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Editorial



Gary Quince, EU Head of Delegation to the African Union

At the EU-Africa Summit in April 2014, European and African leaders agreed that Human Development should be elevated to a priority pillar of our Partnership and the Joint Roadmap 2014-2017.

This decision recognises the fact that Africa's population is growing fast and will double by 2050 when a quarter of the world's population will be African. The population will also be younger and increasingly urbanised.

This population growth poses both opportunities and challenges. Africa's workforce will surpass both India and China in the next few years, while Africa's growing youthful population contrasts with Europe's generally static and aging population. So Africa will have opportunities to develop its manufacturing and services sectors, taking advantage of its growing labour force and also its growing continental market, while also producing goods and services for markets in Europe and elsewhere. But at the same time, it is also a challenge: Africa will need to create around 18 million jobs each year to satisfy the needs of young people coming onto the job market. The recent downturn in global growth and lower commodity prices has had a direct negative impact on Africa's economic performance making job creation even more challenging.

The three main areas for our cooperation in the area of Human Development are: Science, Technology and Innovation; Higher Education; and Mobility, Migration and Employment. Good progress is being achieved in all these areas and this issue of Link! concentrates on migration and, in particular, the Valletta Summit on Migration which took place last November which agreed on a joint action plan including a series of priority actions to be completed before the end of this year. Work is now going ahead to implement these priority actions including approval of a first set of programmes supported under the EU Trust Fund in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel.

Other articles in this edition explore how earth observation technology can be used to support human development here on earth; strategic lift as an important element of rapid deployment in response to crises and disasters; together with news from the 11th EU-Africa Human Rights Dialogue which took place in Kigali last November.

Finally, we look back at some of the successes of 2015, the European Year of Development, notably the outcome of COP21 and Africa's successful fight against Ebola as well as the support that the EU is now giving to assist countries suffering from the effects of El Nino.

I wish you interesting reading.

Gary Quince
EU Head of Delegation to the African Union

Migration - The Road to Valletta

On 23 April 2015, immediately following the tragic incident in which over 800 hundred people drowned after a boat migrants capsized in the Mediterranean Sea, the European Council convened. The EU leaders announced that they had decided to take several steps. One of these was to “reinforce our political cooperation with African partners at all levels in order to tackle the cause of illegal migration and combat the smuggling and trafficking of human beings. The EU will raise these issues with the African Union and the key countries concerned.” Thus began of preparations for the summit on migration in Valletta (Malta) on 11-12 November 2015.

Shortly after the meeting, Ms Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President informed Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) about the Valletta Summit. The EU Delegation to the African Union (EUD to AU) played a key role in supporting the AUC’s involvement in the preparations of the Valletta Summit. The meeting was confirmed as being an EU Summit to which African countries involved in the Rabat and Khartoum Processes were invited, including AUC at the level of the Chairperson, but it was not to be an EU-Africa Summit.

Senior Officials’ Meetings

During the five months of preparation for the Summit, EU Member States, African partners (including the AU Mission to EU in Brussels and AU Headquarters), EU agencies, International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and UN met four times in plenary at senior officials’ level. The first such Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM), held in Brussels (Belgium) on 11 September 2015, agreed on the main deliverables of the Summit. The meeting took place in a constructive atmosphere, with all delegations asking for solidarity, considering the issues under discussion were of common and multidimensional concern. There was a focus on action and linking Valletta to existing processes (Rabat and Khartoum).

The second SOM took place in Rabat (Morocco) on 14 October 2015 and was quickly followed by the third SOM in Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt) on 29 October 2015. The intensive discussion and draft action plan helped to position EU and African priorities. Progress was such that a considered comprehensive, fair and balanced draft political declaration was discussed for the first time.

Nevertheless, and in spite of the progress made, it was also evident from the third SOM that a number of aspects remained contentious. From the African perspective, transit centres and enhanced capacities in transit regions and the use of EU laissez-passers for the return of Africans were a no go; in addition, only voluntary return was acceptable and more was being sought on legal migration. From the EU side concerns persisted around human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, return and readmission.

It was therefore obvious that the last SOM on the day before the Summit would turn out to be crucial. Discussions – in particular regarding return and readmission – ran into the early morning of 11 November 2015, just hours before the heads of state and government would start their deliberations. The role of Ambassador Pierre Vimont – appointed as personal envoy for Donald Tusk, President of the European Council to lead the Valletta preparations – should not be underestimated. He was the architect and mediator of the process leading to the Valletta Summit, and his personal engagement and accommodating chairmanship of SOMs and Drafting Committee meetings was instrumental to the outcomes of the Valletta Summit.

In between SOMs

Without the work and discussions conducted in-between these four SOMs, there would not be an action plan. The members of the Drafting Committee were AUC, EU, Morocco (as chair of the Rabat Process), Egypt (as chair of the Khartoum Process), ECOWAS, Senegal (as ECOWAS Chair), IOM and UNHCR. African preparations

The AU Summit in Johannesburg in June 2015 adopted a Decision on Migration which asked AUC to organise an Executive Council meeting to consider the development of a Common African Position (CAP) for the Valletta Summit. The AUC has always indicated that a CAP would represent the views of all AU Member States and not just those invited to the Valletta Summit. A draft was conducted and discussed within AUC and with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AU Member States. However, the Executive Council did not meet before the Valletta Summit. Nevertheless, the CAP adopted is built largely on the African Common Position on Migration and Development of 2006 adopted by the 9th Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council.

Outcome of Valletta

Despite all the challenges, the outcome of the Valletta Summit can be considered successful. A solid political declaration was adopted that builds on recent declarations of 2014 such as the EU-Africa Declaration on Migration and Mobility and the declarations of the Ministerial Conferences of the Rabat and Khartoum Processes. An action plan was adopted with more than 90 initiatives in 5 key areas out of which 16 priority initiatives have been identified for delivery before end 2016. Finally, the EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability and to address root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa was launched. It will be instrumental to the implementation of the numerous activities in the plan.



Three Questions to Mr. Pierre Vimont

Ambassador Pierre Vimont is appointed as personal envoy of Donald Tusk, President of the European Council to lead preparations for the Valletta Conference between EU and African countries, called for by the special European Council of April 2015. His role in particular is to ensure coherence in the EU's preparatory process in order to tackle the causes of illegal migration and combat the smuggling and trafficking of human beings.

Ambassador Vimont is a former secretary general of the European External Action Service and former Permanent Representative to the EU.

1- What is your assessment of the process of preparing for the Valletta Summit in particular the contribution of the AUC and its members states?

The preparation for the Valletta Summit was launched right from the start with a clear commitment to be as inclusive as possible. All too often we have experienced processes where each side could be tempted to impose its own point of view. If only for that

reason and also because all the participants to this preparation did understand that the pressure of ongoing events required a special effort of listening to each other, we were - all parties together - eager to have a better understanding of the narratives from both sides. Early on, we decided therefore to set up a method of regular meetings at different levels (senior officials, drafting committees, bilateral contacts,...) either in Africa or in Brussels to proceed in a joint manner on the road up to Valletta. All contributions were welcomed and many indeed came in the framework of what we all agreed from the beginning were the main issues we needed to tackle together, from the root causes of integration to the challenges linked to the dismantling of criminal network or international protection.

