



AU CŒUR DU PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UNION EUROPÉENNE



INSIDE THE AFRICA - EUROPEAN UNION PARTNERSHIP



Photo: Richard James ARGIRIOU (EU to AU)

Le partenariat Afrique Europe et le ballon ovale:
Chaque samedi à Addis Abeba, Britanniques, Ethiopiens, Français, Italiens, Kenyans, Portugais, Sud Africains, Zimbabwéens (on en oublie)...se retrouvent au sein du Nyala Rugby Club



Lettre d'information de la Délégation de l'Union Européenne auprès de l'Union Africaine



Photo: Richard James ARGIRIOU (EU to AU)

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DEAR READER, CHER LECTEUR,

Welcome to LINK!, in this edition we take a close look at the situation of Human Rights. This is truly a “Shared Value” due to the universality of the concept and acceptance of the standards. In terms of the EU and Africa it is a strong pillar in the Joint Partnership and as Commissioner Joiner says in her interview “We stand before an opportunity to shape history.” Human Rights “is not just a virtue but a fundamental to Development”, a position that is definitely reflected in the European Union. The Advisor on Human Rights in the area of Common Foreign and Security Policy, Riina Kionka, shares this sentiment when she says that “we need to make sure from the start that human rights - for all humans - are taken into account”. She also talks of the uniqueness of the Human Rights Dialogue with the AU as it is the only Union to Union Dialogue.

However Human Rights need to be put into action to have meaning and so we also look at the work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, (ACHPR) with an interview with the Chair Reine ALAPINI-GANSOU, who explains that the ACHPR has been making judgments in Human Rights cases for over 20 years and looks forward to closer co-operation with the EU. She will attend the next AU –EU HR dialogue where she will also take the

opportunity to deepen ties with the EU on the subject of Human Rights. We also have some useful information about the African Court of Human and Peoples’ Rights. The news hot off the press is that the African Court and Commission have now harmonized their Rules of Procedure which allows for the transfer of cases from the Commission to the Court, a welcome development that deserves congratulations to all those who worked so tirelessly to make it happen.

Le Partenariat Gouvernance Démocratique et Droits de l’Homme est le cadre dans lequel s’effectue le travail conjoint EU-AU en matière de Droits de l’Homme. Les entretiens avec les chefs de file soulignent les avancées obtenues depuis la dernière réunion d’experts. Nous avons déjà beaucoup fait, même s’il nous reste encore beaucoup de travail. Notre ami Tarek Ghoneim, Ambassadeur d’Egypte, l’a très bien dit: “Nous voyons le partenariat progresser, au regard notamment de l’engagement des deux parties.”

Ce mois-ci, LINK! n’évoque pas seulement les Droits de l’Homme: il relate également l’important travail réalisé par la réunion informelle d’experts MEDIA DEV ainsi que la visite à Bruxelles du Président Thabo Mbeki, président du Panel de haut niveau de L’UA sur le Soudan. Il y a rencontré Catherine Ashton, Haute Représentante de l’UE pour les affaires étrangères et la politique de sécurité. A l’issue de l’entretien, la Haute Représentante a indiqué que “L’Union Européenne soutient totalement le Président Mbeki et les importants efforts qu’il déploie”. Nous saluons par ailleurs l’initiative prise par l’UA de réunir à Addis Abeba, ces 7 et 8 mai, l’ONU et tous les partenaires pour discuter ensemble de la politique à suivre suite aux élections au Soudan.

Enfin, nous avons récemment abordé de façon très fructueuse, au cours d’une réunion à laquelle j’assistais, un point important du partenariat EU-AU: le Fonds de renforcement des capacités de 55 millions d’euros. Nous attendons tous une accélération de la mise en œuvre de ce fonds afin de renforcer encore davantage notre partenariat.

Au moment où vous lirez ces quelques lignes, nous aurons célébré ensemble à Addis Abeba la journée de l’Europe. Cette édition de LINK! du mois d’Avril souhaite ainsi partager avec vous le message de notre Haute Représentante Catherine Ashton. *Portons un toast à l’Union européenne et à ses dirigeants.*

Koen Vervaeke

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

ENTRETIEN du mois

“...no one AU Member State should be indifferent to the human rights challenges in another Member State. Indeed, human rights protection and promotion necessitate a concerted and collective approach both at the regional and continental levels.”

Interview with **Julia Dolly JOINER, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs.**

What is the role of the African Union and the African Union Commission in advancing human rights in Africa?

