



LINK!



INSIDE THE AFRICA - EUROPEAN UNION PARTNERSHIP



Newsletter of the Delegation of the European Union to the African Union

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Tissa offert par l'Ambassade de la République du Ghana à la Délégation de l'Union Européenne auprès de l'Union Africaine.



DEAR READER, CHER LECTEUR,

Ce numéro de **LINK!** est consacré à l'infrastructure et la coopération entre l'UE et l'Afrique dans ce domaine. Comme soulevé par Donald Kaberuka, Président de la BAD, il s'agit fondamentalement de l'intégration du continent africain. Pour cela, il faut lever aussi bien les barrières physiques que les barrières dressées par l'Homme. L'UE y contribue en Afrique, il s'agit de l'un des objectifs essentiels de notre partenariat.

C'est également l'intégration européenne qui est à l'honneur. Quand vous lirez ce **LINK!**, l'UE aura franchi une nouvelle et importante étape dans son processus d'intégration avec l'entrée en vigueur du traité de Lisbonne. Elle est marquée par la nomination d'un Président du Conseil européen, M. Herman Van Rompuy, et d'un Haut Représentant de l'Union pour les affaires étrangères et la politique de sécurité, Mme Catherine Ashton. Nous présentons ici leurs mandats et tâches. C'est le moment de rendre hommage au travail extraordinaire du Haut Représentant sortant, Javier Solana. La composition de la nouvelle Commission européenne figure également dans ce quatrième numéro.

Cette évolution n'est pas seulement une affaire interne à l'UE. Elle vise aussi à renforcer le rôle de l'Union comme acteur global. Elle concerne donc

également l'Afrique. Elle permettra le renforcement des relations de l'UE avec des partenaires clés comme l'UA. Rappelons ici l'engagement pris lors du premier accord européen, le Plan Schuman, qui a donné lieu au traité instituant la Communauté européenne du Charbon et de l'Acier en 1951: *L'Europe pourra, avec des moyens accrus, poursuivre la réalisation de l'une de ses tâches essentielles: le développement du continent africain.* Sous une forme renouvelée et rééquilibrée, cet engagement reste plus que jamais d'actualité.

Africa badly needs roads, ports and highways in order to bring peoples and regions together. The infrastructure deficit is one of the main causes of the extremely low level of intra-African trade. Infrastructure is therefore a priority area for the Africa- EU partnership. This concerns a wide range of sectors: transport, energy and the internet. You will discover numerous achievements and ongoing projects: the East African Submarine Cable System (EASSy), the Caprivi interconnector, the Félou Hydropower in Senegal to name but a few. Some are made possible through national or regional support. At continental level, financial support is provided under the Africa-EU infrastructure trust fund and EU-ACP Energy facility. Increased cooperation in the transport sector is also ongoing such as sharing the experience of the trans-European transport networks to benefit the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). Much more needs to be done however. AU Commissioner Dr. Ibrahim rightly points to the need to step up our cooperation in order to achieve more concrete results. Strengthened coordination between the regional and continental level and more efforts to bring together key players are needed.

October was particularly rich with events highlighting different aspects of our deepening partnership: we report on the 13th AU-EU Ministerial Troika (Addis), the EU-Africa Business Forum (Nairobi) and the European Development days (Stockholm) as well as the meeting between EU and AU PSC's and the visit of a high level EC delegation in the framework of administrative cooperation between the two Commissions.

Finally, we do not want to give the impression of always working. Some of the pictures demonstrate two recent major social events in Addis: the Diplomatic Bazaar, this year hosted at the AUC compound, and the 10 km of Addis organised by the Great Ethiopian Run.

Koen Vervaeke

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

TRAITÉ DE LISBONNE: NOUVELLES NOMINATIONS

Lors de la réunion informelle qu'ils ont tenue le 19 Novembre à Bruxelles, les chefs d'État ou de gouvernement sont parvenus à un accord politique sur les nominations suivantes:

- M. Herman VAN ROMPUY sera président du Conseil européen. Il sera élu par le Conseil européen, pour une durée de deux ans et demi, renouvelable une fois.
- Mme Catherine ASHTON sera haut représentant de l'Union pour les affaires étrangères et la politique de sécurité. Elle sera nommée par le Conseil européen, avec

l'accord du président de la Commission. Le président de la Commission, le haut représentant et les autres membres de la Commission seront soumis, en tant que collège, à un vote d'approbation du Parlement européen.

- Secrétaire général du Conseil M. Pierre de BOISSIEU sera secrétaire général du Conseil. Il sera nommé par le Conseil. Les décisions formelles sur les nominations seront prises une fois que le traité de Lisbonne sera entré en vigueur, le 1er décembre 2009.



TRAITÉ DE LISBONNE: NOUVELLES INSTITUTIONS

LE PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL EUROPÉEN: UNE FONCTION STABLE ET À PLEIN TEMPS

Quelles sont les tâches du président?

Comme le prévoit l'article 15, paragraphe 6, du traité sur l'Union européenne, le président du Conseil européen:

- présidera et animera les travaux du Conseil européen;
- assurera la préparation et la continuité des travaux du Conseil européen en coopération avec le président de la Commission et sur la base des travaux du Conseil des affaires générales;
- oeuvrera pour faciliter la cohésion et le consensus au sein du Conseil européen;
- présentera au Parlement européen un rapport à la suite de chacune des réunions du Conseil européen.

Par ailleurs, le président du Conseil européen assurera, à son niveau et en sa qualité, la représentation extérieure de l'Union pour les matières relevant de la politique étrangère et de sécurité commune, sans préjudice des attributions du haut représentant de l'Union pour les affaires étrangères et la politique de sécurité. Le président du Conseil européen ne peut exercer de mandat national tant qu'il est en fonction.

Comment le président du Conseil européen sera-t-il élu et pour quelle durée?

Comme le prévoit le traité, le Conseil européen élira son président à la majorité qualifiée pour une durée de deux ans et demi, renouvelable une fois. La décision formelle interviendra une fois que le traité sera en vigueur.

Le Conseil européen

En vertu du traité de Lisbonne, le Conseil européen devient une institution. Il donne à l'Union les impulsions nécessaires à son développement et en définit les orientations et les priorités politiques générales. Il n'exerce pas de fonction législative.

Le Conseil européen sera composé des chefs d'État ou de gouvernement des États membres, ainsi que de son président et du président de la Commission. Le haut représentant de l'Union pour les affaires étrangères et la politique de sécurité participera à ses travaux. Le Conseil européen se réunira deux fois par semestre sur convocation de son président. Lorsque la situation l'exige, le président convoquera une réunion extraordinaire du Conseil européen.

Structures d'appui

Le Conseil européen sera assisté par le secrétariat général du Conseil (autrement dit, il n'y aura pas de nouvelle structure administrative). Le personnel du secrétariat général du Conseil sera par conséquent à la disposition du président, y compris la direction des questions politiques générales, le service juridique, les directions

générales (ECOFIN, environnement, JAI, etc.), le service de traduction, le service du protocole, le bureau de presse, etc. Le président disposera de son propre cabinet. À compter de sa nomination, le président sera installé dans le bâtiment Justus Lipsius du Conseil. Lorsque le nouveau bâtiment du Conseil européen sera achevé, ce qui est prévu pour 2013, le président s'y installera.

LE HAUT REPRÉSENTANT DE L'UE POUR LES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES ET LA POLITIQUE DE SÉCURITÉ

Lors de la réunion informelle qu'ils ont tenue à Bruxelles le 19 novembre, dans la perspective de l'entrée en vigueur du traité de Lisbonne, le 1er décembre, les chefs d'État ou de gouvernement de l'UE sont parvenus à un accord sur la nomination de Mme Catherine ASHTON à la fonction de Haut Représentant de l'Union pour les affaires étrangères et la politique de sécurité.

articles 18 et 27 du traité sur l'Union européenne (traité UE), le Haut Représentant:

- conduit la politique étrangère et de sécurité commune de l'Union;
- contribue par ses propositions à l'élaboration de cette politique et l'exécute en tant que mandataire du Conseil, et assure la mise en oeuvre des décisions adoptées dans ce domaine;

- préside le Conseil des affaires étrangères;
- est l'un des vice-présidents de la Commission. Il veille à la cohérence de l'action extérieure de l'Union. Il est chargé, au sein de la Commission, des responsabilités qui incombent à cette dernière dans le domaine des relations extérieures et de la coordination des autres aspects de l'action extérieure de l'Union;
- représente l'Union pour les matières relevant de la politique étrangère et de sécurité

commune, conduit au nom de l'Union le dialogue politique avec les tiers et exprime la position de l'Union dans

les organisations internationales et au sein des conférences internationales;

- exerce son autorité sur le Service européen pour l'action extérieure (SEAE) et sur les délégations de l'Union dans les pays tiers et auprès des organisations internationales.

Comment sera-t-il nommé?

Le Conseil européen, statuant à la majorité qualifiée, avec l'accord du président de la

Commission, nomme le Haut Représentant. Le Haut Représentant est soumis, avec le président et les autres membres de la Commission, à un vote d'approbation du Parlement européen.

Dispositions en matière d'appui

Dans l'accomplissement de son mandat, le Haut Représentant s'appuie sur un Service européen pour l'action extérieure. Il bénéficie, si nécessaire, de l'appui des services du Conseil et de la Commission.

Avant le traité de Lisbonne

Le poste de Haut Représentant pour la politique étrangère et de sécurité commune a été créé en

1999 (traité d'Amsterdam). Javier Solana exerce la fonction de Haut Représentant de l'UE pour la PESC depuis lors. Il assiste le Conseil pour les questions relevant de la politique étrangère, en contribuant à la formulation, à l'élaboration et à la mise en oeuvre des décisions de politique. Il agit au nom du Conseil pour ce qui est de conduire le dialogue politique avec les tiers. La présidence tournante semestrielle est chargée de présider le Conseil "Relations extérieures", de représenter l'Union dans le domaine de la PESC, de mettre en oeuvre les décisions prises et d'exprimer la position de l'UE au niveau international.

PRESIDENT BARROSO'S NEW TEAM

José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission has announced the portfolios responsibilities for the next Commission.