In that context, the contribution of the African Union had naturally a special place, as the representative for the whole African continent and also for its responsibility as the custodian of the migration policy adopted by African nations in their different meetings. The African Union has been seen all along this process as a natural partner in complementarity to the two Rabat and Khartoum processes which the European Union



has been promoting for some time as a way of addressing the migration challenges in Western Africa and in the Horn of Africa. The partnership with the AU has therefore helped in shaping the final outcome of the Valletta Summit through a continuous flow of useful inputs and valuable contributions. All in all, the dialogue was permanent, sometimes a bit rough, always useful and in the end highly productive. There is no doubt Valletta would not have succeeded in achieving what it did without the contribution and support from the African Union.

2- The Valletta Summit adopted a Political Declaration and an Action Plan including 16 specific activities to be achieved before 2016. What is now needed to deliver on these commitments?

The Political Declaration and the Action Plan should both be considered as the beginning of a new momentum and not the conclusion of the Valletta negotiation. As underlined in this question, the main feature of the Valletta Action Plan is its operational nature. It has been elaborated as such and can be considered as a very precise roadmap for all the future actions African partners and the EU intend to implement together. Here again, from the start of the Summit preparation, it was agreed by all participants that there would not be a Valletta process so as to avoid adding a new administrative layer which could run the risk of over loading existing procedures. Instead, we all endorsed the principle that we would rely on existing instruments and processes and not try to reinvent the wheel as all needed tools and rules were already there. The Valletta participants did stick to that principle which means that the programmes and actions agreed upon in the Summit will be implemented through the current channels: Rabat and Khartoum processes, AU/EU cooperation, ECOWAS/EU partnership and, on the European side, the internal arrangements usually set up by the Commission, the Council or the EEAS. The question was raised about how to check the follow up to Valletta. Here again the participants decided they would entrust such monitoring to the ones in charge of the different collective bodies, namely the chairs and memberships of the steering committees of both Rabat and Khartoum processes, and the rotating Presidencies of the Council. Needless to say that, on top of these arrangements, what will be the most needed is a strong steer by both sides to inject a genuine political will into this system in order to deliver on the different commitments agreed at Valletta. Without a firm determination to move forward, the whole approach endorsed

in Valletta would rapidly find its limits. As always, the success of such Summits depends to a large extent on how resolute the different parties are ready to engage in the concrete delivery of the planned actions.

3- At Valletta, the EU launched its Emergency Trust Fund. How do you see this Fund contributing to the implementation of the Action Plan?

What will be referred to in the future as the “Valletta Trust Fund” is not a financial creation coming out of the blue. It is on the contrary an instrument which should be perceived as complementary to the many existing resources, and which should bring additional resources into the current financial framework. It must be reminded that the 1,8 billion euros, which will be mobilized in the future by the Trust Fund, come on top of nearly 10 billions dedicated by the EU to its development programmes and approximately the same amount allocated by the bilateral assistance of member states. The purpose of this new Trust Fund will be to address the root causes of African migration in several regions of the continent. These additional resources dedicated to the broad migration phenomenon will act as an incentive for more action in this field, if possible in a more innovative manner. It will therefore constitute a useful contribution to the implementation of the Valletta Action Plan. At the end of the day, it will hopefully be more in line with the realities on the ground. The whole purpose of this collective effort is intended to give a genuine impulse to this new partnership between Africa and Europe which the Valletta Summit has been eager to promote.



The EU-Africa Partnership response to the migration crisis

The EU-Africa Declaration on Migration and Mobility as adopted at the 4th EU-Africa Summit in Brussels in April 2014 constitutes the basis for the EU-Africa cooperation on migration. The plan covers six key areas of cooperation, all of which respond to the current migration crisis. Cooperation has now been enriched with the adoption of the action plan at the Valletta Summit on Migration in Malta on 11-12 November 2015 (see page 6 for more about the Valletta Summit).

Trafficking in human beings

Combating the trafficking in human beings (THB) and the smuggling of migrants has been identified as a key area for cooperation in the Action Plan for 2014-2017 of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), as agreed at the 4th EU-Africa Summit. In the Valletta action plan, prevention of and the fight against irregular migration, migrant smuggling and THB has also been identified as one of the five priority domains of the migration crisis. The Valletta plan even indicates four priority initiatives that should be implemented by the end of 2016.

As the Rabat and Khartoum Processes will be used to monitor implementation of the Valletta action plan, Senior Officials Meetings (SOMs) of both took place shortly after the Valletta

Summit. On 23-24 November 2015, a Steering Committee meeting followed by a SOM was held in London (UK). The SOM agreed to hold informal working group meetings and discussions in order to deliver on the 2014 Rome Declaration and the Valletta action plan. The meetings scrutinized the matching of aims and means in relation to the Horn of Africa route, as well as ongoing and proposed projects and funding options. They also examined synergies between the Khartoum Process, other regional and broader initiatives (such as the AU Horn of Africa Initiative), and bilateral work, ensuring their alignment. The terms of reference for the secretariat, which will be managed jointly by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Commission (EC), with support from other relevant international organisations and programmes were also agreed. The secretariat is to prepare and maintain a map of ongoing and proposed multilateral and bilateral projects relevant to the work of the Khartoum Process, alongside sources and amounts of allocated funding and timelines, and ongoing analysis of the implementation of the Valletta outcome documents in respect of the Horn of Africa route.

Similarly, a SOM for the Rabat Process was held in Porto (Portugal) on 2 December 2015; unfortunately without the AUC as it is not participating in this process. As the four priority areas of the Rabat Process interlink closely with the





five thematic areas of the Valletta Action Plan, the need for a comprehensive and balanced approach along all priority areas was clearly underlined. The SOM agreed on a monitoring plan and agreed to have several meetings in 2016 focused on return, readmission and reintegration, the role of diaspora in development, and visa facilitation.

Legal migration and mobility

Legal migration and mobility is another key area of cooperation. Under JAES such cooperation mainly focuses on higher education and the promotion of mobility of African and European students, scholars, researchers and staff through different programmes. The EU supports the AU Mwalimu Nyerere Scholarship Scheme launched in 2007 and which is forming high calibre African human capital to help deliver sustainable development on the continent in critical development areas, while also promoting regional integration through intra-African mobility of students. The scheme supports in particular women and persons with disabilities. Furthermore, EU is preparing the Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme with a first call to be announced in early 2016 in which several universities would cooperate together to promote mobility of staff and students. The Erasmus+ programme and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions support mobility of African students, scholars, researchers and staff through a balanced mix of actions focusing on individuals, institutions and higher education systems. By the end of 2016, the Valletta Action Plan aims to have doubled the number of scholarships for students and academic staff supported by the Erasmus+ programme, compared to 2014.

