



# EU-KENYA RELATIONS



The European Union and Kenya share a deep and historic partnership. Today, the EU is the biggest market in the world for Kenya's exports. It is also a major partner to support regional security, investment in Kenya's economy and in development cooperation.

## POLITICAL RELATIONS



Kenya and the EU share mutual interests and common values. This is reflected in a political partnership that regularly brings together representatives from the EU and EU Member States and key Kenyan decision-makers. The last dialogue was held on 12 November 2018 and 27 February 2019, during which the EU and Kenya discussed how best to work together, for example in promoting peace and stability, in trade and development, and as like-minded actors on the world stage.

The EU supports Kenya's efforts to strengthen its democracy and pluralism, good governance, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. These principles are set out in the Cotonou Agreement, which governs relations between African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and the EU. EU Election Observation Missions have been deployed upon invitation from the Kenyan Government in 2002, 2007, 2013 and 2017.

## SECURITY COOPERATION



**The EU supports the efforts of the Government and people of Kenya to improve security throughout the country. In Kenya, the EU supports programmes to:**

- Counter violent extremism
- Tackle money laundering and terrorist financing
- Improve investigatory and judicial capabilities to help prosecute terrorist offences.

**Under the Common Security and Defence Policy, the EU operates several regional missions:**

- Improve regional maritime security capacity including counter-piracy and maritime governance and prevent piracy and armed robbery off Somalia's coast and protect World Food Programme and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) ships through EU NAVFOR-Atalanta
- Strengthen the Somali Government's security institutions with a deployed military training mission [EUTM Somalia]
- Reduce Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear risks as well as counter terrorism and organised crime, through the Instrument contributing to Stability & Peace (Nairobi hosts the EU's CBRN risk mitigation centre's regional secretariat)

## TRADE AND INVESTMENT



The European Union is a significant trading partner to Kenya. Representing Kenya's biggest export market with 21.1 per cent of Kenya's total exports to the world, these exports are mainly agricultural products, notably tea, coffee, cut flowers, peas and beans. Some 70% of Kenya's total flower production is exported to the European Union, with the livelihoods of over 500,000 Kenyans depending directly or indirectly on the floriculture sector.

Kenya is eastern Africa's regional commercial hub thanks to its favourable location, skilled labour force and vibrant business community. European companies lead the way in investing in Kenya, generating jobs and tax revenue. The European Investment Bank provides long-term development loans to support the building of energy and transport infrastructure.

## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



Together, the European Union and its Member States are the biggest partners in development cooperation with Kenya. In November 2018, the European Union, 19 EU member states represented in Kenya and the European Investment Bank launched the Joint Cooperation Strategy 2018-2022 under which **€4.5 billion** in combined development cooperation will support the priorities and objectives of the national government focused on the Big Four agenda (manufacturing, food security, universal health coverage and affordable housing).

Based on Kenya's development strategy Vision 2030, the following sectors of concentration have been identified as priorities for European Commission funding:

- Food security and resilience to climatic shocks
- Sustainable infrastructure
- Accountability of public institutions.

Kenya also benefits from a number of projects financed by the Regional Indicative Programme, the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

## HUMANITARIAN AID



Kenya is prone to disasters and needs to strengthen its emergency preparedness and response capacity. An increasing number of Kenyans are food insecure due to increasingly unpredictable weather. April and May 2018 has seen heavy rains and massive flooding in 40 out of Kenya's 47 counties. In contrast, the 2018 short rains have not supplied sufficient rain for most of the country and the 2019 long rains have started late. Since 2012, the EU has provided more than **€120 million** in humanitarian aid in Kenya, with **€11.5 million** in 2018 alone.

Kenya is also host to some 470,000 refugees from neighbouring countries. The EU supports refugees in Kenya, by also working with Kenyan host communities covering basic life-saving services (food assistance, health care, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene), protection and education. The offers learning opportunities for over 130,000 pupils enrolled in Kenya's main refugee camps Dadaab and Kakuma.

## CULTURAL RELATIONS



This is an area in EU-Kenya relations that has been growing steadily. Culminating in the European Film Festival, the EU works with Kenyan Cultural Institutions and emerging film makers to strengthen the Kenyan film industry, which has the potential to become a stronger pillar in Kenya's development path. Twenty European countries participated in the 2018 edition, screening over 50 feature-length films. IN addition, the festival includes numerous side engagements, featuring film industry stakeholders from Europe and new technologies, such as virtual reality.