The role of the African Union (AU) and its Commission in the promotion and protection of human rights is situated within a wider commitment to sustainable development. Through several policy pronouncements, African Union Member States have asserted that human rights and indeed shared values are not just a virtue; they are fundamental to development. This perspective and the actions it embodies are reflected in the Constitutive Act of The African Union. As is well known, the commitment has been translated into action and the African Union now has five treaties namely,

- 1) the Convention on Specific Aspects of the Refugee problem in Africa,
- 2) the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights,
- 3) the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child,
- 4) the Protocol on the establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights and



Julia Dolly JOINER, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs
Photo: AU

- 5) the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

On the whole, the work of the Union is reflected in the activities of three mechanisms that have been established - the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

If we look towards an operational understanding of the role and mandate of the African Union Commission (AUC), it will be noted that it is to promote, facilitate, coordinate and encourage the rule of law and respect of human and peoples’ rights. This role is rooted in a policy approach that no one AU Member State should be indifferent to the human rights challenges in another Member State. Indeed, human rights protection and promotion necessitate a concerted and collective approach both at the regional and continental levels.

In appreciating the role of the AU in the terrain of human rights, it is important to recognise that Member States of the AU reserve the primary responsibility in promoting and protecting human and peoples’ rights. The AUC seeks to complement the primary responsibility of Member States in the realm of human rights by facilitating greater coordination on human rights matters at both regional and continental levels. The Commission, in playing this role, works towards initiating,

developing and implementing common policy positions as a measure to enhance policy and program convergence amongst Member States of the AU. Furthermore, in promoting human rights, the Commission is mandated to articulate and defend the AU's position on human rights in international fora. To this end, the AUC seeks to build partnership with Africa's development partners as a strategic measure to move forward Africa's Human Rights agenda.

The daily work of the African Union Commission therefore is anchored on the following activity areas:

- a) policy initiation, development and implementation;
- b) formalizing, consolidating and promoting closer cooperation between AU Organs and other stakeholders;
- c) establishing a coordinating mechanism of regional and continental efforts for the internalization and implementation of the African Governance and Human Rights agenda; and
- d) enhancing the capacity of AU Organs and institutions in the promotion, evaluation and monitoring of governance trends.

How do you view the Cooperation between Africa and Europe on human rights?

Our Cooperation is founded on the premise that human rights promotion and protection is an evolving process that demands, not only, experience sharing and mutual support, but also differentiated capacity and responsibility. The AU views its collaboration with Europe in the realm of human rights in functionalist terms. The Cooperation is a strategic measure to enhance the African Human Rights agenda.

Most often, when we talk about Africa-Europe collaboration in the realm of human rights, we tend only to appreciate this collaboration within a multilateral framework. However, practice suggests that collaboration is situated at three levels: bilateral, regional and continental. It is hence important to note that the impact of these collaborations at different levels will be dependent on the extent to which there is policy and results coherence across all levels. With respect to the collaboration at continental level, a productive partnership is defined by reciprocity, trust and recognition of interdependence. Africa and Europe entered a new stage of partnership and

cooperation during the Lisbon Summit in December 2007. This Summit established the basis for forging stronger relationships and for the articulation of joint strategies in, amongst others, Governance and Human Rights.

Reflecting on what has unfolded over the past three years and as we construct a perspective on the future, it is imperative to recognise that cooperation and partnership is as much about the process of engagement, as it is about the content of the relationship. Although it has taken time, I can, with confidence, affirm the claim that we have achieved much in the process and have established lasting and deeper cooperative relationships between the African Union and European Union. We have always recognised that such relationships are fundamental, as they serve to build on an understanding of the constraints, challenges and opportunities that we all confront in Governance and Human Rights.

The understandings that emerge from interactions have proven to be very significant in our efforts to establish joint action and shared responsibility within the formal processes of the Cooperation. Whilst the movement from understanding towards action has been slow, we are now beginning to witness more focused efforts within the Partnership. African and European Member States participating in the Joint Africa-EU Strategy have agreed on the need to establish a Joint Governance and Human Rights Platform as a basis for enhanced cooperation at the global level. This is a very important step forward and will serve to shape the direction of future cooperation in Governance and Human Rights.

As we acknowledge progress and recognise that the Cooperation has indeed moved to a new level, it is also imperative that we become mindful of the challenge that still stands before us. At the level of policy, it would seem expedient that within the partnership, we move rapidly towards engagements and actions that make a positive difference. Such an approach would make us look at the Partnership from the perspective of all our peoples. It is thus imperative that we begin to demonstrate, beyond the meeting of Officials, that the Partnership is significant and that we will see over time the tangible benefits of dialogue and cooperation.

In our bid to move the Cooperation between Africa and Europe in the area of human rights to a new level of demonstrable action, we do recognize that we live in a world where our humanity and freedom

are best expressed through our interactions with others and a world where the rights we express and the harmony we seek are intertwined with the rights and freedoms of all peoples. Within the African Union and indeed within the Cooperation established with the European Union, we are all conscious of the fact that Governance and Human Rights are a collective responsibility and must be predicated on firm and committed partnerships. Our Partnership and Cooperation thus continues to be a terrain of immense significance and an opportunity to change the world for the better of all!

How can both continents better support each other in the area of human rights?

First and foremost, the Cooperation must take guidance from the commitment established by Heads of State and Government during the 2007 Lisbon Summit. If we look back at that Summit, it will be recognized that the Strategic Partnership adopted was premised on mutual support and represented a move away from a donor-recipient relationship and a relationship purely defined by trade. This was most significant, as it allowed us to engage with greater understanding of actions and realities that contradict the propensity towards working on the basis of economic self-interests only.