Responsibilities of the Commissioners-designate

- Joaquín ALMUNIA: Competition. Vice-President of the Commission.
- László ANDOR: Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.
- Baroness Catherine ASHTON: High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security and Vice-President of the Commission.
- Michel BARNIER: Internal Market and Services.
- Dacian CIOLOS: Agriculture and Rural Development.
- John DALLI: Health and Consumer Policy.
- Maria DAMANAKI: Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.
- Karel DE GUCHT: Trade.
- Štefan FÜLE: Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy.*
- Johannes HAHN: Regional Policy.
- Connie HEDEGAARD: Climate Action.
- Maire GEORGEAN-QUINN: Research and Innovation.

- Rumiana JELEVA: International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response.*
- Siim KALLAS: Transport. Vice-President of the Commission.
- Neelie KROES: Digital Agenda. Vice-President of the Commission.
- Janusz LEWANDOWSKI: Budget and Financial Programming.
- Cecilia MALMSTRÖM: Home Affairs.
- Günter OETTINGER: Energy.
- Andris PIEBALGS: Development.*
- Janez POTOČNIK: Environment.
- Viviane REDING: Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship. Vice-President of the Commission.
- Olli REHN: Economic and Monetary Affairs.
- Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ: Vice-President of the Commission for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration.
- Algirdas ŠEMETA: Taxation and Customs Union, Audit and Anti-Fraud.
- Antonio TAJANI: Industry and Entrepreneurship. Vice-President of the Commission.
- Androulla VASSILIOU: Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth.

* In close cooperation with the High Representative/Vice-President in accordance with the treaties.



De gauche à droite : Herman Van Rompuy, Fredrik Reinfeldt, José Manuel Barroso et Catherine Ashton

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Quelles seront ses fonctions?

Le Haut Représentant exerce, dans le domaine des affaires étrangères, les fonctions qui, jusqu'alors, étaient exercées par la présidence tournante semestrielle, le Haut Représentant pour la politique étrangère et de sécurité commune (PESC) et le membre de la Commission chargé des relations extérieures. Conformément aux

INTERVIEW du mois

La promotion de l'intégration régionale dépend de deux choses: Les barrières physiques, et les barrières faites par l'homme, "man made". Il y a des régions où l'on est plus gêné par les barrières qui ne sont pas physiques. Promouvoir l'intégration régionale, c'est faire se lever toutes ces barrières.

Interview avec **Donald KABERUKA,** Président de la Banque Africaine de Développement

Quelle est la politique générale de la Banque Africaine de développement en matière d'infrastructures? Comment soutient-elle le développement des infrastructures sur le continent africain?

Permettez-moi d'abord de vous indiquer que nous travaillons en très bonne intelligence avec l'Union Européenne et la Banque Européenne d'Investissement. Notre politique va dans la même direction qui consiste à développer les secteurs de l'énergie, du transport, des Technologies d'Information et de Communication, de l'eau et de l'assainissement.

Dans notre stratégie à moyen terme, c'est-à-dire sur la période 2008-2012, les infrastructures occupent une place de choix, pratiquement 60 % de tout le portefeuille. Il s'agit là d'investissements publics. Nous avons aussi un guichet privé de 1 milliard et demi de dollars US chaque année dont 40% dans le domaine des infrastructures. Il y a donc à la fois ce que nous appelons les opérations



Donald KABERUKA
Président de la Banque Africaine de Développement
Photo: EU to the AU, Addis Ababa

souveraines, et les opérations non souveraines. Les opérations non souveraines dépendent de la demande, puisque nous finançons les entreprises privées. Sur les 1 milliard et demi, 40% sont des infrastructures privées, des concessions, des routes à péage, des aéroports...

En matière de politique, nous sommes particulièrement attachés au concept de corridors africains. Je vous donne quelques exemples: le corridor Djibouti Addis-Abeba, celui de Mombasa jusqu'à la frontière des pays des grands lacs, le corridor Nord, le corridor en Afrique de l'Ouest et celui en Afrique centrale. C'est un concept qui nous est très cher.

En plus des infrastructures nationales et des corridors, nous nous intéressons maintenant de façon croissante aux ports maritimes africains. Nous avons en effet constaté une capacité très faible dans ce domaine. Nous participons au développement du port de Djibouti avec des investissements des pays du Golfe. Nous avons également récemment accordé un crédit très important à un opérateur privé pour le port de Dakar.

Et dans le domaine de l'énergie?

En ce qui concerne l'énergie, je veux parler ici des énergies renouvelables et des autres énergies, nous disposons véritablement d'un atout très important en cette période de discussions sur le changement climatique. Nous souhaitons développer la capacité hydroélectrique africaine.

Mais il ne suffit pas de la développer. Il faut aussi développer l'interconnexion pour créer le marché de l'énergie sur l'Afrique. Car 80% des ressources hydroélectriques africaines se concentrent dans 5 pays : Guinée, Cameroun, Congo, Angola, Zambie et Ethiopie.

Nous agissons également dans un autre domaine important: celui de l'eau, de l'assainissement pour lequel la banque a pris depuis trois ans une initiative de leadership. Nous nous concentrons sur l'assainissement des villes et l'approvisionnement en eau potable.

Je voudrais citer quelques projets comme celui à Yaounde, celui à Nouakchott, celui à Accra. Nous travaillons également à Kampala.

Les transports, l'énergie, l'eau et l'assainissement. Il reste les TIC, les Technologies d'information et de Communication...

Dans le domaine des TIC, nous axons notre action sur la connectivité, avec les fibres optiques ainsi que les câbles maritimes. Nous avons ainsi investi dans des câbles maritimes en Afrique de l'Ouest et dans l'océan indien et maintenant dans la connectivité sur le continent même.

Chaque fois par exemple que nous faisons une route, nous laissons la place pour installer des fibres optiques. Actuellement, nous travaillons beaucoup avec les entreprises privées dans ce domaine

Rappelez-nous le lien entre le développement des infrastructures en Afrique et l'intégration régionale?

La promotion de l'intégration régionale dépend de deux choses: Les barrières physiques, et les barrières faites par l'homme, "man made". Il y a des régions où l'on est plus gêné par les barrières qui ne sont pas physiques. Promouvoir l'intégration régionale, c'est faire se lever toutes ces barrières.

En ce qui concerne les barrières physiques, il faut faire des routes, des chemins de fer pour réduire les coûts de transport. Mais pour ce qui est de la seconde catégorie, cela demande une autre politique: il faut de la coordination, enlever la bureaucratie, travailler sur le nombre de documents, sur la standardisation des normes.

Nous avons donc un programme de construction d'infrastructures, de même qu'un programme de facilitation du commerce.

Imaginez par exemple un camion qui doit passer par cinq frontières, qui doit s'arrêter deux heures à chaque frontière, où il y a beaucoup de documents à signer, on peut imaginer aussi un seul document pour la traversée de tous ces pays là, des frontières communes.

Sur le tronçon trans-Afrique, nous avons apporté récemment 150 millions de dollars, pour financer la construction d'une route entre le Cameroun et le Nigeria qui était un chaînon manquant. Nous avons fait la route mais nous avons également développé un seul poste frontalier. Cela signifie que les camions qui viennent du Cameroun et qui vont au Nigeria ne s'arrêtent qu'une fois. Alors, nous avons fait la même chose sur la frontière tanzanienne et au Kenya. On est en train de le faire également au niveau de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

Je salue franchement la coopération avec la Commission européenne et la Banque Européenne d'Investissement avec laquelle nous travaillons sur tous ces programmes.

La Banque Africaine de Développement a-t-elle du réduire son soutien au développement des infrastructures en Afrique du fait de la crise financière?

Au contraire, la crise nous a demandé de fournir encore plus d'efforts dans ce domaine.

Laissez-moi vous expliquer un élément: Avant la crise avec la hausse du cours du pétrole, le coût de construction par kilomètre était devenu très élevé. Il pouvait aller jusqu'à un million d'euros par km dans certaines régions. Avec la baisse du coût du pétrole, avec la baisse du coût des matériaux de production, l'effet a été bénéfique et ce coût a baissé. Aidés par la baisse des coûts de production, nous avons donc pu augmenter nos engagements au niveau des étapes futures. C'est un domaine dans lequel nous avons vraiment très bien travaillé avec la Commission européenne.

En même temps, nous sommes intervenus pour soutenir les investissements privés. Beaucoup de projets avaient été annulés, surtout les aéroports et les projets de ports maritimes, nous avons donc été obligés d'intervenir pour combler ce qui manquait.

INFRASTRUCTURE DOSSIER

1. Infrastructure: a priority area for EU-Africa cooperation
2. The Africa EU Energy Partnership: A framework for a structured energy dialogue
3. Connecting Africa, connecting Africans
4. Qu'est-ce que PIDA?
5. What is the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund?
6. A few concrete projects in Africa

INFRASTRUCTURE: A PRIORITY AREA FOR EU-AFRICA COOPERATION

INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIT

Africa badly needs roads, ports and highways that bring cities and regions together. The road density in Africa is still very low (6.84 km² per 100 km² compared with 12 km² in Latin America and 18 km² in Asia). Without a properly functioning infrastructure, goods can not be transported from one place to another, or it takes

too long and is simply too costly. Africa is the continent where transport costs are the highest in the world. From landlocked Zambia it costs more to ship one ton of maize to neighbouring Tanzania than it costs to send the same ton of maize from Tanzania to Europe or the United States. In most European and American ports, it takes a day to clear a container. In many African ports, it can take weeks.

For the internet, the situation is not much different. Africa lacks a fast internet connection. This is why we have contributed via the EU Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund to the EASSY undersea telecommunication cable. This broad band connection is not a luxury! Africa needs this 10 000 km fibre-optic cable that will link the countries along the East coast of Africa from Sudan to South Africa via Madagascar for business and economic growth. To conduct business, African companies need to be connected, and connected with the world.

This is just one example of the around Euro 3 billion in already approved infrastructure projects underway in Sub-Saharan Africa currently. The



Photo: African Union (Direction infrastructure and Energy)

List of approved grant operations - EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund - till end October 2009.

