



Joint Press Release

Ministry of Environmental Affairs of the Republic of South Africa
European Union Delegation to the Republic of South Africa

Johannesburg, 23/09/2016

.../for immediate release

South Africa and the EU to spur action on Sustainable Development and Climate Change

Meeting ahead of the CITES COP17 in Johannesburg, Mr Karmenu Vella, EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, and Dr Edna Molewa, SA Minister of Environmental Affairs, have reinforced bilateral cooperation in the area of Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development. Building on the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, SA and the EU have agreed to put circular economy, resource efficiency, oceans economy as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation at the core of the strategic partnership.

Minister Molewa said “Sustainable development is integral to government planning, and for us as to collectively meet the SDG’s, we have to change unsustainable consumption patterns and invest heavily in the green economy. The European Union remains a valued partner in aiding South Africa’s transition to a low-carbon inclusive climate resilient economy and society.”

Commissioner Vella commented: "I am glad that we are able today to strengthen our bilateral collaboration. Delivering on the Paris Climate Agreement is our shared aim. The same is true for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In the EU we are moving towards a more circular economy that reduces waste and grows jobs. These are practical steps that help tackle climate change and shows people how they can gain. South Africa is equally committed to green growth. We are ideal partners."

Please see enclosed the Terms of Reference for the Forum on Environment, Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Water between the European Commission and the Departments of Environmental Affairs and Water and Sanitation of the Republic of South Africa as signed on the 23rd September 2016.

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