Looking closely at what has unfolded and how we can better support each other, we must examine the realities of how we can use the Lisbon commitment to confront the challenges we all face in Governance and Human Rights. Within Africa, we stand witness to many situations of deprivation emanating from unequal power relations and from historical episodes of dispossession. As a first measure in more intensive support, it becomes incumbent upon us to appreciate the realities faced and to work collectively as we initiate measures to change the world we live. In the process, it is equally important for us to recognize that Africa itself cannot carry the sole burden of correcting inherited systems and structures that perpetuate historic dispossession. European history is intertwined with African history. Supporting Africa is about supporting Europe and indeed about mutual support. Even as we move away from past donor-recipient relationships, we cannot avoid a situation in which there needs to be a deliberate transfer of resources from Europe to Africa. The simple reality is that, as we establish and institute measures to change the face of Governance and Human Rights

in Africa, we will continue to need financial assistance for African-established initiatives. Such assistance cannot be predicated on conditionalities that make it difficult to confront and re-shape historical patterns of dispossession.

If we are to move towards providing practical expression on how we can assist each other better, I must state that we are indeed on a correct path into the future. Through the work of the Africa-EU Informal Joint Expert Group (IJEG), we are working towards establishing a joint Platform for Dialogue on Democratic Governance and Human Rights, which aims at enhancing cooperation between the two Continents, and to promote and protect human rights in Africa and Europe. As momentum is established in this process, I am certain that matters of complexity and the difficulties we all confront would become increasingly matters which find expression in practice and serve as demonstrable mutual support activities.

In reflecting on developments internationally in Governance and Human Rights, it is a known fact that Africa is often marginal when it comes to important processes because of our limited resources and access. To overcome these, the Partnership would be most significant as it could serve as the basis for strengthening Africa's voice and perspective in the global policy arena. Such an approach would serve all our purposes, as even Europe is always seeking ways to overcome the unilateralism that we experience globally. Our continued interactions would also serve to ensure that we engage in dialogue around differential human rights instruments and the need to strengthen African instruments and perspectives on challenges we confront as a collective.

I will conclude by saying that we stand before an opportunity to shape history and to demonstrate that Africa and Europe can move beyond the history of dispossession and unequal trade that for far too long dominated our relationships and the dialogue they embody. In the efforts to support each other better, we must admit that this is a process and will take time. We must also accept that whilst the foundations were established in Lisbon, it is only through positive efforts by all that we can reach a stage where we would be together in situations that are similar and within which we witness the kind of Governance and Human Rights that we all want.

STATEMENT BY CATHERINE ASHTON, HIGH REPRESENTATIVE AND VICE- PRESIDENT OF THE EC, AT THE OCCASION OF EUROPE DAY 2010 ON 9TH MAY

Exactly 60 years ago on 9 May 1950 the declaration of the great European Robert Schuman laid the ground for a united, stable and peaceful Europe, that would emerge from the ashes of two devastating world wars.

This historical declaration and its great significance continue to lead the integration project on the European continent and inspire partnerships we forge beyond the borders of Europe.



Catherine ASHTON, High Representative and Vice-President of the EC
Photo: EU

Europe Day has become the symbol of a new beginning, of a free and successful way of peaceful cooperation between sovereign nations, based on shared values and common interests such as peace, solidarity, democracy, welfare of people and the rule of law.

On the occasion of Europe Day 2010 I would like to emphasize the high importance that Europe is giving to its partners around the world. Only together will we be able to create policies and initiatives to tackle the challenges the world is facing in the 21st century.

We have to find effective answers on a wide range of risks and threats: the fragility of states,

terrorism, organised crime as well as the wider issues that affect our citizens: energy, climate change and the competition for natural resources, pandemics, illegal migration and human trafficking, financial and economic issues, trade, health and demography.

Europeans are united in the way they perceive foreign policy and the external action. There is consensus for more cooperation, coherence, visibility and joint action. The European Union is reshaping its institutional capabilities to respond adequately to the new challenges.

At the heart of these institutional changes is the European External Action Service (EEAS), one of the central innovations of the Lisbon Treaty that came into force on 1st December 2009. After I presented the proposal for the setting up of the service at the end of March 2010, I would like to see it up and running by the end of this year.

The EEAS will strengthen the impact of EU values and interests around the globe. It will enable the EU to have a more ambitious, effective, coherent and visible foreign policy.

The EEAS will be our principal interface with international partners; i.e. Europe's "eyes, ears and face" in our day-to-day dealings abroad. It will promote comprehensive policies in a strategic manner.

I am aware that current institutional developments are watched closely by our partners around the world. I am convinced that the EEAS will bring a new level of comprehension and cooperation to our partnerships, to the benefit of us all. The EEAS will be set up 60 years after the adoption of the Schuman declaration, but very much in its spirit.