Grant operation	Decision	Sector	Scope ¹	Lead	Co-Financiers	Grant amount	Approval date
Port de Pointe Noire	Approval	Transport	IRS	AFD	EIB	6,600,000	11-10-2007
East Africa Submarine Communications cable (EASSy)	approval	ICT	TA	EIB	KfW, AFD	2,600,000	07-05-2007
Folou Hydropower	approval	Energy	IRS	EIB		9,335,000	07-10-2007
Ethiopia-Kenya Interconnection	approval	Energy	TA	KfW	AFD	550,000	07-10-2007
West Africa Power Pool (WAPP) Interconnector	approval	Energy	TA	EIB	KfW	3,000,000	10-16-2007
Caprivi Interconnector	approval	Energy	IRS	EIB	KfW, AFD	15,000,000	01-22-2008
Ruzizi Hydropower	approval	Energy	TA	EIB	Ce-EB	2,800,000	05-29-2008
ECOWAS Electricity Regulation	Approval	Energy	TA	AFD		1,700,000	11-10-2009
Beira Corridor Project	Approval	Transport	IRS	EIB	na	29,000,000	12-18-2008
Support to Gouina Hydropower Scheme	approval	Energy	TA	AFD	na	1,000,000	12-18-2008
WAPP Coastal Backbone	Approval	Energy	TA	EIB		1,750,000	03-27-2009
Benin-Togo Power Rehabilitation	Approval	Energy	IRS	EIB	KfW	12,250,000	11-10-2009
Update of the WAPP Masterplan	Approval	Energy	TA	EIB		935,000	10-22-2009

¹ IRS: Interest Rate Subsidy; TA: Technical Assistance.

bulk of the money goes into transport, mainly in the form of road rehabilitation projects and in some countries sector budget support. In addition to roads, water and energy have been growing areas for our support, since the launch of the Water and Energy Facilities in 2004.

EURO-AFRICAN CORRIDORS

However, there is not only need for improve infrastructure within Africa, there is also necessity to facilitate transport flows between the European and African continents, and to ensure that inter-

countries to extend it and share it with the entire continent. The European Commission will also make available the experience gained from implementing its trans-European networks to its African partners.

AFRICA-EU INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP: A FRAMEWORK FOR ENHANCING COHERENCE

On the African side, the African Union (AU) is a privileged partner of the EU. With its continent-wide political mandate, the AU facilitates dialogue

with and between African Regional Economic Communities (RECs), an increasingly important factor for interconnecting Africa. The AU ensures African ownership, steers overall policy and ensures the continental integrity of the Partnership.

The AU has recently completed the Africa Infrastructure Country Diagnostic Study (AICD) and is now undertaking the preparation of a Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), which will set priorities for continental and regional infrastructure investment. This should guide the allocation of EU and other donors' support in the sector.

The EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership, launched in 2007 in the framework of EU-Africa Joint-Strategy, will respond to this infrastructure deficit. It will also provide a framework for enhancing coherence between the action taken by the European Commission and EU Member States to facilitate interconnectivity at continental and regional level. A major part of the financing for the Partnership comes from the European Development Fund (EDF) allocations for National and Regional Cooperation Programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa, under the Cotonou Convention. Approximately €4.5 billion in grants is expected to be allocated for infrastructure for the period 2008-2013.

The EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund is an innovative instrument of the Partnership, meeting the high demand for more flexible financing of large-scale projects with a regional dimension, able to blend EDF grants with loans of European financing institutions. The table (p5) gives an impression of projects approved so far (for more information, check out the website: www.eu-africa-infrastructure-tf.net).

As regards direct grant project funding for the 8 trans-African highway corridors, over €1 billion from the EDF have been committed over the last 12 years for road rehabilitation/upgrading projects, notably on the Dakar–N'Djamena and Lagos–Mombasa corridors. Further allocations, estimated at about €1.5 billion, are planned for investment in these road corridors over the period 2008-2013.

Infrastructure will remain as one of the main priority areas for EU-Africa cooperation and will certainly figure high on the agenda for the next EU-AU Summit at the end of 2010.



All Photos: Photo African Union (Direction infrastructure and Energy)

continental transport costs must be reduced and transport services made more sustainable, safe and reliable. Both Europe, through its trans-European networks, and Africa, through its trans-African corridors, have in recent years identified and developed continental transport networks. More cooperation is envisaged to bring the planning activities performed on both continents closer to each other in order to establish a genuine Euro-African transport network, and to enhance collaboration in the air and maritime transport sectors, the two main modes of inter-continental transport. This will build on the rich and successful experience of cooperation between Europe and the countries of the Mediterranean

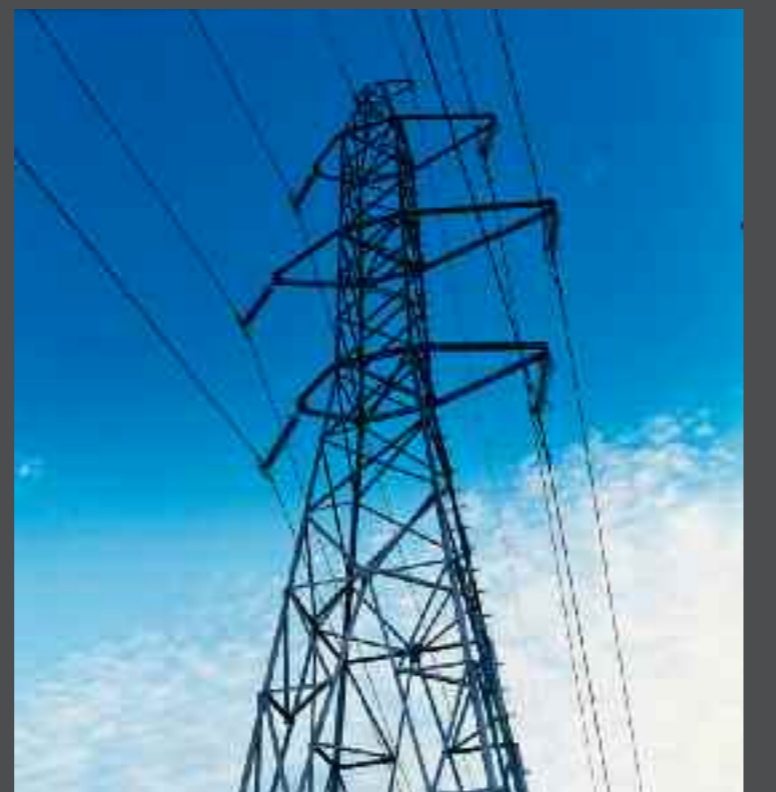


Photo: African Union (Direction infrastructure and Energy)

AICD estimates suggest that for the coming ten years, the annual financing need for infrastructure in Africa is close to US\$ 80 billion. This same study show that current infrastructure spending is around US Dollar 47 billion, of which domestic financing is close to US\$ 35 billion – leaving an annual financing gap of US \$ 33 billion.

THE AFRICA-EU ENERGY PARTNERSHIP: A FRAMEWORK FOR A STRUCTURED ENERGY DIALOGUE

Africa's largest infrastructure deficit is in the energy sector. Sub-Saharan Africa, with a population of almost one billion, produces about the same amount of electricity as Spain, which has a population of only 45 million. African firms report losing more than 5% of their sales due to power shortages, and the figure is even higher in the informal sector. In Sub-Saharan Africa more than 550 million people live without access to electricity, four out of five in rural areas, while electricity access is almost universal in the industrialised world.

At the same time, the EU and the World are at the crossroads concerning the future of energy.

The Africa-EU Energy Partnership, which is a key component of the Lisbon Summit Strategy from December 2007, was put in place to strengthen the relations between Africa and the European Union and to help address our common challenges. On the European side the Partnership is led by Germany and Austria and supported by the European Commission on the African side by the AU Commission and Mauritius. Actions to be initiated will be based on the Road Map; which was developed during the initial phase of the Partnership (http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/partnerships/items/energy_en.htm).



Photo: African Union (Direction Infrastructure and Energy)

Climate change, increasing dependence on oil and other fossil fuels, growing imports and rising energy costs are making our societies and economies vulnerable. In Africa, many countries in the region have been hard hit by unreliable rainfalls and drought, negatively affecting hydro-power generation.

Actions indicated in the Road Map of the Partnership aim to mobilise increased financial, technical and human resources in support of Africa's energy development, scaling up investments in energy infrastructure and energy interconnections within Africa and between Africa and the EU. It further includes promotion of

renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, improved management, and mainstreaming of climate change into development cooperation.

Under the Partnership, support to the African energy sector in Africa comes from EU Member States bilateral programmes as well as from the European Commission programmes and financing instruments, which includes the Regional and National Indicative Programmes under the 10th EDF, the Infrastructure Trust Fund, the second ACP EU Energy Facility and programmes under the Environmental and Natural Resources Thematic Programme.

A number of African countries have chosen energy as a focal sector under National Indicative Programmes under the 10th EDF. Programmes supported range from rural electrification in Tanzania, renewable energy in Burundi and Burkina Faso, to improved electrification in Sierra Leone and hydropower in Guinea Bissau. Energy will also feature in the Regional Indicative Programmes for West and Central Africa. The increased role of energy in African partner countries' programmes is being facilitated by the Partnership Dialogue Facility (www.euei-pdf.org), a flexible and demand driven EU programme. Under the EC's thematic programme, the Global Gas Flaring Initiative and the Global Energy Efficiency Initiative (GGFI) and Renewable Energy Fund (GEEREF) are being supported.

At the regional level, the EU Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund (ITF), will receive additional financing

in the amount of 200 M€. Energy projects currently supported under the ITF include the Caprivi interconnector between Namibia and Zambia, the Felou hydro power plant on the Senegal River, the Ethiopia-Kenya Interconnector, and more energy projects are in the pipeline. The flow of new projects will benefit from the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) initiated by the AU Commission and implemented by the African Development Bank.

The ACP-EU Energy Facility, which is the EU facility targeting local access to energy and focussing on renewable energy, will be replenished to the amount of 200 M€ plus possible MS contributions. The second Energy Facility (<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/energy-facility>) will build on the lessons taken from the first Energy Facility, where more than seventy projects for increased access were supported, reaching out to more than 6 million people.

A major part of the financing of the new Facility is expected to go to projects in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Facility will support projects aimed at increased access to modern energy services in rural and peri-urban areas, focussing on renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency. Investments, as well as capacity development, will be supported through the Call for Proposals, the first to be launched in late 2009, and special window, the Pooling Mechanism, has been designed to leverage private sector financing and concessional lending.

THREE QUESTIONS TO COMMISSIONER DR. ELHAM MAHMOOD AHMED IBRAHIM

AFRICAN UNION COMMISSIONER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY

How do the AU and the EU work together towards strengthening transport cooperation?

Cooperation between the AU and EU in the field of transport is still at the initial stages and would be largely dependent on the progress in the implementation of the broader framework of Africa-EU Infrastructure Partnership.

issues of aviation safety, security and protection of the environment, capacity building and support to the development of the aviation sub-sector in Africa through the implementation of such key programmes as the Yamoussoukro Decision on the Liberalisation of Air Transport Markets in Africa.