In order to enhance mobility there is need to harmonise higher education in Africa. The Tuning Africa project is a joint EU-African effort - involving the EU, the AUC and the Association of African Universities - to promote harmonisation and quality enhancement in African higher education through collaboration in programme design for key subject areas among universities from different African countries. The first phase, which started in 2011 saw five subject areas covered in cooperation with 60 universities. The second phase began in 2015 and has expanded to eight subject areas (Agricultural Sciences, Applied Geology, Civil Engineering, Economics, Higher Education Management, Mechanical Engineering, Medicine, and Teacher Education). It now involves 107 universities from 42 African countries.

Migration supporting development

The positive aspects of migration for future African development is also being supported. According to official World Bank figures, Africa received in 2014 about \$64 billion USD through remittances, although it is estimated that in reality the actual figure may be almost double that amount.

In order to enhance the benefits of such remittances for social development, the African Institute for Remittances (AIR) was launched in November 2014 with help from the EU. AIR aims to ensure African remittances will be used as development tools for poverty reduction in Africa. It wants to make remittance transfers to and within Africa, cheaper and safer, and faster and easier. In 2016, AIR intends to focus on five expensive remittance corridors in order to substantially reduce the transmission costs.

Besides financial support through remittances, migrants – i.e. the African diaspora – can enhance development even more if their countries of origin better reach out to them and seek to benefit from their skills. ADEPT - the Africa-Europe Diaspora Platform – an initiative to create a platform of African diaspora organisations in Europe is one such way to channel this potential.

African-European cooperation in Space

The European Union and Africa: a Copernicus partnership since 2007

The GMES & Africa initiative was established in order to promote cooperation between the European Union and the African Union, to strengthen coordination amongst Earth Observation initiatives, and to facilitate the development of Space-based technologies on the African continent. In October 2015, the Development Cooperation Instrument committee of the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) approved funding support from the Pan-African programme related to this initiative. Three priority topics will be addressed during the initial implementation phase of the initiative (2016 – 2020): long term management of natural resources, marine and coastal areas monitoring and water resources management.

The GMES & Africa initiative was established in 2007 as a firm commitment to cooperative action between Europe and Africa towards the development and implementation of Earth Observation (EO) applications tailored to African requirements. A specific roadmap was developed which applied the programmatic approach of the EU's Copernicus programme (known as GMES at the time) to the African continent. The GMES & Africa initiative takes place in the wider context of the Africa-EU partnership, aimed at the sustainable development of the African regions and scientific cooperation between Europe and Africa.

The GMES & Africa partnership approach arose as a result of the consensus reached at the Lisbon Summit in December 2007, as part of the 8th Joint Africa-EU Strategy Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space. The Lisbon declaration on GMES & Africa laid out the actions to be undertaken in order to formulate the GMES & Africa Action Plan (GAAP). GMES & Africa will strengthen Africa's capacities and its ownership of EO

activities, acknowledging the importance of past and present African programmes and recognising the need to coordinate actions so as to avoid duplication, increase synergies and enhance complementarities.

After extensive consultations over several years, the African and European experts involved in this initiative defined nine thematic areas for the GMES & Africa information services: i) infrastructure and territorial development, ii) long term management of natural resources, iii) marine and coastal areas, iv) water resources management, v) impact of climate variability change, vi) natural disasters, vii) food security and rural development, viii) conflicts and political crises, ix) health management issues. In addition, five cross-cutting issues were identified: governance, infrastructure, capacity building, financial and monitoring & evaluation.



Nine GMES & Africa information services defined after extensive consultations. The three topics marked in orange will be implemented during the first phase (2016-2020) under the auspices of the Pan-African Programme of the EC's DG DEVCO.

The GMES & Africa coordination team, comprised of experts from the African Union Commission (AUC), the European Commission, African and European Member States, regional organisations, the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), and the European Space Agency (ESA), selected three of the above-mentioned topics as priority areas to be addressed during the initial implementation phase of the initiative: long-term management of natural resources, water resources management and monitoring of marine and coastal environment.

In October 2015, the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) committee of the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) backed this initiative, providing funding support from the Pan-African programme (EU financial instrument for the development of the cooperation strategy between the European Union and the African Union).

Presently, African organisations are submitting concept notes - expression of interest - to a call issued by the African Union Commission for the implementation of services in the three priority areas.

GMES & Africa will be coordinated by the AUC through a dedicated secretariat to be established (and mandated) once the African Space Policy and Strategy will have been adopted by the African Heads of State at their summit scheduled for February 2016.

Reinforcing links in Earth Observation: 6th EU-Africa Space Troika

The EU-Africa Space Troika is a forum that was set up in 2011, bringing together representatives of the Africa Union

Commission Departments and European Commission Directorates involved in Space matters in order to advance cooperation in Space and in monitoring the implementation of projects.

The forum also aims at enabling Africa to exploit its Space resources and to coordinate synergies amongst Space initiatives on the continent, so that Space systematically contributes to Africa's sustainable development efforts.

The 6th EU-Africa Space Troika, organised in Brussels on April 20th 2015, was dedicated to Earth Observation matters, and particularly to GMES & Africa. The forum called for the application of approaches developed in the context of the Copernicus programme for the implementation of GMES & Africa: taking advantage of free, full and open access to Space data, focusing on services which are already operational, and involving the private sector in service development.

The African private sector involved in remote sensing and geospatial technology has grown immensely over the past 20 years. A better understanding of this sectors' expertise and capabilities is, however, needed in order to assess its health and state and to better harness its potential. To this end, the EC's DG GROW (Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs) is initiating the creation of a "yellow pages" inventory of African private sector actors in this field who could potentially contribute to the GMES & Africa initiative. This tool will enable to play an important role by the African private sector companies during the development and provision of information services in the context of GMES & Africa, and facilitate joint ventures between European and African companies.



A unique joint cooperation on capability building,
in partnership with the African Union

Strategic Lift Capability Development, not rocket science!

BY MAJOR MICHAEL NUYENS (BE AF), EUMS/LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE



The African continent offers many challenges. The combination of a geographical diverse area - with a maximum North/South distance of approximately 8.000km and an East/West distance of approximately 7.400 km - and a limited transportation infrastructure challenges the logistic planning and execution of any civilian mission or military operation, especially in remote areas. In combination with challenging meteorological conditions, not to mention the rainy season, air transportation remains the prime option for rapid deployment, though these resources are scarce and very expensive at the same time!

The African continent offers many challenges. The combination of a geographical diverse area - with a maximum North/South distance of approximately 8.000km and an East/West distance of approximately 7.400 km - and a limited transportation infrastructure challenges the logistic planning and execution of any civilian mission or military operation, especially in remote areas. In combination with challenging meteorological conditions, not to mention the rainy season, air transportation remains the prime option for rapid deployment, though these resources are scarce and very expensive at the same time!