Happy Europe Day!

DOSSIER DROITS DE L'HOMME

1. The Human Rights Strategy for Africa
2. Three questions to Mrs. Riina KIONKA and Reine ALAPINIGANSOU
3. Vu d'Addis...
4. What is the African Court on Human and People's Rights?

THE HUMAN RIGHTS STRATEGY FOR AFRICA

Africa, through the leadership of the African Union (AU), has developed a number of initiatives aimed at promoting and protecting

human rights in Africa. Similarly, the United Nations has also established global human rights initiatives that find practical expression in the African



Preparing for the future: African Human Rights Strategy paved the way
Photo: Lamin JADAMA

continent. The multiplicity of Human Rights initiatives and institutional entities reflects a comprehensive but uncoordinated approach to the collective human rights mandates.

To facilitate coordinative impact and action, AU human rights organs gathered at a consultative meeting organised by the ACHPR in Ouagadougou in September 2008. The meeting was attended by the representatives/members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR), the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) and the Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission (DPA-AUC). The meeting recommended that AU organs should establish a mechanism where there will be regular consultations and annual meetings. With a view to avoiding duplication of activities, the meeting called on all the organs to share information on their respective calendar of activities, planned missions, annual work plans and reports.

As a follow-up to the Ouagadougou meeting and the UN commitment to enhance the capacity of the AU, the Office of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Union Commission (AUC) embarked on an initiative to facilitate the process of developing a comprehensive human rights strategy for Africa. A meeting on a draft report on mapping the African Human Rights System took place in Arusha, Tanzania on 25 November 2009. This meeting recommended that AU leadership over the process be established through further consultations between all AU organs with a Human Rights mandate.

In response to the outcomes of the Ouagadougou meeting, the Department of Political Affairs of the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the OHCHR, UNECA, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights organized a meeting on 11-13 March 2010 in Banjul, the Gambia, to deepen the dialogue and establish African Union policy leadership over the strategic direction of Human Rights initiatives in Africa.

No doubt that the AU Constitutive Act provides a clear mandate to promote and protect human rights on the continent. Therefore, the need for coordinated actions and interventions within the African Union is informed by the imperative of optimising the impact of various initiatives. Within this context, the approved AUC Strategic Plan (2009-2012) calls for enhanced coordinated actions amongst AU organs and serves as a basis for a deep reflection on how to enhance coordination amongst AU organs and institutions with human rights mandate and between other institutions and stakeholders on the Continent.

The African Union Commission (AUC) and the AU organs with Human Rights Mandate are in the process of developing a Human Rights Strategy for Africa. Developing a Human Rights Strategy is in line with the AU's decision to establish an African Governance Architecture and efforts are intensified to ensure that the Human Rights Strategy is completed this year, ready on time for the 2011 AU Summit on Shared Values in Africa as human rights constitute a key shared value on the continent.

Salah S. Hammad
Human Rights Expert
Department of Political Affairs, AUC

THREE QUESTIONS TO ...

Riina KIONKA, Advisor on Human Rights in the area of CFSP

You are working on the Human Rights Dialogue between the EU and non EU countries. How does the African Union dialogue fit in within this system?

The Human Rights Dialogue with the AU is one of over forty dedicated human rights dialogues and consultations which the European Union conducts with non-EU countries and entities. We have



Mrs Riina KIONKA
Photo: EU

various ways of talking about human rights depending on the country or entity involved, what their interests are and on the nature of the EU's concerns.

Our discussions with the African

Union are unique in that this is a Union-to-Union dialogue, rather than one with a country per se. This itself brings with it benefits and challenges that are unlike other dialogues. We in the EU are very proud of the fact that one of the pillars of the EU Strategy for Africa is Human Rights. This in itself is a strong political signal from our leaderships that Human Rights are at the very centre of the EU-AU relationship.

In your point of view, how can the two continents support each other with regards to Human Rights?

Well I think that our Human Rights Dialogue has taken up the task of defining and answering that very question. Both our continents have converging agendas on a number of points. For example, the EU has been supporting the strengthening of the AU's work on election observation, based on its own decade-long experience in this field. We have also been cooperating on the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, by drawing common lessons on their implementation and helping the AU reinforce the gender aspects of its peace support operations. We have also discussed other problems we both face, such as ways in which the treatment of migrants and refugees can be improved in Africa and in Europe.

THREE QUESTIONS TO ...

Reine ALAPINI-GANSOU, Chair of the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights



Reine ALAPINI-GANSOU, Chair of the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights
Photo: Mohamed JATA

What would you like to achieve during your chairmanship?

I am acting in my new capacity as chair since 11,2009.

I have a vision for two main areas :

1. More visibility for the Commission in the international arena and more cooperation with all organs dealing in HR.
2. Capacity building of the Commission itself of all the staff and commissioners. The Commission is now 24 years old, but the members are not permanent, we need more capacity to help us fulfil their mandate. I would also like to link thematic areas of concern to the UN special procedures and committees.