In April 2009, EU-Africa Aviation Conference jointly organized by the EU and AU in



AU Commissioner Dr. Elham Mahmood Ahmed IBRAHIM (Infrastructure and Energy)

Specifically, there has been more initiatives in forging closer relation in matters of civil aviation whereby an AU-EU dialogue on civil aviation cooperation was launched in February 2006 in Brussels with a joint AU-EU aviation workshop. Since then, there has been a number of joint meetings and consultations on key cooperation issues especially on how to enhance fair access into the air transport markets of both regions,

collaboration with the Government of Namibia was held in Windhoek whereby the two sides agreed to work and finalize a Joint Statement and Common Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Africa-EU Cooperation in Air Transport which is expected to be adopted in early 2010 in order to further strengthen cooperation in this sub-sector. On another hand, the AU's transport programme expects to benefit from the EU's support to the

AU Commission through the elaboration of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) which is to be partly financed by the funds provided for the elaboration of AU's infrastructure policies and master plans. PIDA is a continental integrated programme for the development of transport, energy, ICT and water infrastructure and related services. This programme will be the single guiding framework for cooperation on infrastructure development between the AU and other development partners within Africa and outside the continent including the EU.

Furthermore, there is Port Moresby Agreement of which the transport sector would benefit specifically in the areas of implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision, development of major integration bridges and development of railway networks with particular focus on interconnection and interoperability.

However, as I mentioned before, success in the aforementioned endeavours depends on the effectiveness of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership. In particular, there is an outstanding task of putting in place a Technical Assistance team that will facilitate preparations and arrangements for the various projects in line with the institutional, legal and regulatory requirements of the two organizations. Once the partnership is on and running, cooperation in transport would get the much needed boost to achieve its objectives.

Last month, you attended an important AU-EU forum in Naples on transport. What are the main outcome?

The European Commission organized a Conference on the future of the trans-European transport networks held from 21 to 22 October 2009 in Naples, Italy, with focus on neighborhood networks including those in Africa. On the margins of the Conference, the European Commission, in consultation with the African Union Commission, organized a workshop on the development of the trans-European transport networks as a methodological experience which Africa could benefit from in the development of its Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

Within this framework, Commissioner Antonio TAJANI and I moderated a Roundtable on the future of the Africa-European Union Partnership, as an example of cooperation that is of mutual benefit to both parties. The importance of this partnership was clearly and particularly underlined as a framework for cooperation aimed at ushering in a new era of genuine partnership. Also, we outlined some actions that would constitute the road map for cooperation in the transport sub-sectors including:

- Organization of an annual Africa-Europe Transport Forum;
- Capacity building for African transport actors particularly in the areas of safety and security of transport;
- Identification of priority interconnection projects between the two continents;
- Putting in place innovative mechanisms for financing of transport projects; and
- Carrying out effective monitoring of activities in order to ensure the strengthening of the Africa-EU Infrastructure Partnership.

How would you assess the AU-EU partnership on infrastructures? What are the main achievements? Is there any need for improvement?

As I mentioned in my response to question 1, in my opinion, the Africa-EU Infrastructure Partnership is yet to take-off partly because the technical assistance that is a key factor in the elaboration and preparation of the priority activities of cooperation in infrastructure development is not yet in place. The overall frame of the partnership is there but what is missing is the specifics i.e. the specific activities that need to be accomplished within agreed time-frames and implementation modalities. To that end, the two sides, AU and EU, need to urgently meet to discuss and agree upon specific short, medium and long term objectives/activities of the partnership. Later on, PIDA, once adopted, may help the partnership proceed in a more systematic and effective manner in the medium and long term. Without aiming at specific targets to meet, the visibility of the partnership would remain obscure to many.

CONNECTING AFRICA, CONNECTING AFRICANS

The rapid spread of mobile communications in Africa in recent years has meant that millions more Africans are now connected to one another and to the rest of the world. The continent reached a total of 300 million telephone subscribers at the start of 2008, of whom 265 million subscribed to mobile services. In Africa, mobile penetration has risen from just one in 50 people at the beginning of the 21st century to almost one third of the population today, according to the eighth edition of the ITU report "African Telecommunication/ICT Indicators," published in 2008. This is certainly good news, but for a continent that is home to 963.68 million people, we still have the challenge of connecting

"In Africa, mobile penetration has risen from just one in 50 people at the beginning of the 21st century to almost one third of the population today, according to the eighth edition of the ITU report "African Telecommunication/ICT Indicators," published in 2008"

"ITU estimates that, of the 50 million or so Internet users in Africa in 2007, more than half were located in North Africa and in the Republic of South Africa. In the rest of the continent, only 3 per cent of the population is online."

the many towns and villages that remain without access to even the most basic information and communication technologies (ICT).

Replicate the African mobile success story

The time has come to replicate the African mobile success story for high-speed broadband Internet access. Increasingly, this is recognized as core infrastructure for modern economies, as broadband supports growth, innovation, job creation and widespread social and economic development.

ITU estimates that, of the 50 million or so Internet users in Africa in 2007, more than half were located in North Africa and in the Republic of South Africa. In the rest of the continent, only 3 per cent of the population is online. The number of fixed broadband subscribers was only 2 million in 2007.

Connect Africa

The *Connect Africa Summit* held in Kigali, Rwanda in October 2007, gathered a remarkable group of leaders from government, industry, development banks and agencies, international and regional organizations and other key stakeholders. They shared a common vision: to secure long-term, sustainable prosperity for all of Africa, not based on aid or charity, but rather, on public-private partnerships for investment in ICT.

Connect Africa is part of a broader global effort spearheaded by ITU, together with its partners, to Connect the World by 2015. The summit in Kigali

was the first in a series of regional events to mobilize human, financial and technical resources to help achieve the objectives of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). ITU plans to organize similar summits in other regions in the coming years. Planned investments totalling USD 55 billion were



Photo: EIB Photo library

announced at Kigali, aimed at expanding — over the next five years — ICT infrastructure and networks, capacity building and the creation of applications and services. The bulk of this amount was pledged by industry, alongside a commitment from governments and regulators to work together to create an enabling environment for investment.

Infrastructure sharing

The global financial situation has changed dramatically since these projections were made in 2007. In this challenging environment, it is even more important that all stakeholders work together on innovative solutions to stretch each investment dollar. One of those solutions is infrastructure sharing, which was the focus of last year's ITU Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR).

Some encouraging progress has been made over the past years, but much more work remains to be done. The African Union January 2010 Summit, with the theme "Information and Communication Technologies in Africa: Challenges and Prospects for Development" will be an opportunity to assess

progress made and plan future strategies. Leaders at the Connect Africa Summit fully recognized that our shared goals will only be achieved through collaboration among partners. For example, we are proud of the successful partnership between ITU and the European Commission for the Harmonization of ICT policies in Sub Saharan Africa (HIPSSA). In the coming months and years, ITU will continue to work with the Commission and other committed partners to expand affordable ICT access throughout the African region.

"In Africa, mobile penetration has risen from just one in 50 people at the beginning of the 21st century to almost one third of the population today, according to the eighth edition of the ITU report "African Telecommunication/ICT Indicators," published in 2008"

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Photo: EIB Photo library

QU'EST-CE QUE PIDA?

Le Programme de Développement des Infrastructures en Afrique (PIDA) est une initiative née de la fusion de l'étude du Cadre Stratégique à Moyen et Long Terme du NEPAD, menée par la Banque Africaine de Développement (BAD), d'une part et des études menées par la Commission de l'Union Africaine (CUA) sur les Politiques et les Plans Directeurs Sectoriels Continentaux, d'autre part. Le Programme de Développement des Infrastructures en Afrique constitue donc le Programme Unique africain qui symbolise cette nécessaire coordination entre les Parties prenantes africaines dans le développement des infrastructures sur le Continent.

L'objectif du Programme de Développement des Infrastructures en Afrique est d'assister les Décideurs africains, aux niveaux continental et régional, à :

1. Elaborer une architecture cohérente de politiques susceptibles d'être menées aux niveaux continental et régional, pour assurer le développement, à moyen et long terme, des infrastructures physiques et des services associés, dans les secteurs de l'énergie, du transport, des télécommunications & des technologies de l'information et de la communication, et de l'eau, cadre fondé sur une vision optimale de développement, des objectifs stratégiques et des politiques sectorielles ;
2. Etablir un programme de développement de ces infrastructures à l'horizon 2030, hiérarchisé et articulé en phases. Ce programme sera accompagné : (i) des analyses évaluant ses enjeux et sous-tendant sa conception et ; (ii) des stratégies proposées pour sa mise en œuvre, notamment pour son financement et la mobilisation d'acteurs privés
3. Préparer une stratégie et un processus de mise en œuvre de ce programme, comprenant notamment un plan d'actions prioritaires, ainsi que le mécanisme de financement, de suivi et d'évaluation.

L'élaboration du PIDA sera fondée sur les stratégies et politiques des CER, piliers de l'intégration du continent. Pour ce faire, il sera organisé une série de débats et dialogues sectoriels, au niveau continental et régional, sur les questions de développement infrastructurel. Ces débats, moments forts de l'appropriation de ce Programme, seront l'occasion notamment au niveau régional, d'associer également les experts des Etats membres, les Partenaires au développement dont l'Union Européenne, à travers les partenariats UE-Afrique en Infrastructures et en Energie, et les experts internationaux afin de partager leurs expériences, d'orienter les travaux et de participer à la formulation concertée de recommandations et conclusions.

Où en est-on?

La structure de gouvernance a été adoptée par le Comité de Pilotage du PIDA en juillet 2008. La Banque Africaine de Développement (BAD) a été désignée comme l'agence d'exécution du PIDA. Un Chef de projet a été désigné et la constitution de l'Equipe du projet achevée. Les Communautés Economiques Régionales ont désigné leurs points focaux.

En ce qui concerne la réalisation des études, le processus de sélection d'un Consortium de bureaux d'études est en phase d'achèvement, ainsi que la mobilisation du financement nécessaire, en vue du démarrage des études en novembre 2009.

Le Programme de Développement des Infrastructures en Afrique constituera incontestablement un cadre stratégique et un outil de dialogue entre Acteurs africains et Partenaires de l'Afrique pour le développement des infrastructures en Afrique.

WHAT IS THE EU-AFRICA INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST FUND?