One cannot ignore the fact that all crisis management or humanitarian interventions, whether they were organized by the African Union, European Union, United Nations, individual nations and many others, rely heavily on air transportation. The deployment to the Central African Republic for EUFOR RCA was facilitated by strategic airlift directly to Bangui, DG ECHO was

assisted by EUMS to provide guaranteed medical evacuation during the Ebola outbreak as does the EUTM in Mali, and different EU member states operate and offer air lift assets on a bilateral basis to different nations and organizations, in support to their missions and operations.

The African Union (AU) has vital responsibilities in Africa as stipulated in Article 3 of the AU Constitutive Act that include ensuring peace, security and stability, guaranteeing sovereignty of Member States and the protection of human and peoples' rights. The African Standby Force (ASF) was established in accordance with Article 52 of the UN Charter, the AU Constitutive Act and the 2002 Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the AU, as part of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

The AU consists of 5 REC/RM (Regional Economic Community/ Regional Mechanism) known as the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States), NARC (North African Regional Capability), EASFCOM (East African Standby Brigade Coordination Mechanism) and SADC (Southern Africa Development Community).

ASF is composed of multi-disciplinary and integrated military, police, and civilian components, located in contributing African Countries, with its Headquarters at the AU Commission (AUC), in Addis Ababa. ASF with its rapid deployment is designed to conduct mandated missions across the African Continent and to



provide AU with capabilities to respond to conflicts through the deployment of integrated peace mission and interventions. For that reason there is a requirement to develop a pre-identified, interoperable, multi-modal network that enables these ASF components to be transported, with all necessary equipment, throughout the continent to support these missions.

Out of the African Union (AU) - European Union (EU) Strategic Partnership¹, adopted in Lisbon on 7 December 2007, the European Union AMANI AFRICA (AA) initiative was born. It aims at strengthening the politico-strategic capabilities of the African Union's Peace Support Operations Division (AU/PSOD), by putting in place procedures covering everything from the political decision to the commitment of forces. AA's main goal is to achieve the full operationalisation of the African Standby Forces by the end of 2015. Currently AA is approaching the end of its second (II) Cycle (AA-II)²³ - whose overall objective is to "validate the capacity of the African Union to mandate, deploy and employ a Rapid Deployment Capability (RDC) of the African Standby Force as a start-up operation in the first phase (known as Scenario 6), and to run a multi-dimensional peace support operation (known as Scenario 5) after. Though this field training exercise focusses on the strategical-operational level, a substantial engagement of a few thousand troops at tactical level is planned, including the ACIRC (African Crisis Immediate Response Capacity). The AA's II cycle is mainly funded through the EU's APSA/APF (African Peace Facility) managed by DEVCO. Simultaneously, the EU is also partnering with African stakeholders to enhance liaison and dialogue between the AU and the RECs having a mandate in peace and security.

Since the Autumn of 2012, the Crisis Management Planning Directorate (CMPD) - Africa Section, as the primary stakeholder

on Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), requested the EUMS to provide expert support in the field of Logistics and Strategic Lift and Command, Control, Communication and Information Systems (C3IS) to assist the African Union/European Union AMANI AFRICA II Exercise Core Planning Team (CPT). The EUMS assigned Major Belgian Air Force Michaël Nuyens from the Logistics Directorate - Logistics Policy Branch to the CPT, who also initiated the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Strategic Lift (Strat Lift TWG).

The AA-II exercise will be conducted in the Republic of South Africa in the autumn of 2015 and aims at testing the operationalisation of the African Standby Forces, of which the Strategic Lift capability development is an integral part.

The EUMS organised a Strat Lift TWG in partnership with the AU/PSOD, to create a nucleus for their integrated Movement Coordination Centres. The Strat Lift TWG's approach is to elaborate on the best practices of the MCCE (Movement Coordination Centre Europe) and the EATC (European Air transport Command) both located in Eindhoven, the Netherlands), the NATO/AMCC (Allied Movement Coordination Centre located in Mons, Belgium), USAFRICOM Logistics located in Stuttgart, Germany and the UN through their liaison officer at AU/PSOD (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia).

The idea is to develop and integrate one (01) Continental Movement Coordination Centre (CMCC) at AU/PSOD level and five (05) Regional Movement(s) Coordination Centre(s) (RMCC), one at each of the abovementioned REC/RM. Their main task would be dealing with planning, executing and coordinating strategic transportation for the ASF and as part of the long term Capability building on Strategic Lift for the African Union and their REC/RM.

These Strategic Lift experts from the EUMS, UN, NATO, EATC, MCCE and USAFRICOM provided a full picture on how they manage Strategic (air) Lift, on the particularities of their organisations and on the interactions with different stakeholders, especially on the African continent. Also specific attention was drawn on the different mechanisms available to mobilise and optimise the available strategic air lift assets. This was reflected in a Long Term Capability building work plan. The detailed work plan aims to set up an initial structure for Strategic Lift for the ASF, supported by a concept on Airlift in particular with standing procedures, job descriptions, supporting documentation and IT-tools in

place. Furthermore, it provides an initial training package for AUC/PSOD and REC/RM assigned staff. The collection and sharing of common data on available airlift assets, the main airfields/seaports and lines of communication on the African continent in one database, is a first step in creating transparency and trust to facilitate a rapid deployment capability for the ASF. It will allow all stakeholders to build and reinforce a preferred distribution network on the African continent for the benefit of economic growth and efficiency, both civilian/humanitarian and military, and it will contribute indirectly to the fight against poverty. Particular attention is also given to the development of a strategic lift tool box providing an oversight to all stakeholders of the existing airlift possibilities, from bi-lateral cooperation to outsourced solutions, supported by a trust fund.

This endeavour is also a good example of a coordinated joint effort between CION (Development and Cooperation – DEVCO), EEAS MD II (Pan-African Desk), EUMS and CMPD to the EU's partnership with the African Union. It's also proof of the key principle linking up security and development as part of the EU's Comprehensive Approach to external conflict and crises management. This was emphasised in the Joint Communication on "Capability building in support to security and development – Enabling partners to prevent and manage crises"³

With the international community and its organisations continuously being challenged by reduced budgets and logistics, only more thorough coordination and optimised use of local and regional recourses can facilitate a smooth and swift intervention, either humanitarian or military. It only requires a few motivated specialists and an overarching structure to speed up the process and to tailor it to the needs of the main stakeholder. At the same time the pitfalls and short comings from past experiences can be avoided. In the future, improvement of regional capabilities and the optimised use of scarce military-civilian strategic lift resources can be more successful by creating transparency, working together and building trust.