We have 5 special mechanisms in the Commission, Women, Human Rights Defenders, Freedom of Expression and Information, Detention and Prisons and Refugees and Internally Displaced People. We have working groups on the death penalty, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Elderly and people with disability, the extractive industries

and working group that deals with specific administrative issues of the Commission. All this is in addition to the work of the commissioners who have both thematic and geographical responsibilities.

What are your main achievements and challenges?

The Commission has been making judgment in HR cases for over twenty years. Many of these judgments have been internationally groundbreaking. We have been developing jurisprudence in the Commission, however it is the impact on the ground that is important, where state parties have violated HR it is important that they must compensate the injured parties. Now that the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights is in existence if state parties don't execute our judgments the court will also have a role, once our respective roles of procedure have been harmonised. State party violations are a challenge on every continent. The Commission will continue to work in synergy with all actors in the field of HR to expose the violations but also to keep up a dialogue with the state parties to educate and encourage them to uphold HR.

What is the relationship with the EU?

My first vision is for better cooperation with all organs working in HR and in this respect the EU can be very helpful. The joint partnership on good governance and HR is a very useful tool as it recognises the need for greater cooperation in international fora.

The Commission also always participates in the EU/AU HR dialogue. I am glad that EU is represented at the Africa HR strategy conference where we are thinking to improve capacity of all African organs that deal with HR. This strategy was born as a UN resolution that tasks the AU to identify the different challenges and to promote and protect HR on the continent.

At the fourteenth summit of the AU the African Commission committed itself to do all it can to support this strategy. I see this strategy as not just an African responsibility but one that is shared by the UN, Europe and the AU; together we all have an interest in supporting HR in Africa.

VU D'ADDIS...

La troisième réunion du Groupe informel d'experts conjoints du Partenariat Gouvernance Démocratique et Droits de l'Homme s'est tenue à Addis Abeba, les 13-14 Avril 2010

Pour LINK!, les co chefs de file allemands, portugais et égyptiens font le point sur l'événement.

Lasia BLOSS

Conseillère à la Représentation permanente de l'Allemagne auprès de l'Union Européenne

Carolina QUINA

Conseillère à la Représentante permanente de la République du Portugal auprès de l'Union Européenne



les chefs de file européens: Carolina QUINA (gauche), Lasia BLOSS (droite)
Photo: EU to the AU delegation

Quel est votre première appréciation de cette réunion?

La troisième réunion du Groupe informel d'Experts Conjoints (iJEG) a été particulièrement fructueuse car de nombreuses décisions ont été

adoptées sur des sujets qui ont été sur l'ordre du jour des iJEG précédentes. Le partenariat Afrique-Union Européenne en matière de gouvernance démocratique et de Droits de l'Homme a pour caractéristique de traiter de sujets parfois

politiquement très sensibles. L'atmosphère était très positive, et le niveau de représentation très satisfaisant, notamment du côté africain.

Quels sont les premières avancées obtenues?

Elles sont multiples. Nous avons d'abord adopté les termes de référence pour l'atelier qui vise à définir les modalités d'une plateforme de dialogue entre les deux continents sur des questions liées à la bonne gouvernance et aux Droits de l'Homme. Cet atelier devrait se tenir à Addis Abeba les 13 et 14 septembre, juste avant la quatrième réunion du iJEG les 15 et 16 septembre.

Des progrès substantiels ont été également réalisés en ce qui concerne l'identification de sujets en vue d'une coopération renforcée au sein des instances internationales entre les deux continents. Ces sujets incluent notamment les Droits des enfants, les Droits des personnes handicapées, les Droits économiques, sociaux et culturels.

Nous avons par ailleurs pris une décision importante sur nos méthodes de travail au sein du iJEG, en validant ensemble une proposition qui précise nos règles de travail en commun. Un autre élément positif a été la présentation par le Secrétariat du NEPAD des grandes lignes d'un atelier sur le Mécanisme Africain d'Evaluation entre Pairs (MAEP). Ce dossier sera abordé lors du prochain iJEG et l'Union Européenne examinera la façon dont elle peut le soutenir.

Pour ce qui est du droit à l'accès à l'eau, la partie africaine a accueilli favorablement la présentation d'un "Non-paper" européen sur ce sujet. La partie africaine a d'ailleurs souligné l'importance cruciale de ce dossier. Ce droit peut en effet être considéré comme un Droit à la vie. Cela sera discuté à nouveau et plus profondément lors du prochain iJEG en septembre, nous identifierons alors les pistes permettant une coopération plus étroite dans ce domaine.

Enfin, les choses ont également avancé dans le domaine de la culture et des biens culturels, cet aspect faisant également partie de notre partenariat. Une feuille de route, actualisée par la Commission européenne incluant tous les projets 2010-2011, a été présentée. Une initiative importante sera très prochainement lancée: "Inventaire, protection et promotion des biens culturels africains". Rappelons également qu'une exposition itinérante sera également lancée dans le cadre du sommet Afrique – Union Européenne en 2010, en rapport avec la célébration du cinquantenaire des indépendances africaines. Elle se tiendra dans diverses capitales africaines, d'abord à Tripoli au moment du sommet, ensuite à Addis Abeba et à Ouagadougou. D'autres pays sont invités à présenter leurs candidatures.

