state-building and development in Somalia and examine the possibility of appointing an EUSR for the Horn of Africa.

Before mid-September, representatives of the EU Presidency, the European Commission and the Council Secretariat were going to undertake several initiatives to translate the Council conclusions into action on the ground.

PERSONALIA

Three questions for Kirsti AARNIO, Ambassador of Finland to Ethiopia and Djibouti, Permanent Representative to the African Union, who has left Ethiopia.

A few days before her departure, the Ambassador shared some thoughts with LINK! She also agreed to answer some questions of the "Proust Questionnaire"



Kirsti AARNIO, former Ambassador of Finland to Ethiopia and Djibouti, Permanent Representative to the African Union

Interview with Kirsti AARNIO, Ambassador of Finland to Ethiopia and Djibouti, Permanent Representative to the African Union

When did you arrive in Ethiopia?

I arrived in Ethiopia as a Chargé d'affaires five years ago, in September 2004. After one year, my Embassy was raised to ambassadorial level, and I was appointed Ambassador. Our Embassy has been growing on a professional level. Finland is very active on education, water and development cooperation. We now have Finnish and Ethiopian advisors working in pairs in education and water. We are also covering conflicts, not only in the horn of Africa, but also in the great lakes, in Tchad, Sudan, we are working closely with the African

Union and IGAD. We are also active with the Economic Community of Africa (ECA)

Addis as a posting is a fascinating one: you deal with Ethiopia, with politics, with NGOs, with the African Union, with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in eastern Africa (IGAD)...this is such a vast and therefore challenging field.

What is your view on the Africa-EU partnership?

Firstly, I am happy that the European Union has a special delegation to the African Union here in Addis. I must say I was first a little bit hesitant

about creating another EU delegation here but it proved to be extremely useful. The European Union delegation to the African Union is really facilitating our cooperation with the African Union. It has also played an important role when formulating the partnership structures between the African union and its partners. I think the potential of this partnership exists, but the pace is slow. It is a new thing, it is a huge thing. It takes time before both parties "get in the swing". I think we need some more eager member states from both sides to take the lead and to take the other member states along. We need some strong leadership from both sides. Finland is initiating a special programme on mediation with African Union and is taking the lead in implementation of the capacity building of the AU in this field. I think the willingness is here, this partnership will definitely benefit both and I wish them all the best!

Where is your next place of duty?

I am going back to Helsinki where I will be the Head of the MOPAN' Secretariat: Multilateral Organisation Performance Network created by a group of so called "like-minded" countries, the Nordic countries, Netherlands, Ireland, UK, etc. This network aims at assessing multilateral organizations', like UN, its specialized agencies and the International Financial Institutions' activities and effectiveness in the field

Proust Questionnaire

What are your favorite heroes in real life?

I immediately think of 2 men: Mr. Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa and Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland. The first one is a freedom fighter, the second one a peace maker.

I would like to add a third group of heroes: the hidden heroes, the ones who do not make

headlines internationally. This can be a father or a mother who takes care of a big family, it can also be a child, who grows up fast when becoming an orphan after its parents and grandparents have died of AIDS, a disabled person who has reached education and profession with his or her own tenacity and with help of those around. A friend who is struggling to survive in extremely poor conditions in a prison, where he or she has been sentenced due to his or her political view, religion, etc. Very often we neglect to recognize these Heroes because we are too busy with our own hectic and selfish life styles.

And your favorite heroines?

Wangari Muta Maathai, the first one to talk about the green belt movement in Africa. And the hidden heroines have to be remembered, too.

Where would you like to live?

In the light. This will be a problem in Finland during the winter.

Who is your favorite painter?

Claude Monet and Albert Edelfelt, from Finland.

The military event you admire the most?

None.

What do you dislike the most?

Mental laziness.

The reform you admire the most?

The United Nations is important. If we did not have it, it would have to be created. But it has to be reformed.

Your favorite motto?

Every problem can be resolved.

Karel De Gucht est le nouveau Commissaire européen, en charge du Développement et de l'Aide humanitaire depuis le 17 juillet.



Le Commissaire Louis Michel a quitté la Commission pour prendre ses fonctions de parlementaire après son élection au Parlement européen. La Belgique a ensuite proposé le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Belgique Karel De Gucht pour terminer le mandat. Karel De Gucht est ainsi devenu le nouveau Commissaire belge en charge du Développement et de l'Aide humanitaire.