¹ Read more at: <http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/about-us/how-it-works/african-peace-facility>

² The first AMANI AFRICA Cycle (AA-I) took place from 2008 to 2011 and ended with a Command Post Exercise. <http://www.peaceau.org/en/page/82-african-standby-force-asf-amani-africa-1>

³ Joint Communication from EEAS-Commission dated 28 April 2015 and FAC 18 May 2015



Human Rights Dialogue inspires more cooperation

The European Union and African Union held their 11th Human Rights Dialogue under the framework of the Joint Africa EU Partnership. The latest took place on 24 November 2015 in Kigali, Rwanda. The meeting was co-chaired by Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Special Representative for Human Rights, and by Aisha Abdullahi, the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs. The discussion was open and frank and tackled a large number of issues, such as the human rights developments in Africa and Europe, the international justice system, 2016 Human Rights Year in Africa, migration, the African Governance Architecture and elections. At the conclusion of the event, a far-reaching joint communiqué detailing a wide number of concrete, cooperative actions to support human rights was issued. Stavros Lambrinidis commended the AU's rich human rights architecture and welcomed its resolve in promoting coherent human rights initiatives and as well as efforts in South Sudan. Aisha Abdullahi highlighted that the level of maturity of the political dialogue within the Africa-EU partnership. This article highlights some of the key discussions and decisions of the 11th Human Rights Dialogue.

AU Human Rights Organs

AU Human Rights Organs

The presence of two of the three AU Human Rights organs – the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights – helped ensure that the dialogue was more inclusive than ever before. Former Chairperson of the ACHPR Commissioner Kayitesi informed that the Commission has a newly elected Chairperson Pansy Tlakula from South Africa. Justice Ramadhani, President of the African court, noted the biggest challenge for the court lay in the fact that only seven countries – Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Mali, Malawi, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire – have signed the declaration allowing their citizens and NGOs access to the court. He also noted the success of the African Continental Judicial Dialogue, in which the European Court of Human Rights took part.

Women's Empowerment and Development

2015 is the African Year of Women's Empowerment. The initiative priorities are on access to health, access to education, peace and security, food security and environment, economic empowerment, and women in leadership. The EU expressed hope that the AU will work intensively on the ratification of the Maputo Protocol on women's rights and renew the Maputo Plan of Action. For its part, the EU has recently adopted a Gender Action Plan 2016–20.

Human Rights Developments in the EU

The implementation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights brings together in a single document the fundamental rights protected in the EU. It entrenches all the rights found in the case law of the Court of Justice of the EU, the rights and freedoms enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights, and other rights and principles resulting from the common constitutional traditions of EU countries and other international instruments. The Lisbon Treaty, which entered into force in 2009, made the Charter of Fundamental Rights legally binding. In July this year, the EU adopted its second Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, covering the period 2015–19 and which renews the EU's firm commitment to human rights and reinforces the implementation of the EU's human rights policy in foreign action.

Abolition of the death penalty

The AU had been scheduled to adopt the new protocol to abolish the death penalty in January 2016. However, the AU Special Technical Committee of Justice and Legal Affairs did not endorse the protocol in November 2015. As the fight against the death penalty is one of EU's human rights priorities, it has raised the issue of the death penalty on numerous occasions during the Human Rights Dialogue with the AU. In July 2014, the EU supported the continental conference on the abolition of death penalty in Benin, where the progressive Cotonou Declaration was adopted calling on African countries to adopt the Additional Protocol on Death Penalty in Africa. The Special Rapporteur for

the Abolition of the Death Penalty, Sylvie Kayitesi, expressed her commitment to continue pushing for the adoption of the protocol and to maintain the valuable work of the Working Group on the Death Penalty.

International Justice System

The AU places strong emphasis on protecting human rights in conflict situations, which is demonstrated by the AU human rights observer missions in Mali, CAR, and more recently in Burundi, as well as smaller missions in DRC, Somalia and South Sudan. The AU gave a thorough overview of the extensive work done by the South Sudan Commission of Inquiry and the preparations to set up the justice and reconciliation mechanisms. The EU noted the shocking violence that has marred the country, and strongly welcomed the release of the report. Both the AU and the EU have finalised their new transitional justice policies. While the EU policy has already been adopted, the AU policy still needs some additions but is due to be adopted early in 2016. The EU

Special Representative also underlined the importance of the ICC as the court of last resort in ensuring that no one can have immunity for the most serious of crimes.

2016 Human Rights Year in Africa

The AUC has declared 2016 as the Human Rights Year in Africa with a special focus on the rights of women. This initiative is an excellent opportunity to build momentum for human rights with the general public in Africa. The AU has planned numerous awareness-raising events and publications, and it will set up a human rights hotline for citizens, issue a human rights award and establish a Pan-African Human Rights Institute. One of the culminations of the year should be the Continental High-Level Dialogue on Human Rights to take stock of the state of play on the continent. The EU has warmly welcomed the special focus year and committed to supporting the year politically and financially.



Migration

Further to the Valletta Summit, where the EU and African leaders agreed on a comprehensive, fair and balanced approach on migration, the Dialogue parties agreed that the priority is to tackle the root causes of migration and to continue EU-AU dialogue on migration. The African delegation indicated its willingness to take part in the implementation of the Valletta Action plan.

The African Governance Architecture

The AUC prepared its first African Governance Architecture report for the 2015 June African Union Summit. Despite the fact that it was not made public, it is a good start for future 'State of Governance' reports. As one of the governance challenges is the lack of political will to ratify and implement AU human rights and governance instruments, EU delegations across Africa are to systematically include ratification of AU instruments in their local political dialogues. The EU has also just announced the new Pan-Africa Programme of around €150m EUR for nine projects to support governance and human rights, as well as innovation and learning throughout the African continent. The AU needs to define the link between African Governance Architecture and African Peace and Security Architecture, which could include possible synergies such as preventive diplomacy, mediation, political analysis, early warning, election risk management tools, human rights observation, follow-up to election observation missions, strategy to address unconstitutional changes of government etc.

Elections

Election observation is one of the AU's flagship programmes. The history of elections in Africa is often associated with a process of conflict before, during and after elections, driven by a lack of public confidence in the electoral process. The AU has observed well over 400 elections in a majority of the 54 AU Member States. However, this practice has until recently been largely to deploy short-term missions focused on procedures on the polling day. Since 2013 the AU has started to deploy long-term missions around six weeks prior to election day. For 2016, the AUC predicts more than 20 elections on the continent, some of which may be very challenging. The EU continues to support election observation capacity and provide technical assistance through the Pan-African programme, budgeting €6m EUR for this purpose for 2014–2017.



Joint Communiqué

The Dialogue's joint communiqué called for a wide range of deliverables, including: the development of an African Policy Framework on the Implementation of the UN Guiding Principles Business and Human Rights; a speeding-up of ratifications of international and continental human rights instruments; a more rapid implementation of the Valletta Summit action plan; and strengthened cooperation in the area of election observation. Both institutions committed to cooperating on the justice, truth and reconciliation mechanisms in South Sudan within the AU and the EU transitional justice policy frameworks. The AU welcomed the EU's offer to assist with the development of a robust roster for African Human Rights Observers.