Quel avenir prêtez-vous à ce partenariat?

Au cours de cette réunion, nous avons abouti à des accords importants, qui, nous l'espérons, vont nous permettre d'avancer. Nous allons discuter en septembre d'un certain nombre d'options liées au second Plan d'action qui devrait identifier un nombre plus limité d'actions mais dont l'impact sera plus important, particulièrement au niveau régional et continental. Les progrès accomplis lors de cette réunion et l'esprit de coopération qui l'a guidée sont très encourageants.

En même temps, nous souhaitons rester très réalistes et conscients des difficultés qui nous attendent. Pour mettre en œuvre tous les engagements de la feuille de route, il faudra une plus grande mobilisation des ressources, notamment humaines et techniques. Il est également crucial de mobiliser davantage les experts dans les domaines techniques et de garantir leur permanence afin d'éviter des rotations trop nombreuses, préjudiciables à notre travail en commun.

H.E. Tarek GHONEIM, Egyptian Ambassador to Ethiopia



L'un des chefs de file africain: M.Tarek Ghoneim, Ambassadeur de la République Arabe d'Egypte auprès de l'Ethiopie
Photo: EU to AU

Have you had a successful meeting?

Yes, In general the meeting was very successful, both sides deepened their cooperation and understanding regarding the pillars of the partnership. The meetings are improving, and one can say that we have leaped since the first meeting of the iJEG. Egypt is very satisfied by the progress in this iJEG.

Did the meeting meet its objectives?

The meeting met its objectives, and even more issues were introduced such as combating racism, racial discrimination and incitement to racial hatred and xenophobia which Africa sees as issues of great importance that need to be addressed, also the promotion of African Peer review Mechanism.

What are the main achievements from your point of view?

The main achievement from Egypt's point of view

- To identify concrete areas of cooperation in international human rights fora.

- To agree on guidelines of the functioning of the iJEG.
- To ensure funds for the African projects in the area of cultural goods and cooperation between Europe and Africa.
- To discuss ongoing African and European efforts to strengthen their governance architecture and to further promote and protect human rights.

How do you see the partnership going in the future?

We see the partnership moving forward, especially when we look at the commitment from both sides. Egypt can feel the real commitment from Africa and from the EU side to push this partnership forward. However we would like to stress that all pillars and tracks of this partnership should move simultaneously and parallel and that no aspect should be left out or overshadowed by another track. Also a good mechanism of implementing concrete projects for the benefit of both sides alike.

WHAT IS THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS?

The Court has the competence to take final and binding decisions on human rights violations perpetrated by AU Member States.

The competence of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (Court) is based on its jurisdiction and the law that it will apply when exercising this jurisdiction.

How was the Court established?

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights was established by the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (Court's Protocol). The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Charter) is the main African human rights instrument that sets out the rights and duties relating to human and peoples' rights. The Charter establishes the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (Commission), which is a quasi-judicial body that monitors the implementation of the Charter. In 1998, the 34th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity (now the African Union), meeting in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, adopted the Court's Protocol. This Protocol entered into force on 25 January 2004, paving the way for the operationalisation of the Court.

What is the Court's Mission?

The Court's mission is to complement and reinforce the functions of the Commission in promoting and protecting human and peoples' rights, freedoms and duties in African Union Member States.

How is the Court composed?

The Court is composed of eleven judges, nationals of Member States of the African Union elected in an individual capacity. There are no two judges who are nationals of the same State. The judges are elected by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union for a period of six years and may be reelected only once. For the purposes of continuity, the incepting judges are allocated a term of two, four and six years and if thereafter they are elected, their second term will be for six years. All judges except the President perform their functions on a part-time basis. The President of the Court is Hon. Dr. Jean Mutsinzi.

What is the Court's Jurisdiction?

The Court has jurisdiction over all cases and disputes submitted to it regarding the

interpretation and application of the Charter, the Court's Protocol and any other relevant human rights instrument ratified by the concerned States.

- **Advisory Jurisdiction**
The Court may, at the request of a Member State of the African Union, any of the organs of the African Union, or any African organisation recognised by the African Union, provide an opinion on any legal matter relating to the Charter or any other relevant human rights instruments, provided that the subject matter of the opinion is not related to a matter being examined by the Commission.
- **Contentious Jurisdiction**
The Court can deal with all cases and disputes submitted to it concerning interpretation and application of the Charter, the Protocol and any other relevant human rights instrument ratified by the States concerned.
- **Amicable settlements**
The Court also has jurisdiction to promote amicable settlement in cases pending before it in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.

Who can make an Application to the Court?