Purpose of the Trust Fund

Signed in April 2007, the key objective of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund is to contribute to achieving the strategic objectives of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership through targeted funding aimed at reducing the regional and continental deficit in infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Trust Fund facilitates the blending of grant resources from the Commission and EU Member States with the lending and technical capacity of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and EU Member States development finance institutions. Poverty reduction and African ownership are key criteria for project selection.

- The **Executive Committee of Donors** – currently chaired by the European Commission – is the governing body of the Trust Fund and notably decides upon requests for grant support to eligible projects.
- In addition, the Trust Fund benefits from the services of a **Trust Fund Manager (EIB)** for treasury, accounting, and financial reporting functions, and a small **Trust Fund Secretariat** that assists the Executive Committee, and provides an interface with the PFG.



Photo: EIB Photo library

- The **Project Financiers Group (PFG)** proposes potentially eligible infrastructure projects for which grant requests are submitted to the Executive Committee. The PFG is an innovative structure for development finance cooperation within the EU. It is composed of finance institutions appointed by Donors, among which is AfDB.

In order to ensure that African priorities are followed, the Trust Fund benefits from the policy and strategic direction of a Steering Committee from the wider EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership. The Steering Committee comprises an equal number of members from Africa and the EU. As recommended by the Steering Committee, the Trust Fund strives to develop and reinforce the dialogue with key African Partners and other stakeholders, such as:

- The AUC, the RECs, and the NEPAD IPPF, for enhanced coordination in the prioritization of regional infrastructure;
- The African Development Bank, with a view to further enhancing the existing cooperation, both at the level of project preparation and in subsequent co-financing;
- Private sector organizations, for the participation of the private sector in the identification and potential co-financing of projects backed by the Trust Fund.

Projects Supported by the Trust Fund and Modalities of Support

The Trust Fund supports infrastructure projects with a cross-border or regional impact in sub-Saharan Africa in:

- Energy
- Transport (rail, road, air, maritime and inland waterways)
- Water
- Information Technology (including telecommunications infrastructure where projects financed provide access to a service of general economic interest).

Funding support for eligible projects can take four different forms:

- **interest rate subsidies:** the provision of a grant to a participating lender (i.e. the financiers appointed by the Donors) to

enable the lender to make long-term loan finance available in flexible ways that reduces the total amount of debt service to be paid by the borrower. The subsidies are granted so as to avoid market distortions;

- **technical assistance:** this includes funding preparatory work for eligible projects, such as environmental impact assessments, project supervision and targeted capacity building (e.g. reinforcing the technical and administrative capacity of local staff in Africa);
- **direct grants:** for project components which have substantial demonstrable social or environmental benefits or which can mitigate negative environmental or social impacts;
- **insurance premia:** i.e. initial-stage funding of insurance coverage necessary to launch infrastructure projects.

Projects may be implemented by public or private entities, or entities with mixed public-private capital.

Projects Approved to date and Pipeline

In 2008, four grant operation requests were approved for a total amount of EUR 47.8 million, which represent a threefold increase over the EUR 15.5 million approved in 2007, the first year of operation of the Trust Fund. It is estimated that each Euro from those Trust Fund grants will generate 17 euros in infrastructure investments, i.e. over one billion euros.

For the next 12-15 months, the financiers of the Trust Fund have identified a dozen projects which will be mature enough for submission to the Executive Committee for approval of about EUR 75 million in grant requests.

More information is available from the Trust Fund website: www.eu-africa-infrastructure-tf.net

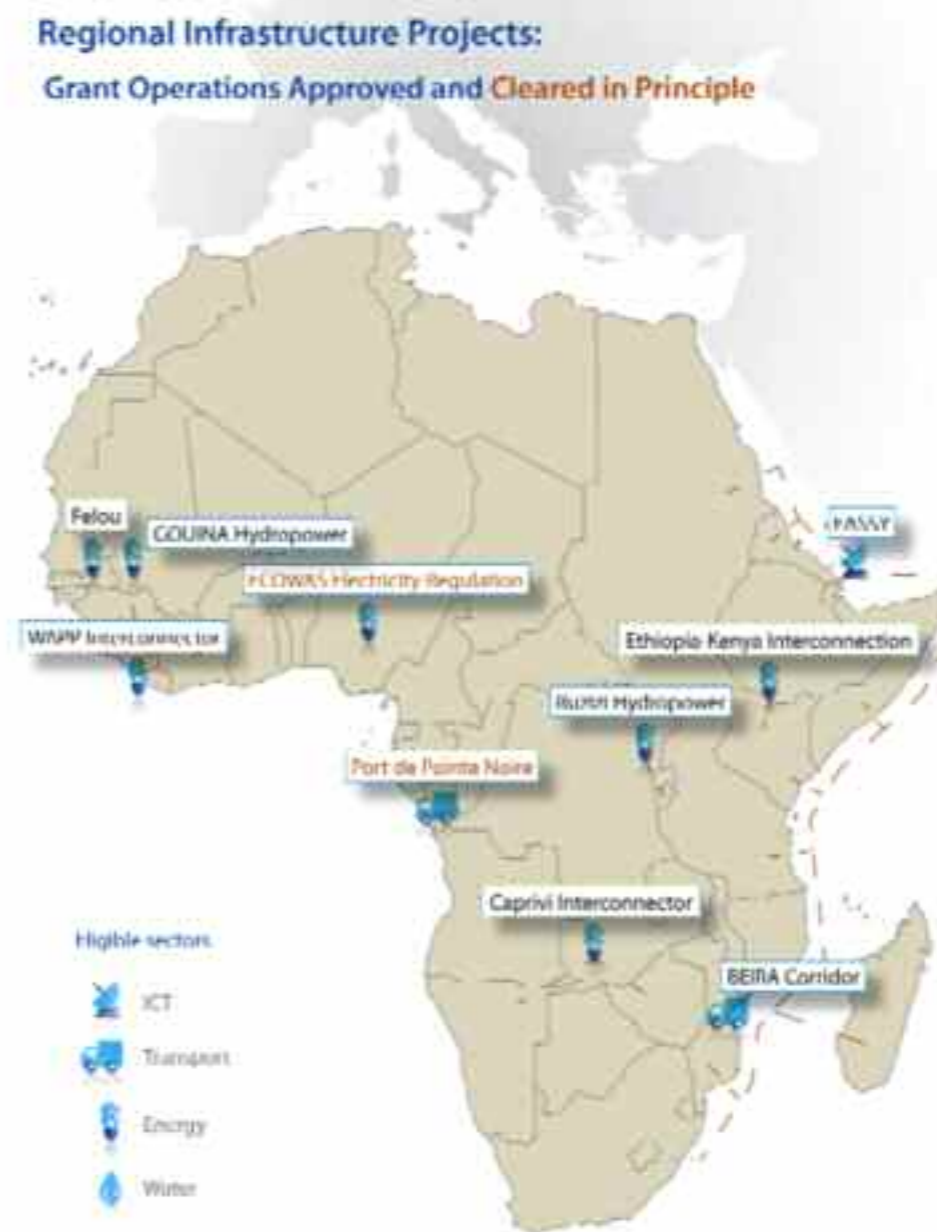
A FEW CONCRETE PROJECTS IN AFRICA

The Infrastructure Trust Fund: Operational Results in 2008 Approved Grant Operations

Caprivi

The Caprivi Link Interconnector (the “project”, or “Caprivi”) is named after Caprivi, one of the thirteen regions of Namibia, a small strip of land in the north-eastern part of the country, lying between Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

Its objective is to provide a 970 km HVDC interconnector between the Namibian, Zambian and Zimbabwean power transmission networks in order to increase Namibia’s access to electricity and relieve congestion in the eastern and southern regions of the countries where the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) operates.



Map EIB – EU Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund Annual report 2008



Photo: EIB Photo library

Ruzizi

The Ruzizi river provides the outlet for the waters from Lake Kivu into Lake Tanganyika over a distance of 117 km. It marks the border between DRC and Rwanda in the north and between DRC and Burundi in the south. There are currently two hydroelectric plants on the Ruzizi River: Ruzizi I, operated by the DRC utility (SNEL), and Ruzizi II, operated by the International Society of Electricity of the Great Lakes (SINELAC). The plants supply electricity to Rwanda, the eastern part of DR Congo and Burundi. EGL4, the sub-regional body in charge of planning energy developments in the Great Lakes Region, is currently planning to expand the energy potential of the site. The most advanced studies concern Ruzizi III, a new sub-regional hydroelectric plant that is expected to generate 143 megawatts of power by 2013. This additional generation would help to make up for the power deficit in the Great Lakes region. The technical feasibility studies for Ruzizi III are financed by the European Commission (EC) and should be completed in 2009. However, additional and complementary studies need to be carried out, mainly with respect to the economic and financial viability of the project and its institutional arrangements, including the management of the water flow and interactions with the existing plants. Those complementary studies will be covered by the ITF funding, which also includes additional technical studies for the interconnection of South Kivu and North Kivu and their interface with the CEPGL interconnected network.

Beira Corridor

The project aims to re-establish the original transport capacity of the port of Beira and of the Sena railway line, both forming part of the Beira Corridor Transport System (Mozambique). The project has two components: (a) rehabilitation of the Sena railway line; (b) restoration of the Beira port access channel to its original design characteristics. Total project cost is estimated at EUR 189m. The rehabilitation and development of the Beira corridor is part of SADC's development strategy ratified by Mozambique. It is also part of the European Commission's programme for the country, as the Beira corridor is included in the

transport sector, which is a focal (priority) sector in the EC's National Indicative Programme 2008-2013. The EC plans to partly finance the rehabilitation and upgrading of the road from Beira to Machipanda (Zimbabwe border) next year. This rehabilitation includes the access road to the Beira port which is directly linked with the EIB's proposed project. The EC is currently financing the building of a major bridge over the Zambezi near Caia, which will form part of the Trans-Mozambican Highway. The equivalent rail link is part of the Sena railway line, targeted by the proposed project.