Civil Society Seminar

The Dialogue was preceded by the 5th AU-EU civil society seminar on 21-22 November 2015 in Kigali, Rwanda. The seminar was dedicated to freedom of expression and developed a list of recommendations. Most importantly, the EU and AU jointly affirmed the need for greater space for civil society to do its work without undue interference.

The next Human Rights Dialogue will be held in 2016 in Europe.

Joint Communiqué:

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african_union/documents/press_corner/au-eu-hr-dialogue-communiqué-24-11-2015-final.pdf

Civil Society Recommendations:

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african_union/documents/press_corner/au-eu-civil-society-human-rights-seminar-21-22112015-recommendations-final_en.pdf

An unprecedented year for international development

BY NEVEN MIMICA

Neven Mimica is the European Union Commissioner in charge of International Cooperation and Development.

The European year for Development is just about to come to a close.

When 2015 was designated as the European Year for Development, we already knew that it was going to be a crucial year for international cooperation and development, as indeed it has certainly proved to be. During the UN Summit in September, the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development was adopted, which will set the course for international cooperation and development up to 2030. Together with the other two key events in development this year – the Financing for Development Summit in July in Addis Ababa, and the recent Climate Change COP in Paris 2015 was a landmark year for development, and one in which I'm proud to say the EU has played a crucial role.

However, development has now taken on even more significance than we would have imagined. The refugee crisis, with its images of people putting their lives at risk to cross the Mediterranean, has awakened our minds and hearts and reminded us that there are still so many challenges to deal with, right at our borders. In November, thanks to an unprecedented effort to combine political will and various financial instruments, the European Commission created a 1.8 billion euro Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa. All of this has given the European Year even more significance. **There has never been a more important time to show EU citizens what is being achieved by EU aid with their support. The Year's motto - our world, our dignity, our future - has been a constant reminder that development cooperation is also about how we, as Europeans, respond to others.**



We have said throughout 2015 that the European Year for Development has been a year about people. For me, one of the most striking and successful aspects of the year has been the way that it has enabled the everyday stories of development to be told. **These are the stories missed by the headlines – providing access to safe water in Uganda; enabling a coffee cooperative to run its business in Malawi; protecting forests in Vietnam... and many more.** The year has allowed us – with the help of the staff working in our EU delegations across the world – to hear the voices of the people whose lives have changed as a result of our support and to see and hear about the tremendous work that the European Union is doing with our development partners.

After so many months and years of careful preparation, intensive and hard work by everyone involved, I hope that today, thanks to the European Year for Development, many more people know why it is important to help those in the poorest and most vulnerable countries in the world, and most of all, are engaged and keen to be part of that effort themselves.

I would like to thank all of those who have shown their support to the European Year and helped to make it a success. **The Joint Declaration signed by the European Parliament, Council and Commission on the legacy of the European Year for Development, underlined our commitment to continue to inform and engage EU citizens in meeting**

the sustainable development challenges of the next 15 years. I hope that all of you will continue to follow our work in 2016 and beyond and that those partnerships put in place this year continue to thrive long after the end of the European Year.



A Partnership that shaped the Historic climate deal in Paris

'When it rains, the excess water is not channelled. The forest used to be our solution. But as we completely destroy the forests we face erosion, severe flooding and other disasters' says Jean-Bosco Monkinzi the chief territorial administrator of Kasangulu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Flooding and soil erosion partly heightened by the global Climate Change are major hazards that threaten the Lukaya River basin in the DRC. Located in the outskirts of Kinshasa, this basin is an important source of water supply for the capital. The Paris Conference was in some measure the global response to the Climate Change hardened problems affecting residents alongside Mr. Monkinzi.

The European Union has played a key role in brokering this historic agreement in Paris, where 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The ambitious and balanced agreement, the first major multilateral deal of the 21st century, sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C. The deal is the culmination of years of efforts by the international community to bring about a universal multilateral agreement on climate change.



The European Union, Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific Group of States had a longstanding cooperation and common understanding in the fight against climate change. This cooperation came in to action and reaffirmed its tenacity in the final days of the UN climate negotiations, where the European Union and the group of 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific States demonstrated their shared commitment for an ambitious and binding global climate deal to be agreed in Paris.

The United States later united with the European Union and 79 developing countries to jointly push for an ambitious accord in Paris to curb global warming. The decision, announced by US Secretary of State John Kerry, came a day after the European Union said it had joined the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations most vulnerable to climate disasters to lobby for a far-reaching deal.

EU leads global efforts

Days ahead of the Paris climate conference, which run from 30 November to 11 December, to limit global average temperature rise and avoid the most dangerous consequences of climate change; the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific states have agreed:

- the Paris Agreement must be legally binding, inclusive, fair, ambitious, durable and dynamic
- it must set out a clear and operational long-term goal which is in line with science
- it must establish a review mechanism for countries to come together every five years to consider progress made and to enhance collective and individual efforts as appropriate
- it must include a transparency and accountability system to track progress on the delivery of national commitments and the sharing of best practice.

ACP Secretary General Patrick Gomes stressed the importance of supporting ACP Countries to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, stating: “The EU and the ACP Group represent a great majority of countries in the world and we want an ambitious Paris Agreement to accelerate the global transition that we urgently need. Now is the time for leaders to be ambitious. The adverse impacts of climate change threaten the world as a whole, including the very survival of the 79 countries of the ACP Group, while impeding their achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals”.

EU action areas

The EU is already taking action to curb greenhouse gas emissions in all areas of its activity within the European Union. This means more efficient use of less polluting energy, cleaner and more balanced transport options, more environmentally-friendly land-use and agriculture, more sustainable and resilient cities, fewer emissions from all sectors of EU economy, and financing for climate action.

With its Partnership in Africa, the European Union designated Climate Change as one of the priorities of cooperation needing an integrated action. The EU is determined to support Africa recognising the specific challenges it is facing. Several programmes are underway to address in a comprehensive and balanced manner including mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, transparency of action and support, capacity building, which will require adequate financial resources.

EU and its Member States are scaling up the mobilisation of climate finance in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency of implementation, in order to

contribute their share of developed countries’ goal to jointly mobilise US\$100 billion per year by 2020 from a wide variety of sources: public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including alternative sources of finance.

Apart from the global influence, the EU- Africa cooperation is changing lives on the ground. For example, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the EU is supporting communities to manage the Lukaya River basin, where Mr. Monkinzi lives and an important source of water supply for the capital Kinshasa, by developing an integrated urban river basin management plan for the Lukaya River Basin that integrates an ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction. The approach involves river water quality monitoring, rainfall and flood monitoring, baseline mapping and associate families in managing agro-forestry activities and to optimize income opportunities

The project is demonstrating how ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction can be integrated into watershed development planning with the leadership of the government of the DRC and local communities. Upstream and downstream river users are brought together to tackle disaster risk and development planning in a more integrated manner.