- The Commission
- A State party to the Court's Protocol which has lodged a complaint before the Commission
- A State party to the Court's Protocol against which the complaint has been lodged at the Commission
- A State party to the Court's Protocol whose citizen is a victim of a human rights violation
- African Intergovernmental Organisations
- State parties to the Court's Protocol with an interest in a case may be permitted by the Court to join the proceedings
- Relevant non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with Observer Status before the Commission, and individuals can institute cases directly before the Court, if the State party from which they come from has made a declaration allowing such direct applications.

Source: <http://www.african-court.org/fr/accueil/>

DERNIERES NOUVELLES du Partenariat

MEDIA DEV: PROCHAIN LANCEMENT D'UN PORTAIL ET D'UN RÉSEAU PANAFRICAINS DES MÉDIAS

Dans le droit fil du Forum media et Développement qui s'était tenu à Ouagadougou en Septembre 2008, une cinquantaine d'acteurs médiatiques de haut niveau d'Afrique et d'Europe se sont réunis à Addis Abeba du 23 au 25 mars 2010.

Deux recommandations majeures ont été adoptées par les experts, réunis à l'initiative commune des Commissions de l'Union africaine et de l'Union européenne: le lancement prochain d'un portail panafricain des médias et la prochaine mise sur pied d'un réseau panafricain des médias.

Réseau panafricain des médias

Le réseau panafricain des médias viendra compléter l'action du Portail. Ce nouvel outil, ouvert aux chercheurs et aux professionnels évoluant dans le secteur des médias, devra constituer une nouvelle plateforme dédiée au partage et au dialogue sur les questions liées à la thématique "Médias et Développement" au niveau africain. Chaque année, des représentants des groupes de médias de toute la zone Afrique, notamment les ONG et les associations de professionnels, les universitaires, les Institutions et les Fondations, en vue de donner à la Commission de



Participants du séminaire

Photo: EU to the AU



Le Président Jean PING s'est longuement entretenu avec les participants

Photo: EU to the AU

Portail panafricain des médias

Le portail panafricain constituera une base de données unique dans le domaine des médias africains. Il s'agit d'un outil concret qui pourra devenir un point d'échange central du savoir. Il contribuera à améliorer la compréhension de la situation des médias en Afrique et permettra ainsi des actions mieux informées dans ce domaine. Un groupe de réflexion, composé d'une quinzaine de représentants de structures institutionnelles et médiatiques, proposera, dans un proche délai, un cahier des charges du portail.

l'Union Africaine un état de la situation des médias sur le continent.

En Septembre 2008, à Ouagadougou, le Forum Media et Développement avait dégagé des positions communes quant au rôle des médias libres et impartiaux, fondés sur des élections libres et justes, un système administratif, politique, judiciaire et économique garantissant l'accès égal à tous les citoyens, à une démocratie vivante et à une prospérité équitablement partagée.

THABO MBEKI MEETS WITH HR/VP ASHTON

Sudan: a test case for the EU/AU partnership

Sudan is becoming an important test of the strategic partnership between the EU and the AU for peace and stability in Africa. On March 23, former President of South Africa Thabo Mbeki, in his capacity as the Head of the AU Panel on Sudan visited Brussels where he met with the newly appointed EU High Representative, Baroness Catherine Ashton, and Commissioner for Development Andris PIEBALGS as well as the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament and the EU Political and Security Committee. The visit took place at a crucial moment for the Sudan, just a few days before the country's general elections and in view of the holding of an historical referendum on the self-determination in South Sudan on January 2011.



High Representative Catherine Ashton and former South African President Thabo Mbeki
Photo: EU

The visit illustrates the growing collaboration between Europe and Africa in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) as well as to ensure that justice is done in Darfur. "The EU fully supports President Mbeki in his important efforts to facilitate and mediate in a difficult and challenging situation in Sudan" EU HR Ashton stated following the meeting. An AU Consultative Meeting with the UN and major partners will take place in Addis Ababa on 7-8 May aimed at looking on a way forward for Sudan after the elections. Baroness Ashton has expressed the need for the international community to work closely together now, with strong African leadership.

The AU High Level Panel on Darfur (AUPD), established in early 2009 in the aftermath of the ICC indictment of President Bashir and composed by former President of Burundi, Buyoya, and of Nigeria, Abubakar, submitted its report in September 2009 following an extensive fieldwork conducted by Mbeki in Darfur. The report argued that justice and peace are inextricably linked and that justice is a fundamental issue for Darfurians, concluding that in addition to the ICC intervention, there is the need to provide justice for a greater number of individuals who still need to answer for crimes committed, calling for the establishment of a Hybrid Court and Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC). In addition, by defining the crisis as "Sudan's crisis in Darfur", the AUPD has shifted the debate on Darfur away from Darfur-only set of issues, highlighting the importance to the overall Sudanese national arena.