M. Karel De Gucht

**BERLAYMONT 10 / 165
1049 Brussels - Belgium**

Informations personnelles
Né à Overmere le 27/01/1954
Domicilié à Berlare, Flandre orientale
Epoux de Mireille Schreurs
Père de Frédéric et de Jean-Jacques

Formation

Licence en droit, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (1976)
ESS Latin-Math, Athénée Royal de Alost (1971)

Mandats

Avocat honoraire
Chargé de cours en droit européen à la VUB
Député
Ministre des Affaires étrangères

Carrière politique

Ministre des Affaires étrangères (2004-)
Député (2003-)
Ministre d'Etat (2002-)
Membre du Parlement européen (1980-1994)
Président national du VLD (1999- 2004)
Député flamand (1995-2003)
Sénateur (1994-1995)
Conseiller communal à Berlare (1989-)
Vice-Président national du PVV (1985-1988)
Echevin des Finances à Lebbeke (1983-1988)
Président national des Jeunes Libéraux flamands (1977-1979)
Membre du Bureau du Parti PVV/VLD (1977-)
Président national de l'Association flamande des Etudiants libéraux (1975-1977)
Président de l'Association flamande des Etudiants libéraux de Bruxelles (1974-1975)

Centres d'intérêts

Politique européenne et relations internationales
Droits de l'homme
Enseignement
Passion pour l'art et l'architecture modernes

Departures and Arrivals in Addis Ababa

Departures

- Kirsti AARNIO, Ambassador to Ethiopia and Djibouti, Permanent Representative to the African Union
- Jerome BRESSON, 2nd Secretary of the French Embassy, in charge of African Union affairs, has completed his tour of duty and has left Ethiopia.
- Lucia LACHOUTOVA, Czech Embassy, in charge of African Union affairs left Ethiopia on 7 August.
- William DE BAETS, First Secretary of the Embassy of Belgium and Deputy Head of Mission, left Ethiopia on 24th, 2009, upon completion of his tour of duty.
- Simeon DARPATOV, Chargé d'affaires e.p, Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria left Ethiopia on 29 July.
- Dietmar KRISLER, Political Advisor-Coordinator has left the EU Delegation to the AU after almost four years in Addis Ababa (see photo).
- Valentina AURICCHIO, Head of Operations Section, is also leaving the EU delegation to the AU after more than 4 years spent in Addis Ababa (see photo).



Dietmar KRISLER et Valentina AURICCHIO, "pionniers" de la délégation de l'Union Européenne auprès de l'Union Africaine, quittent l'Ethiopie respectivement pour Bruxelles et pour Nairobi.

Photo délégation UE auprès de l'UA

Arrivals

- Hans BLANKENBERG, has arrived in Addis Ababa on August 06 to assume his post as Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Permanent Representative to the African Union.
- Svetlozar PANOV, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria, has arrived in Addis Abeba to assume his duties of Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in the FDR of Ethiopia.
- Colonel Petr MILLER, Defence attaché of the Czech Republic to the Embassy.

Appointments

- Nikolaus KELLER, Counselor and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the African Union, has been appointed Counselor and Deputy Head of Mission at the Austrian Embassy to the F.D.R of Ethiopia, while retaining his position as Counselor/Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of Austria to the African Union.

UPCOMING Events

September 2009

- 3/09** Africa Partnership Forum on Climate Change at UNECA (Addis Ababa)
- 7-8/09** Visit of M. Janez POTOČNIK, EU Commissioner for Science and Research (Addis Ababa)
- 14-15/09** Seminar of the Africa Observatory: Securing Stability in Africa: Unconventional threats, Conventional responses (Addis Ababa)
- 14-18/09** ACCORD Roundtable conference (African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes) on "natural resources & conflicts in Africa" (Addis Ababa)
- 28-29/09** EU-Africa Business Forum (Nairobi)

October 2009

- 5-7/10** Joint EU-Africa Partnership Workshop on Financial Resources (Addis Ababa)
- 8-9/10** Enlarged Joint Task Force meeting between the African Union Commission and the European Commission (Addis Ababa)
- 12/10** Second meeting of the African Union's Peace and Security Council with the European Union's Peace and Security Committee (Addis Ababa)
- 14/10** AU/EU Joint Ministerial Troika meeting (Addis Ababa)

USEFUL Links

SITES / INTERNET UTILES

European Commission – climate Action

http://ec.europa.eu/climateaction/index_fr.htm

European Commission – External relations

http://www.relex.ec.europa.eu/dir_and_units/dir_1/03_coord_analysis/climate_change/index.html

World Resources Institute – Country Profiles

<http://earthtrends.wri.org/text/climate-atmosphere/country-profiles.html>

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

<http://www.iges.or.jp/en/index.html/>

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

<http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm>

The electronic version of LINK! is also available on the joint website of the Africa-European Union Strategic Partnership (section Documents)

<http://africa-eu-partnership.org>