Gouina Hydro Power Project (GHPP)

GHPP is a transboundary initiative presented by the Senegal River Basin Organisation (OMVS), grouping Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and since March 2006, Guinea. Its purpose is to supply renewable electricity to the three original member states, which lack production capacities, and mainly rely on thermal production, which makes them very vulnerable to oil price volatility. The project, located on a natural fall on the Senegal River, near Kayes, western Mali, will use the water already processed and regularised by the Manantali dam, and is expected to become operational by 2013 at a cost of EUR 210m. Feasibility, environmental and social studies were carried out in 2004 and 2006. However, further studies are required, which the ITF will finance:

Grant Operation that received a "Clearance in Principle"

ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority

The grant from the Trust Fund is to be made available to, and used by, the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA) to implement its initial regulation activities, i.e. regional benchmarking of the electricity sector; assistance to OMVS (Senegal river basin commission) and OMVG (Gambia river basin commission) to improve cross-border exchanges;

assistance to national regulators for setting international exchange tariffs, and settlement of disputes, among other activities. The ECOWAS Energy Protocol adopted in 2003 aimed to increase investments in the energy sector and energy trade in the West Africa region.

2007 Grant Operations in portfolio

- EASSy Cable
- Félou Hydropower
- Ethiopia-Kenya Interconnector
- West Africa Power Interconnector
- Port of Pointe Noire

EASSy Cable

The East African Submarine Cable System (EASSy) project consists of a 10 000 km fibre optic submarine cable along the East African coast linking Sudan to South Africa with landing points in these countries as well as in Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, Mozambique, Mayotte and Comoros. EASSy will be the first optical fibre connection for these countries to the global optical fibre network. EASSy's planned stretch of coastline from Sudan to South Africa is the longest expanse of any inhabited continent not being served by an international undersea cable system today. Should the lack of international connectivity persist, it would have a direct negative impact on the economic development of the region. EASSy is thus critical for the economic development of East and Southern Africa. The EASSy cable will be owned and operated by a consortium of internationally licensed operators, either strictly private or of mixed public-private ownership nature. The total cost of the project is estimated at about EUR 160m. Some large operators will participate in the consortium directly in their own right. Others have requested and will receive cofinancing from the EIB and several development finance institutions (DFIs) - African Development Bank (AfDB), Agence française de développement (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) and International Finance Corporation (IFC), which will channel their investments through the West

Indian Ocean Cable Company Ltd (WIOCC), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), especially created to exist alongside the direct consortium members.

Félou Hydropower

The Félou Hydropower project involves the engineering, construction, commissioning and operation of a run-of-river hydropower plant at the Félou falls, on the Senegal River, about 15 km upstream of the town of Kayes, Mali. The project will be implemented as part of the development of the hydropower potential of the States that belong to the "Organisation pour la mise en valeur du fleuve Sénégal (OMVS)", comprising Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, and joined by Guinea in 2006. The main components of the project are the rehabilitation of an existing weir, and the construction and installation of a powerhouse, three bulb turbine/generator units with a nominal capacity of 21 MWe each, a water intake structure, and a substation and overhead transmission line. The project also includes the upgrading of access roads as well as improvements to the existing dispatch centre at Manantali, the telecommunications systems operated by Société de Gestion du Barrage de Manantali (SOGEM) and the national utilities of Mali, Mauritania and Senegal.

Ethiopia-Kenya Interconnector

The Ethiopia-Kenya Power Systems Interconnection aims to connect the grids of these two East African countries, thus enabling them to benefit from the respective advantages of their own power systems, which have strong complementarities: the bulk of Kenya's generation is expected to come from geothermal and fuel-fired thermal plants, while Ethiopia possesses a large potential of hydropower, estimated at about 45 000 MW. Despite the availability of enormous energy resources, the two countries have overall electrification rates of less than 20%. This low level of access to electricity is a major barrier to social and economic development, especially in agriculture and industry. The construction of an interconnecting powerline between the two countries will increase reliability of supply by taking advantage of the hydro vs.

thermal complementarities of the two systems as well as the variability of peak demand. In addition, the two countries will be able to trade not only energy, but also reserve capacity, which would provide an incentive to coordinate outages so that the total reserve margin on the interconnected system could be reduced, resulting in savings in capital and operating costs. In the short term, the line will also enable Kenya to cover its power needs by importing cost-effective power from Ethiopia instead of relying on expensive and polluting thermal power stations in Kenya.

West Africa Power Interconnector

This EUR 3m grant funding from the Trust Fund will be used by the West African Power Pool (WAPPI I) to procure the services of an international consulting firm to conduct the preparatory studies for the planned West Africa Power Interconnector project, which will link power grids in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. The WAPP is a young regional institution, which requires support to finance the necessary preparatory studies for the projects it wants to promote. The objective of the WAPP is to establish a regional electricity market in West Africa through the development and implementation of key priority infrastructure projects that would foster power exchanges between the countries in the West African sub-region, and provide access to affordable energy resources to all Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS13).

The interconnection project will consist of the construction of approximately 1100 km of high voltage transmission lines, as well as the extension of existing, or the construction of new high voltage substations in Man (Côte d'Ivoire), Sannequille, Buchanan and Monrovia (Liberia), Nzérékore and Linsan (Guinea), and Bumbuna (Sierra Leone). The project is critical to the reconstruction efforts currently under way in the post-conflict countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone and the forest region of Guinea. One of WAPP's priorities is to interconnect these countries with Côte d'Ivoire in order to allow mutually beneficial power exchanges and a reliable electricity supply fostering economic growth and consolidating the fragile peace that has been achieved so far in these countries.

Port of Pointe Noire

The aim of the project is to help integrate Congo and countries in the sub-region (notably CAR and DRC) into international trade, and its objective is to increase maritime traffic at Pointe Noire under competitive and financially viable conditions of price and quality of services (time limits, safety, simplification of procedures) with greater involvement of the private sector. The investment programme could include the strengthening and extension of the external seawall, the rehabilitation of wharfs, public and access roads, the installation of a terminal for containers, and a wood storage zone.



Photo: EIB Photo library

LATEST NEWS on the Partnerships

13th AU-EU Ministerial Troika confirms commitment to Partnership – 14 October 2009

The 13th AU-EU Ministerial Troika took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 14 October 2009, under the joint chairmanship of the Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation, Gunilla Carlsson (current President of the Council of the EU) and of H.E Mohamed TAHIR SIALLA Secretary of international cooperation at the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International cooperation of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Senior Officials and Ministers from both continents and the European Commission took part in the discussions.



H.E Mohammed Omar MAUNDI, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to Ethiopia and to the African Union (left), H.E Commissioner Maxwell MKWEZALAMBA, AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs.
Photo: EU to AU

Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the Strategic Partnership between Africa and the EU. In this context, Ministers welcomed the progress made since the last Troika in the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES). The JAES Mid

Term Review report was presented and the various achievements and shortfalls of the thematic partnerships were discussed.

Ministers urged all stakeholders concerned to swiftly implement the recommendations of the

Mid Term Review of the first Action Plan. The EU and AU Presidencies and Commissions, and the EU Council Secretariat, were also invited to present options for improving the implementation of the JAES in view of the possible adoption of a Second Action Plan at the 2010 Africa-EU Summit.

A wide range of issues was addressed ranging from global challenges, such as the financial and economic crisis and climate change, to political and legal issues, including threats to peace and security, elections and the fight against impunity.

A call was made for greater involvement of civil society in JAES, in particular through participation in the Joint Experts Groups (JEG) and the early

Political and Security Committee (Addis Ababa, 12 October 2009) and encouraged the further intensification of cooperation between the two bodies. Particularly in light of the various crisis situations (Sudan, Somalia, Guinea, Madagascar...) which continue to pose a threat to peace and security in Africa.

Support was expressed for Africa's (AU) common position on climate change and progress being made towards implementing decisions in this field. In particular, Ministers welcomed the fact that Africa will field a team with full mandate to negotiate on climate change during the COP15 in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009. The need to provide ongoing support for institutional



M. Karel de Gucht, EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid (left) and Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation, Mrs. Gunilla Carlsson.
Photo: EU to AU

organisation of an Africa-EU Civil Society Forum. Attention was also given to the need to mobilise resources more widely. In this context, the organisation of the Africa-EU Experts Workshop on Resources for the Joint Strategy (Addis Ababa, 5-7 October 2009) was welcomed.

Ministers also welcomed the meeting between the AU Peace and Security Council and the EU

capacity strengthening was recognised and the EU reiterated its commitment to provide such support including in particular, support for the establishment of, the Unit for Climate Change and Desertification Control and for development of national action plans to implement the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative.

CROSS INTERVIEW WITH

Swedish Ambassador Olof SKOOG, Co-Chairman EU Political and Security Committee and Nigerian Ambassador Nkoyo TOYO, Co-Chairman AU Peace and Security Council (October 2009)



Co-chairman Swedish Ambassador Olof SKOOG (left) and Co-chair Nigerian Ambassador Nkoyo TOYO (right)

Why are the joint consultative meetings between the AU PSC and the EU PSC important? How do they strengthen the Africa-EU Partnership on Peace and Security?

Swedish Ambassador Olof SKOOG (Co-Chairman EU Political and Security Committee)

The meeting between the AU PSC and the EU PSC is a cornerstone in the Africa-EU Partnership on Peace and Security. The two bodies have a lot in common and benefit from sharing experiences, both concerning country specific issues and the broader aspects of conflict prevention, management and resolution. One should not underestimate the importance of people meeting in real life. The EU spends a lot of time and resources on challenges in Africa, and the partnership with the AU is key in order for this to be effective.

Nigerian Ambassador Nkoyo TOYO (Co-Chairman AU Peace and Security Council)

The joint consultation allowed for the sharing and development of new and existing ideas, the review of expected outcomes and the redesignation of new

and more appropriate goals. The AU PSC and EU PSC needs to be strengthened, given the growing commitment of EU partners to issues of Peace and Security in Africa and also globally. The process shows that we need to go beyond the provision of resources for peace work to learn from the context and experiences on both sides, if we are to strengthen the partnership and its outcomes.

What is the main outcome of this second joint consultative meeting?

Swedish Ambassador Olof SKOOG

The meeting allowed for discussions on unconstitutional changes of government in Africa and the need to further explore ways to work together, on how to strengthen capacities for the management and resolution of crises, election related disputes and tensions, on the situations and AU-EU cooperation in Somalia and Sudan, on experiences from conflict management in Europe as well as on the importance of close collaboration within the framework of the United Nations. The EU followed the African lead on Guinea, and has swiftly adopted targeted sanctions against the regime. We were also able to move forward on releasing EU-funds for AMISOM.