The AUPD report was endorsed by an AU PSC Head of States summit, completely dedicated to Sudan, in Abuja at the end of October 2009. The AU Panel on Darfur (AUPD) was therefore transformed in the AU High Level Implementation Panel on Sudan (AUHIP). The UN Security Council, on 23 December, underlined their appreciation for the balanced and comprehensive nature of the recommendations of the Mbeki report and called on the Government of Sudan and the region to work with Mbeki. The EU welcomed the AUPD report and is supporting the AUHIP financially – 1.4m Euros through the African Peace Facility, technically – through the foreseen secondment of technical assistance on post-referendum issues – and politically. In addition, in light of the historical events ahead in Sudan - referendum on self-determination of South Sudan - the AU Heads of State extended Mbeki's mandate to the overall Sudan political process, particularly as to ensure the peaceful conclusion of the CPA.

AFRICAN UNION SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The first of the two 2010 annual retreats of the 'African Union Support Programme' was held at the Hilton in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Thursday 16 and Friday 17 April 2010. The African Union Support programme is the first support package of 55 M€ provided by the European Union (under the 9th European Development Fund) aiming at strengthening the overall institutional capacity of the African Union Institutions and at deepening the partnership between the AU and the EU. Its retreat is a biannual opportunity for AUC departments and AU organs funded by the

challenges experienced by 22 AUC departments supported by the programme and to agree on mitigating measures. An action plan for the programme was agreed during the meeting. This will include among other actions, the implementation of multiannual programmes per department. The Pan African Parliament, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) also receive funds under the programme and were also represented at the meeting. The closing meeting was co-chaired



Left: Ambassador Shinkaiye (UA) and Ambassador Vervaeke (EU to AU) co-chaired the meeting
Right: Joan Nadal Sastre (EU to AU)
Photo: EU to AU

programme to review the achievements made in the previous period, share experiences and make recommendations for the improvement of the programme implementation. The meeting was successful in bringing out some of the common

by the Chief of Staff of the African Union Commission, Ambassador Shinkaiye, and the Head of EU Delegation to the African Union, Ambassador Koen Vervaeke, who agreed that the next retreat will take place in October 2010.

AMESD IN MAY 2010

In the framework of the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) Program, the following activities are planned for May 2010:

The midterm evaluation of AMESD. The overall aim of this evaluation is to gain a better understanding of the ways and means through which the program can be improved to achieve its intended objectives. The operational implementation phase of AMESD is planned to end in June 2013.

be confirmed next week during the Factory Acceptance Test (FAT) in Toulouse, France (see picture). First deployments of the equipment, to be started in May, which will constitute the infrastructure of the program (Supply of 50 AMESD thematic receiving stations & 50 PUMA stations upgrade and maintenance)

Start of the implementation of **AMESD thematic actions** on "Agricultural and Environmental Resource Management" in the SADC region, on "Water Resource Management"



Demonstration day to show the software which will equip the new PUMA Stations
Photo: AMESD

4th Program Steering Committee to be held in Gaborone, Botswana at the SADC Secretariat in presence of the ACP Secretariat, the 4 other RECs funding the Program (CEMAC, ECOWA, IGAD and IOC), the African Union Commission and the AMESD Technical Assistance (lead by Thales Aliena Space, EUMESAT, EC-JRC, UNEP, FAO, WMO and UNECA).

Satellite Receiving Stations. A pre-test of the software to be use has been done and should

in the CEMAC region and on "Land Degradation Mitigation and Natural Habitat Conservation" in the IGAD region (thematic actions on "Coastal and Marine Management" and "Water Management for Cropland and Rangeland Management" have started in the fourth quarter of 2009 in the Indian Ocean and ECOWAS regions respectively). These actions will lead to the development of operational product for the end-users.

PERSONALIA



Antonio MARTINS PEREIRA
Photo: Micucci OTELLO

Antonio MARTINS PEREIRA, Conseiller militaire, est arrivé au terme de sondétachement au sein de la Délégation de l'Union Européenne auprès de l'Union africaine. Il a quitté la délégation le 30 avril dernier.

Biruk FELEKE, Assistant, a rejoint la délégation de l'Union Européenne auprès de l'Union Africaine le 22 mars dernier.

EVENEMENTS

Evénements en Mai

- 6-8 mai** Mission à Addis d'Andris Piebalgs, Commissaire européen en charge du développement, Addis Abeba
- 7 Mai** Célébration de la journée de l'Europe
- 7 mai** Sixième Dialogue Droits de l'Homme Union Africaine- Union Européenne, Bruxelles,
- 16-18 mai** Assemblée annuelle CAAST-Net, Durban, Afrique du Sud 2010
- 18-21 mai** Science, Société de l'information et Espace, Joint Expert Group meeting, Durban, Afrique du Sud
- 24-28 mai** Atelier régional : Meilleure Formation pour des Aliments Plus Sains- Bamako, Mali

LIENS UTILES

Le site de la Cour Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples

<http://www.african-court.org/fr/accueil/>

Le site du partenariat Europe-Afrique

www.africa-eu-partnership.org

Le site de l'Union africaine

www.africa-union.org