Looking forward, building on existing EU Africa cooperation in the implementation of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology, support the Africa’s engagement in the global negotiations, Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel, Clim-Dev, disaster-risk reduction, Sustainable Energy for All, the FAO-EU Partnership on Climate Smart Agriculture, the African Climate Policy Centre and other initiatives will serve as a vehicle to meet targets set in the Paris Agreement.



EU mobilises €125 million for countries affected by 'El Niño'

The current El Niño is expected to be the strongest on record, surpassing the 1997/1998 El Niño

The European Union in December 2015 announced a contribution of €125 million to finance emergency actions in countries affected by the extreme weather phenomenon 'El Niño' in Africa, the Caribbean, Central and South America.

The support, €119 million of which comes from the European Development Fund reserves, and a further €6 million from the humanitarian budget, will contribute to the joint effort of bringing life-saving emergency assistance and increasing resilience in the affected countries.

The European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides said: "EU aid will help meet the urgent needs of the affected populations, but it will also support resilience efforts, making them better equipped to face natural disasters in the future. At present, El Niño is already affecting millions of people in many vulnerable regions especially in Africa, Central America and the Caribbean, and is expected to continue to do so in the next months."

European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, said: "We need to react now so El Niño does not undermine the efforts in poverty alleviation in many countries in the world that we have fought so hard to achieve. Today the EU is boosting its efforts to prevent a crisis that could cause instability in the longer term."



What EU aid will do:

The EU's support will combine humanitarian and development assistance, to address immediate needs of nutrition, water and sanitation, health and shelter. It will provide support to health structures, provision of food and safe drinking water, supplementary food for pregnant women and children. It will also help build resilience in the most exposed countries by enhancing disaster preparedness, early response mechanisms, and supporting long-term development solutions.

What is El Niño and which parts of the world are affected:

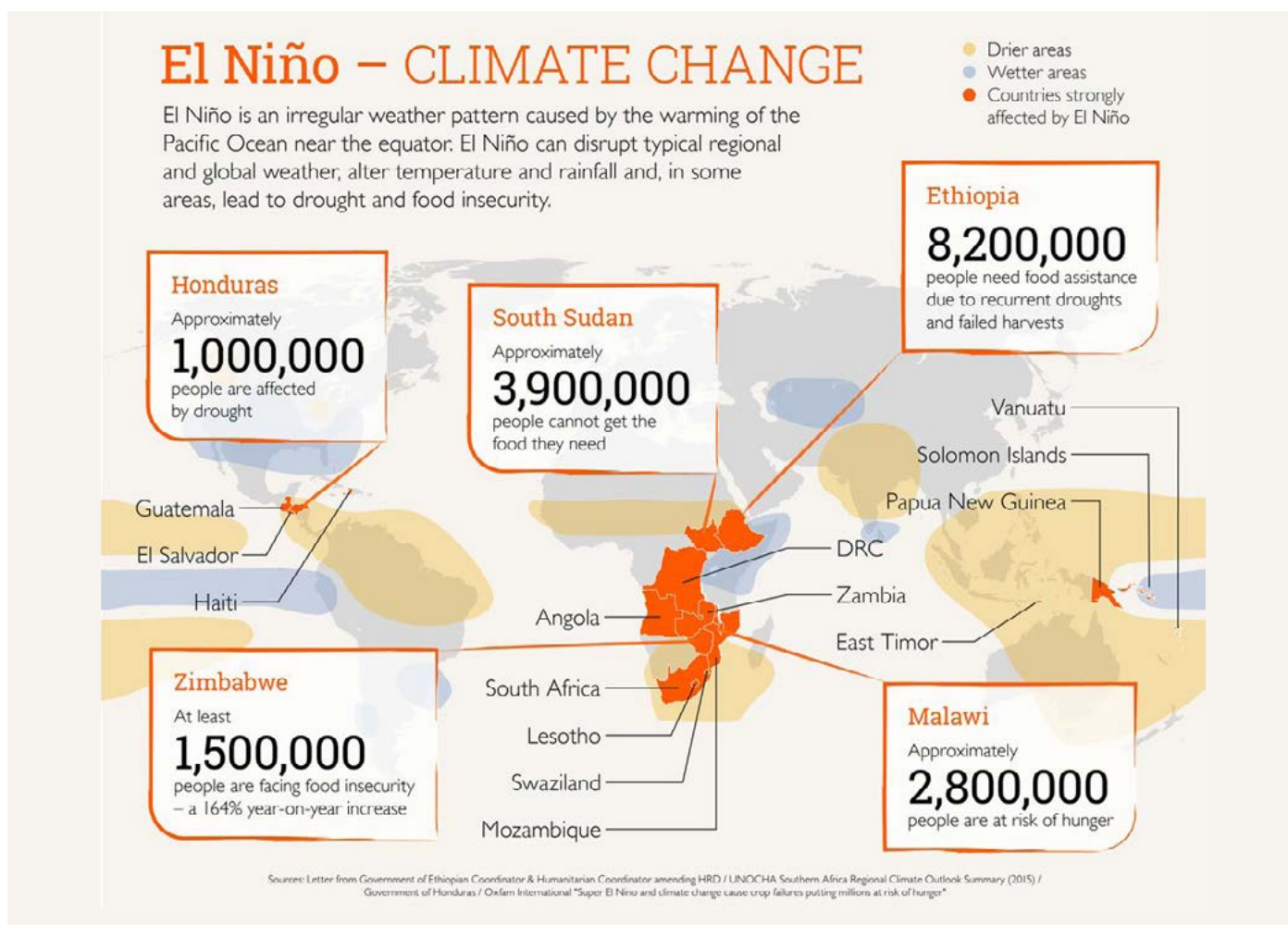
The 'El Niño' phenomenon is characterised by rising temperatures of surface sea water, which interact with the atmosphere and cause different extreme events, from floods to droughts. It is already affecting large regions of Africa – Central Africa, Greater Horn of Africa, and Southern Africa – with both floods and droughts. These are having consequences mainly on food security, but also on health, access to water and hygiene conditions of millions of people living in already vulnerable regions. The worst-hit country so far is Ethiopia, reporting an increase in the number of food insecure people due to drought from 2.9 million in January 2015 to 8.2 million in October 2015.

Central America and the Caribbean region are also being severely affected, in particular Guatemala and Haiti. More than 6 million people are estimated to be suffering from the current drought, which is considered to be the most severe in the region in more than 100 years and expected still to worsen. The lack of water has an enormous impact on crops, livestock, reservoirs and the livelihoods of a substantial proportion of the population.

With about 34 million people affected worldwide, and the most virulent impact ever expected to take place, the phenomenon demands a coordinated global response.

