

Joint Statement
Of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Commission (EC)
On the Implementation of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 08 September 2008

High-level discussions on the implementation of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 8 September at the Headquarters of the Commission of the African Union (AU) between the African Union Commission and the European Commission (EC) with the participation of Dr. Elham Mahmoud Ahmed Ibrahim, African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, Mr. Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid and Mr. Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Energy.

Both sides welcomed the establishment of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership as part of the EU-Africa Joint Strategy and its First Action Plan (2008-2010) adopted on the occasion of the Lisbon Summit of 8-9 December 2007, and underlined its importance in adding value to current forms of cooperation, particularly in the current context of increasing global energy demand and high energy prices.

The AUC and EC underlined the need to address the energy priorities included in the first Action Plan and to prepare a road map for their implementation. The Road Map should include the following issues:

- **Promoting regional integration of electricity markets in Africa:**
Based on the results of ongoing studies on the electricity sub-sector in Africa, the AUC and the EC agreed to launch preparatory work to set up an **Electricity Master-Plan for Africa**, aiming inter-alia at improving regional interconnections between all regions of the African continent, and to define the **Capacity Building Programme** to support the African Power Pools and AFUR¹ to be covered by the Energy Facility² of the EU;
- **Promoting an enabling environment to enhance private investment:**
Prerequisites for stronger participation of the private sector in energy developments in Africa are the establishment of an enabling and safe environment for investment and increased transparency. The AUC and EC will work to strengthen African institutions and to establish enabling legal, fiscal and regulatory environments to promote investment in the energy sector. As part of these efforts, the AUC and the EC encourage the widening of EITI³

¹ African Forum for Utility Regulators

² €10M technical assistance was agreed to Power Pools and AFUR

³ Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative: as from May 2008, the EC provides financial contribution to the World Bank's EITI Multi-donor Trust Fund and participates in its Steering Group

membership of gas and oil producing countries and to elaborate national transparency plans and guidelines for companies in the energy sector;

- **Developing energy interconnections between Africa and Europe:**

The AUC and the EC will promote energy interconnections in Africa and between Africa and Europe and further cooperate to identify energy projects of regional interest to be proposed for financing; these projects should be consistent with the priorities/criteria defined under the Africa-EU Infrastructure Partnership and its Trust Fund, the NEPAD plan and the results of current and upcoming initiatives, such as the Programme of Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). This would take note of and build upon relevant regional cooperation initiatives;

Furthermore, both parties agree to explore all available and necessary ways to develop an effective dialogue and cooperation for securing energy access to African countries and enhancing energy interconnections between the two continents, including through the identification of energy projects of common regional interest;

- **Launching a Renewable Energy Cooperation programme:**

The AUC invites African Governments to establish national targets on power generation from renewable energies in the context of regional electricity plans. In this regard, the AUC and the EC will jointly elaborate a Road Map for launching and implementing a Renewable Energy Cooperation programme supporting regional and national efforts, which will be agreed during a Joint Experts group meeting in the first semester of 2009. This initiative takes into consideration the outcomes of the Dakar International Conference on Renewable Energy in Africa and its Action Plan;

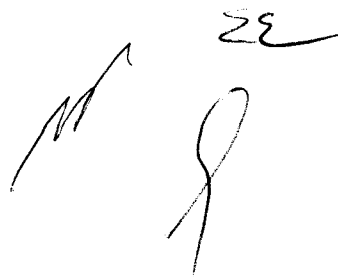
- **Supporting the reduction of gas flaring and venting:**

The AUC and the EC will support the elaboration of Country Implementation Plans and participation in the Global Gas Flaring Reduction partnership⁴ by oil and gas producing countries and identify and seek the means for supporting the implementation of small-scale associated gas utilization projects;

- **Mobilizing additional resources for investment in the energy sector both on supply and demand side, notably to improve access to energy services:**

Under the 10th EDF, and in addition to national and regional programmes, further EC financial contributions are foreseen for the African energy sector under the Intra-ACP programme, notably the replenishment of the Energy Facility and an additional contribution to the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership and its Trust Fund. In addition, the AUC and the EC also called upon African and European countries and the private sector to mobilize additional resources for investment in the energy sector in order to improve access to energy services as well as energy efficiency, and also in the context of the ongoing development of PIDA;

⁴ As from May 2008, the EC is providing financial contribution to the World Bank's Gas Flaring Initiative and is a member of its Steering Group

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- **Making progress in implementing existing EC support to enhance the institutional and technical capacity of the AUC:**

The AUC will make further progress in the implementation of the €55m EC support programme for the period 2007-2011, in order to improve AUC expertise in the energy sector, launch technical studies, raise awareness and play an effective role as an "engine" for the active participation of the African regional authorities, African countries and stakeholders in the Africa-EU Energy Partnership. This could include the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Power Pools, African Energy Commission (AFREC), other pan-African institutions and relevant national authorities;

- **Strengthening cooperation to improve energy efficiency in all energy sectors:**

The AUC and EC stressed the importance of measures in the area of energy efficiency and energy savings as possibly the most economical strategy in production, distribution and end-use of energy. In this context, the AUC was informed about the launching of International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC);

- **Facilitating contacts and increasing exchanges of know-how between relevant European institutions and their African counterparts:**

Enhance technical assistance and launch twinning arrangements in the field of renewable energies, energy efficiency, access strategies and market reform as soon as possible.

The AUC and the EC agreed to join forces in order to make swift progress in implementing the Partnership in full cooperation with its partners. To this end, they agreed to contribute to an effective Africa-EU dialogue on energy access and energy security and suggest to put in place the following structures foreseen in the EU-Africa Joint Strategy and its Action Plan, and to establish in particular:

- A High Level Africa-EU Energy Dialogue Meeting to be organised every two years. The first meeting should take place in the second semester of 2009 to take stock of progress made in the implementation of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership, to agree on further priorities up to 2010 and to launch discussions on priorities for the period 2011-2013;
- An Africa-EU Energy Partnership Forum, involving civil society, research institutes and private sectors in both continents. This should take place every two years, back to back with the High Level Energy meeting. The Forum will, in particular, aim to increase awareness amongst decision makers and civil society of the challenges and opportunities of sustainable energy and attract investment to support new activities in Africa;
- An informal Joint Experts Group on energy. This group should meet at least once a year to coordinate the various activities foreseen in the Action Plan and discuss other issues of common interest. It will include Africa and European energy sector. The first meeting should be organized in Addis Ababa in October 2008.

The AUC and the EC stressed the need to involve European and African Civil society network and private stakeholders in the partnership process as soon as possible. They also encouraged the active involvement of other partners in the Africa-EU Energy Partnership, such as international donors and investors.

The AUC and the EC will report on the progress made on these actions at the first High-Level Energy Dialogue Meeting, which will be held in 2009.

Done in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 08 September 2008.

**For the African Union
Commission**

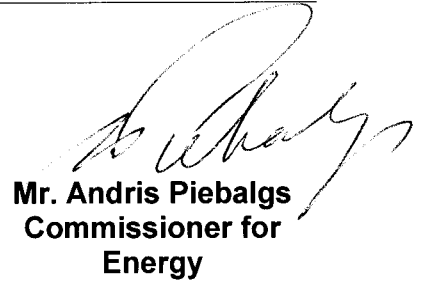


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