Nigerian Ambassador Nkoyo TOYO

Although the consultation dwelt more on the crisis in Africa and examined specific country cases in details, it also allowed for some review of what was being done in the different conflict context by both sides. A sense of partnership was built around themes, particularly on what is crucial and critical (not through reported accounts, but from shared and argued positions). Building partnerships for peace goes beyond writing proposals and reading and producing reports and statements, both PSCs recognised that consultation was the creaming of their partnership, as it allowed them to reflect on their basis for working together and also on why some kinds of action/collaboration was needed in order to achieve peace.

The Africa-EU Partnership on Peace and Security: What is your overall assessment of this partnership so far?

Swedish Ambassador Olof SKOOG

My impression is that the Africa-EU Partnership on Peace and Security has made significant progress, both at the political level and in supporting the

African Peace and Security Architecture. The fact that we have already cooperated around real operations on the African continent, such as on AMIS and AMISOM, has injected a true sense of urgency and importance in our partnership. There is of course always room for improvement and I believe both the AU and the EU remain committed to continuously work together in all relevant fora.

Nigerian Ambassador Nkoyo TOYO

The support provided by the partnership is largely from the EU partners. Member states of the AU need to work at making more contributions particularly in terms of resources to support field operations. Decisions on which conflict to prioritise/fund over the other are often affected by the resources available and there is need to have a pot of funds raised by member states which allows for greater adjustments and balances in terms of intervention. The resources available to some conflict situations far outweigh others and tend to ignore the grave consequences to human life and property. Improvement also calls for some parity of attention.

It was also underlined that businesses need predictability, stability and an efficient regulatory infrastructure to thrive. To this end, the Economic Partnership Agreements and African Regional Economic Communities should create a stable and predictable trade and investment climate. The private sector was asked to take keen interest in the EPA process.

The necessity to increase the level of public-private partnerships was stressed because it is among the best tools available to accelerate reforms.

The crosscutting issues like regional integration, innovation, competitiveness, and governance were treated in 5 breakout sessions on: Trade, Infrastructure, ICT, SME&entrepreneurship and Energy and Raw Materials. A set of specific recommendations was presented for each Working Group.

The deepening of regional integration through strengthening institutional, technical and organizational capacities in the area of standards, metrology, testing and accreditation as well as through industrial modernization, trade facilitation and reinforcing work on quality infrastructure was recommended. A greater private sector involvement in this process is needed. In the infrastructure working group, the importance of improvement of the projects pipeline in terms of predictability and quality was pointed out. High involvement of SMEs as a means of increasing the

quality of infrastructure, as well as reinforcing local ownership of projects, was recommended.

Information and Communication Technologies: a key development priority

The ICT needs to be a key development priority. The budget allocated to ICT in the context of the Africa EU partnership on infrastructures well as the partnership on science, information society and space should be increased. Greater focus on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurship should be at the heart of the Joint Africa EU Strategy. The accent should also be put on strengthening Intermediary Organisations.

The energy and raw materials group recommended development of de-centralised rural electrification, more support from the raw materials industry in energy production and more local added value in the transformation of raw materials in Africa.

(Among other participants of the forum: Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chair-person of the African Union Commission, Stefano Manservigi, EC Director General for development, Kandeh Yumkella, Director General of UNIDO, Sindiso Ngwenya, Secretary General of COMESA, Juma V. Mwapachu, Secretary General of EAC, Valentine Sendanyoye Rugwabiza, Deputy Director of WTO, Cheick Mobido Diarra, Co-Chair of the Forum and Chairman Microsoft for Africa).

EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITIES MET IN NAIROBI

The 3rd EU-Africa Business Forum held in Nairobi on 28-29 September 2009 was hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister of Kenya, Musalia Mudavadi. The two-day Forum was attended by almost 300 business leaders and leading government and international organisation representatives from Africa and Europe.

How to improve the investment and business climate.

This edition of the EU-Africa Business Forum contributed in enhancing the private sector role in the open and constructive political dialogue between Europe and Africa. The Forum was notably used as a platform for visible involvement of the private sector aiming at meeting the partnership challenges in the framework of the Joint Africa EU Strategy. Ways of improving the investment and business climate were discussed. In two panels, on win-win partnerships and on

regional integration, the leaders from international bodies and the business community shared their views about business challenges and opportunities in Africa, shared lessons and best practices and set the stage for further discussions.

It was said that the African continent needed more integration, investment and infrastructure, which would go a long way towards unlocking the huge potential that it holds. To achieve this, a dialogue with the European and African business communities was necessary.

From poverty reduction to wealth creation

There was consensus that the continent needs to change its policy objective from poverty reduction to wealth creation as well as the need to improve the availability and accessibility of project financing across African countries.

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS "CITIZENS AT THE HEART OF THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP – MOBILISING STAKEHOLDERS"



The European Development Days, held in Stockholm on 22-24 October under the slogan "Imagine our future", attracted some 6,000 participants and a similar number of virtual visitors followed the debates online. Civil society, business, academia and politicians from over 120 countries debated three themes reflecting the challenges ahead: democracy and development, tackling climate change, and responding to the global economic downturn.

December 2007. This innovative approach aims to be not only a partnership between States and institutions, but also to include citizens of both continents, such as the private sector, trade unions, NGOs and civil society in general.

How to ensure the involvement of citizens in the Africa-EU Partnership? The seminar was meant to be a "brainstorming of ideas", ahead of the Africa-EU Summit of December 2010.



H.E Alpha Oumar KONARE, former President of the African Union Commission and former President of Mali
Photo: EU

Among the 25 seminars organised, one was focused on the people-centred dimension of the Africa-EU Partnership adopted in Lisbon in

In his introductory speech, the former Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Alpha Oumar Konaré, highlighted how the

partnership between the two continents has evolved from the first Africa-EU Summit held in Cairo in 2000 to the last in 2007: from cooperation to a partnership based on an equal relationship between Africa and Europe, an inclusive process, breaking away from the colonial pact.

Key points discussed

- African representatives referred to the concept of a Pan-African Federal State that doesn't challenge the sovereignty of national States, but aims at fostering the sense of African citizenship. To this end, Europe should rather deal with African States as a whole, instead of dealing with each African country separately.

and in the EU's structures, such as the ECOSOCC of the African Union and the EESC of the European Union. The panel agreed on the importance of strengthening the role of these institutions to enable the Africa-EU Partnership to involve civil society organisations and representatives.

- The practical aspects of the Strategy should not be overlooked in defining how the commitment of the Strategy towards citizens can become a reality. To that end, concrete guidelines and practices should be developed. The conditions are now ripe to start the dialogue between civil society organisations of both sides, Africa and Europe: they could develop joint declarations and initiatives. The objective



The European Development Days: a great opportunity of meeting for all those involved in the North South dialogue, including Heads of state and representatives of Civil Society
Photo: EU

- The construction of an African citizenship must be part of the general debate about the African integration agenda. Getting a better idea of who the African citizen is through statistics and scientific data allows a better definition of support programmes for democratic governance.
- Different examples were given of the involvement of civil society, both in the AU

for the near future is to organise a first forum to start this dialogue.

- Regions and cities also play a significant role in developing countries to meet the needs of local populations.
- A central role should be assigned to the African Diaspora, as it enjoys a strategic position at the crossroads between Africa and Europe.

Conclusions

This event was meant to be a source of ideas rather than a real debate. It considered ways of mobilising stakeholders in order to deliver a commitment in favour of a "people centred" Africa-EU Partnership.

People-centred institutions like Parliaments and local authorities and non-State actors should be strengthened in order to enable civil society to

play their role and hold policy makers and donors accountable. In this context, it is important to foster the notion of African citizenship.

The civil society of both continents should be provided with a platform to share experiences and information to link development with democratic governance and to ensure that the citizen is the ultimate beneficiary of the Africa-EU partnership.

Speakers:

- Alpha Oumar Konaré, former Chairperson of the African Union Commission
- Mahamet Saleh Annadif, Ambassador of the African Union to the EU, Brussels
- Klaus Rudischhauser, Director, Directorate General for Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific States, European Commission
- Akere Muna, President of the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU ECOSOCC)
- Awil Mohamoud, Executive Director of the Africa Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC)
- Hadeel Ibrahim, Executive Director of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation
- Momar Talla Kane, President of CONGAD, Chair of the network of West and Central African NGO Platforms (REPAOC)
- Gerhard Stahl, Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions
- Michael Gahler, Member of the European Parliament, President of the Delegation for relations with the Panafrican Parliament
- Sandy Boyle, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Vice President of both the External Relations Section and of the Employees Group, Member of the ACP-EU Follow-up Committee
- Sandra Ceciari, Director for International Cooperation of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR/CCMR)
- Lars Bosselmann, Member of the EU CSO Steering Group following the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy
- Olukoshi Adebayo, Director of the Economic Commission for Africa Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP)
- Moderated by: James Mackie, Programme Coordinator: Development Policy and International Relations, ECDPM
- and Erik Nyindu, Editor in Chief, VoxAfrica

Further information:

http://eudevdays.eu/agenda/events/partnership_en.htm

L'UE POURSUIT SON ENGAGEMENT EN GUINÉE-BISSAU

La mission que l'UE a déployée, en juin 2008, en Guinée-Bissau pour aider les autorités locales à réformer le secteur de la sécurité poursuit son travail. Déployée pour une période initiale de douze mois, et après une première extension de six mois, elle vient d'être récemment prolongée jusqu'au 31 mai 2010.

forces de sécurité, définition de leurs structures, rétablissement des liens entre la police judiciaire guinéenne et Interpol, élaboration du projet de Garde nationale, relevé des besoins spécifiques en matière d'équipements, etc. Parallèlement au travail qu'elle a effectué à cet égard, EU SSR Guinea-Bissau a aussi contribué à sensibiliser



Photo: EU SSR Guinea-Bissau: Visits to Cumere Military Facilities, 9 and 22 July 2009

EU SSR Guinea-Bissau, conformément à son mandat et au principe selon lequel c'est la Guinée-Bissau elle-même qui doit être à la manœuvre, a notamment aidé les autorités nationales à préparer un nombre de textes législatifs et de documents d'organisation dans trois domaines: les forces armées, les forces de police et le ministère public. Ces paquets législatifs ont été élaborés conformément au document sur les stratégies nationales approuvé par l'assemblée nationale populaire en janvier 2008.

Malgré certaines difficultés, la plupart des objectifs fixés ont été atteints : révision et développement du cadre législatif relatif aux forces armées et aux

l'opinion publique, en général, et l'administration publique, en particulier, de l'importance que revêt la réforme du secteur de la sécurité pour le pays et de la nécessité que toute la société guinéenne s'y implique.