Breakdown of EU aid:

Region affected	Countries presently most affected	Amount (€)	Estimated number of people affected
Caribbean	Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Saint Lucia	9 million	3.5 million
Central Africa	Chad, Cameroon, CAR	20 million	5.3 million
Greater Horn of Africa	Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, Sudan	79 million	14.4 million
Southern Africa	Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Madagascar, Zimbabwe	12 million	7.8 million
Central and South America	Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia	5 million	3 million
Total		125 million	34 million



EU welcomes end of Ebola transmissions and will continue to support affected countries

The World Health Organisation has declared that the Ebola transmissions in West Africa have come to an end for the moment, as Liberia marks 42 days without new Ebola cases - an important landmark that neighbouring Guinea and Sierra Leone crossed in November and December 2015.

The largest Ebola epidemic on record has taken a tragic toll on life, with 11 300 deaths out of 28 600 cases since its declaration in March 2014, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

EU Ebola Coordinator and Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides in a statement made regarding the end of Ebola transmission said, "one year ago, the end of the Ebola epidemic may have seemed unimaginable. But thanks to the effort of health workers, ordinary people, and governments in the three affected countries, combined with an unprecedented international response, the fight against the disease has been won. I want to pay tribute to all those involved for months to bring the cases to Zero, an achievement to celebrate.

From the outset the European Union has been at the forefront of the international response to the Ebola epidemic. We have



sent medical supplies, laboratories and epidemiologists. We put in place an EU medical evacuation facility for all international health workers in the region. We provided funding for the great work done by non-governmental organisations and the United Nations to treat the victims of Ebola and deal with its consequences.

Overall, together with its Member States, the EU has mobilised close to €2 billion in humanitarian aid, technical expertise, longer-term development assistance, and research into vaccines and treatments. We are now shifting our response from emergency to development, keeping a particular focus on the needs of survivors"

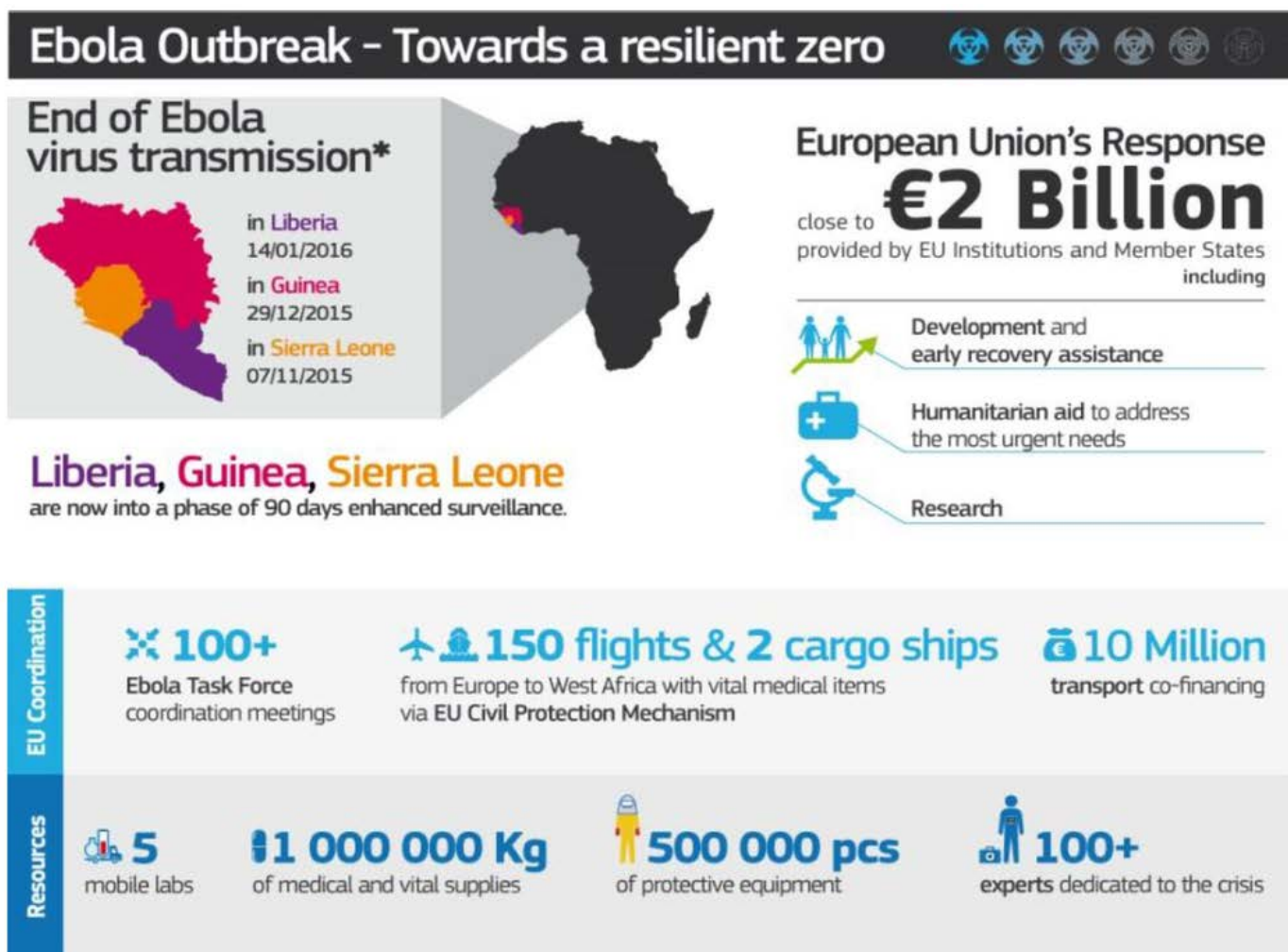
The 2014 outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa has revealed that many countries were ill-prepared for a large, unprecedented outbreak. This event is a wakeup call for the international community: strengthening fragile and non-resilient health systems is a priority in Africa and elsewhere. This health and humanitarian crisis is one of the most severe public health emergencies in modern times.

Three mobile laboratories have been set up by the European Commission to help tackle the Ebola outbreak by providing on-the-ground support to medical professionals in Guinea, Nigeria and Liberia.

The three units ensure that samples taken from people suspected of having Ebola are processed and analysed quickly, in order to support case management and follow-up of patients. Researchers on the EU-funded ANTIGONE project have also discovered how soluble proteins produced by the Ebola virus cause damage to blood vessel walls and contribute to the internal bleeding characteristic of the disease, opening up a new avenue for possible treatment.

There are lessons to be learnt Christos Stylianides EU Ebola Coordinator said a statement “the international system needs to fix the failures which became all too apparent in the inadequacy of the response to the disease in the early months of 2014. In this regard, the European Union is setting up a European Medical

Corps through which medical teams and equipment from our Member States can be deployed swiftly to deal with future health emergencies. There will be more crises like this one. We need to be better prepared”



EU-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP

INVESTING IN PEOPLE PROSPERITY AND PEACE



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