Même si les travaux ont bien avancé, les résultats des efforts entrepris n'ont pas encore acquis toute leur visibilité et il reste notamment au gouvernement guinéen à approuver et à mettre en œuvre de nombreuses mesures nécessaires à la réalisation effective de la réforme en cours.

Le pays connaît de grandes difficultés et certains événements tragiques récents ne sauraient être

oublés. L'assassinat, cette année, du président de la République, le Général Joao Bernardo Vieira, et d'autres dirigeants a eu un impact direct sur le travail de la mission et c'est tout le processus qui a été retardé. Dans une certaine mesure, ces événements expliquent aussi la nécessité de prolonger la mission de l'UE.



Photo: EU SSR Guinea-Bissau: Ingore - Border Police, 25 June 2009

A ce jour, la plupart des textes formant les paquets législatifs ont été rédigés et il ne manque plus que l'approbation du Conseil des ministres et ensuite de l'Assemblée nationale. Dans les mois à venir, les membres d'EU SSR Guinea-Bissau continueront d'accompagner le travail législatif en cours, et assisteront les autorités dans la préparation de projets concrets qui seront présentés à la communauté internationale dans le cadre d'une table ronde qui devrait être convoquée dès que possible. Ces projets ainsi que le nouveau cadre législatif fourniront la base pour la phase ultérieure de mise en œuvre de la réforme du secteur de la sécurité, dont le pays a tant besoin.

Dans le cadre du prolongement de son mandat, la mission de l'EU réalisera une analyse stratégique de l'engagement futur de l'UE dans le pays africain, dont le résultat sera présenté à Bruxelles en janvier prochain. Cet exercice sera déterminant pour la mission et important aussi pour l'avenir de la Guinée-Bissau. Il faut que la Mission de l'UE et les autorités nationales puissent montrer les progrès réalisés

dans le processus de réforme du secteur de la sécurité et prouver la valeur ajoutée de la présence de l'UE dans le pays si l'on veut que celle-ci demeure sur le terrain, aux côtés des partenaires internationaux et bilatéraux, lors de la phase de mise en œuvre de la réforme.

La porte est ouverte pour que l'UE poursuive son engagement en Guinée-Bissau. Mais pour qu'elle franchisse le pas, les autorités nationales doivent apporter la preuve de leur détermination à adopter toutes les mesures nécessaires à la mise en œuvre effective des réformes.

Nous nous trouvons donc à un moment crucial, non seulement parce que des décisions concernant l'éventuelle poursuite d'une action de l'UE au titre de la Politique européenne et de défense dans le pays doivent être prises

prochainement, mais aussi parce que le moment est venu pour les autorités de Guinée-Bissau de franchir un pas décisif pour la réalisation des objectifs de la réforme. Beaucoup a été fait. Des cadres législatifs relatifs aux forces armées, à la police et au ministère public ont été élaborés mais



Photo: EU SSR Guinea-Bissau: Visits to Cumere Military Facilities, 9 and 22 July 2009

il reste au gouvernement à prendre des décisions importantes quant à leur approbation et à leur mise en œuvre. Il s'agira là d'un signe clair de leur engagement à avancer résolument sur la voie de la réforme du secteur de la sécurité.

EC-AUC ADMINISTRATIVE COOPERATION: DEEPENING DIALOGUE BETWEEN PEERS

In 2002, African leaders established the African Union at the Durban Summit. The objective was to replace the Organisation of African Unity with a continental institution capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century and providing a new vision for the continent, promoting peace, good governance and integration.

The EU has been keen to support these efforts through financial and practical help. The joint strategy provides an overarching long-term

cooperation. Henrik Hololei, Head of Vice-President Kallas' Cabinet, and Irene Souka, Director-General for Personnel and Administration, were not only warmly welcomed, but enjoyed a very fruitful dialogue with their peers on the AU side, notably with Erastus J. O. Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union, and other members of his team. While the African Union Commission may be a younger institution, we face many similar challenges as administrations, as we strive to achieve good geographical and gender balances



From left to right: Mr Henrik Hololei, Mrs Irene SOUKA, H.E Erastus Mwencha, Dr Abdul HAKIM
Photo: EU

framework for Africa-EU relations. Basically, the aim is to help enable the African Union Commission to play an effective role as 'motor' of the African integration process, while at the same time deepening the Africa-EU strategic partnership. Among other things, the Support Programme therefore seeks to strengthen the African Union's (AU) institutional capacity and foster effective dialogue and cooperation between the AU and EU in areas of mutual interest. Administrative cooperation is an important area where both sides gain through exchange of best practice.

The recent Commission high-level delegation's visit to the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa marked a significant further step in strengthening and deepening administrative

among our staff, to assess merit and to cope with pressures from member states. This led to a very frank and open dialogue. For instance, the Commission side was intrigued to find out that the very strict rules introduced by the AU Commission in terms of gender balance had really produced results

To try to make the most of its limited resources, the AU Commission has also applied the 'kaizen' principle of continuous improvement (used to famous effect by large Japanese companies), to a number of its work processes. For instance, by measuring the distances and travelling times of files as they went through various procedures, they have managed to streamline certain processes and thereby make some serious efficiency gains, for

example, by deciding to move particular staff to adjacent offices. In a number of areas, the AU Commission is clearly making fast progress.

Our AU colleagues were keen to find out more from Henrik Hololei and Irene Souka about such issues as senior management appointment and mobility, our reform experience, and recruitment of seconded national experts.

Not only did the partners take stock of the implementation of the existing Memorandum of Understanding, identifying areas for possible improvements, but Irene Souka and Dr Abdul Hakim, Director of Administration and Human Resource Development, signed an agreement on implementation of European Commission-AU

was extended to cover development of joint training courses and seminars, exchange of information and reinforcement of dialogue between the European Commission and AU Commission.

Using as basis what was done with the United Nations, the Commission and AU Commission have defined an action plan to develop working arrangements for cooperation mainly in the areas of human resources management, for instance, budgetary planning and reporting, communication, control management (which includes the internal control system, accountability, risk management, and the fight against fraud and corruption), crisis management, security and ITC.

The European Commission is offering financial and



Mrs Irene SOUKA and Dr Abdul HAKIM
Photo: EU

Commission Action Plan to strengthen the exchange of officials, thereby bolstering administrative cooperation and exchange of know-how. Preparations are now being made for a further series of exchanges, with some AU officials coming to key DG ADMIN, SG and DG BUDG services for a two-week exchange and a DG ADMIN head of unit going to spend a few months in Addis Ababa.

Administrative cooperation continues to grow. The original Memorandum of Understanding only covered the exchange of officials and secondment of trainees. Through an addendum, cooperation

practical help in building the AU's IT infrastructure, as this is so crucial to the functioning of many work processes. The AU Commission would particularly like to have an integrated IT system like Sysper 2, as this would bring further significant gains in efficiency and coherence for the institution and its staff.

As part of this process of growing cooperation, high-level meetings are planned. The next time, it will be our turn in Brussels to return the hospitality to our AU colleagues.

LE BAZAR DIPLOMATIQUE FAIT RECETTE

Environ 8000 visiteurs ont sillonné les allées du bazar diplomatique, samedi 28 novembre, dans l'enceinte du siège de l'Union Africaine.

L'épouse du Premier Ministre Meles, Mme Azeb Mesfin, a inauguré l'événement; le Président Ping est venu honorer le bazar d'une visite.

Sushi japonais, caipirinha brésilien, jus de maracuja rwandais, rillettes et fromages français, masques congolais, pagnes nigériens...un vrai bazar.



La première dame, Mme Azeb Musfin, inaugure le bazar
Photo: UE

Le Président Ping avec Kristien Vervaeke et Suhad Belliard
Photo: Ambassade de France

GREAT RUN, GREAT FUN!



More than 30.000 participated on 22 November in the 10 Km of Addis, organised by the Great Ethiopian Run. World stars Haile Gebreselassie and Paula Radcliffe congratulated the winners of the Ambassadors race: (1) Jens Petter Kjemprud, Norway; (2) Antonio Sanchez-Benedito Gaspar (Spain) and (3) Koen Vervaeke (EU/AU).



PERSONALIA

Departure

H.E M. Zdenek DOBIAS, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic and the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the African Union as well as the Permanent Representative of the Czech republic to the United Nation Economic Commission for Africa has, upon completion of his tour of duty, left the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for good on October 31, 2009.

M. Frantisek DROZDEK, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Czech Republic has, upon completion of his tour of duty, left the federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for good on October 22, 2009.

Austrian Ambassador H. E.Prof. Rudolf AGSTNER will be leaving the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia definitively on the 26th of November.

Arrival

Ms. Jana KORBELOVA has arrived to Addis Ababa to assume her post as First secretary, Chargée d'affaires Czech Embassy.

Frederic Chole, Second Counsellor of the Embassy of France, is now in charge of African Union issues, replacing M. Jérôme BRESSON.

UPCOMING Events

December 2009

- 2/12** Consultative meeting UNIFEM on proposed Programme of support to the African Union
Addis Ababa
- 1-2/12** Donor Support Group Meeting African Union/ UN Economic Commission for Africa
Addis Ababa
- 1-4/12** 1st AMESD Forum (African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development)
Kinshasa
- 2-4/12** African Union-Regions Steering committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)
Bamako
- 15-16/12** UN Conference on bridging the peace and development nexus, the role and capacities of African regional and subregional organisations
Addis Ababa
- 7-18/12** Copenhagen climate conference – **Copenhagen**
- 9-11/12** Senior Officials and Chief executives meeting of the African Union Commission and the Regional Economic Communities/ Regional mechanisms (Special session with the European Commission) - **Akkasombo (Accra)**

USEFUL Links

- The Trust Fund website <http://www.eu-africa-infrastructure-tf.net/>
- EU Africa Business Forum <http://www.euafrica-businessforum.org/>
http://ec.europa.eu/development/services/news_en.cfm
- La Banque Africaine de Développement www.afdb.org/fr/
- Le site conjoint du partenariat Europe-Afrique Le NEPAD www.nepad.org
- Partnership Dialogue Facility www.euei-pdf.org
- The second Energy Facility <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/energy-facility>
- Le site du partenariat <http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org>
- Le site de l'Union africaine <http://www.africa-union.org>
- European Development Days http://eudevdays.eu/agenda/events/partnership_en.htm
- Africa Progress www.africaprogresspanel.org