Editorial
Welcome to the latest edition of our Link magazine.

This edition of Link contains a particularly wide selection of articles, ranging from peace and security to trade and investment and from e-governance to migration. This illustrates the wide-ranging nature of the Partnership between Africa and the European Union.

This edition goes to print soon after the AU Summit met in Kigali in July and reached a landmark decision on Financing the African Union through a levy on imports into the Continent, with the revenue raised being directly paid to the African Union. This is based on a proposal from ex AfDB President Dr Donald Kaberuka and I am very pleased that the EU will be supporting the follow up work of Dr Kaberuka to move this forward from decision to implementation. This reflects the importance that we attach to a financially sustainable African Union which is not dependent on partners for the realisation of its vision, Agenda 2063, or to achieve African Solutions to African Problems. Indeed one of the articles in this edition of Link stresses the importance of, “securing the financial future for African peacekeeping.”

A number of colleagues are leaving the Delegation this summer, taking up new challenges elsewhere in Africa and beyond. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their hard work and support in pushing forward our Partnership with our colleagues from the African Union Commission and the other Organs with which we work. New colleagues will be arriving to take up the challenge and I am sure they will arrive with just as much enthusiasm and commitment as their predecessors.

And on a more personal note, I will also be leaving at the end of September after almost five years as EU Head of Delegation to the African Union. It has been an honour and privilege to lead this Delegation and to have had the opportunity to interact with such a wide range of colleagues across so many exciting areas of Africa’s development. I first came to Africa in 1981 and have worked in or on this great Continent for many of the intervening years. I will leave with many happy memories, an unshakable belief in Africa’s future and a sure expectation that, “I shall be back.”

So as well as good reading I take this opportunity to wish Health, Happiness, Prosperity and Peace to all Link readers.

Thank you, Merci, Skukran, Obrigado, Muchas gracias, Amesegenahlu

Gary Quince

EU Head of Delegation (until end September 2016)
Three Questions to Ambassador Gary Quince
EU Head of Delegation to the African Union

How do you describe the Africa – EU Partnership during the five years of your assignment as the EU Head of Delegation to the African Union based in Addis Ababa? What were the most challenging and promising aspects of your work?

The Partnership between the EU and Africa has been increasingly active over the past five years, with a particular boost given by the Fourth EU-Africa Summit in April 2014 when leaders from the two continents agreed that the Partnership should concentrate on five pillars: Peace and Security; Democracy, Good Governance and Human Rights; Human Development; Sustainable and Inclusive Development and Growth and Continental Integration; and Global and Emerging Issues. The Summit also agreed on a Roadmap for 2014-2017 setting out what we aim to achieve in each of these areas. More recently, Africa’s Agenda 2063 gives us all a long-term vision of where Africa aspires to be in the next fifty years while Agenda 2030 represents the global commitment to work together towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Together we have registered good progress across all these areas. On Peace and Security, the EU and Africa have worked closely together to try to resolve conflicts and build African capacities to prevent them. The AU Peace and Security Council and the EU Political and Security Committee have intensified their cooperation including in 2015 their first joint field trip, to Mali, and their first joint retreat to reflect on how we can reinforce our joint efforts in conflict prevention and mediation. In the area of Democracy, Good Governance and Human Rights the EU is supporting the AU election observation capacities and we have intensified our dialogue on human rights issues, including agreeing on a joint work programme for 2016, Africa’s Year of Human Rights.

On Human Development, migration has become the major focus of our cooperation with the follow up to last November’s Valletta Summit, notably through the Khartoum and Rabat processes. We are also supporting the African Institute of Remittances to help bring down the cost of transferring money to and within Africa. Other notable areas of progress in this area are in higher education with the harmonisation of curricula and supporting student mobility and science and technology through the African Union Research Grants.

On Sustainable and Inclusive Development and Growth, we have concluded the negotiations towards the Economic Partnership Agreements which can be building blocks towards the construction of Africa’s Continental Free Trade Area. EU blending facilities are leveraging substantial public and private capital towards major infrastructure projects to improve connectivity across Africa and are now being extended to other sectors.

Finally, our cooperation on Global and Emerging Issues combined to make a success of the major international events last year, with Africa hosting the Financing for Development Conference which agreed on the ambitious Addis Action Agenda, which in turn created a positive momentum for the agreements reached on the Sustainable Development Goals and Climate action.

Some say the African Union has become very vocal in certain pressing issues such as peace & security and unconstitutional changes of government. At the same time critics say, not enough is done in preventing conflicts through development and promoting democracy, good governance and human rights. What is your assessment?

During the past five years Africa has faced a series of peace and security challenges which have severely tested the principle of...
‘African solutions to African problems’. The African Union and the regional organisations have had to respond simultaneously to multiple crises across the Horn of Africa, the Maghreb, the Sahel and Central Africa and the Great Lakes. These crises have been accompanied by increasing threats from terrorism which itself is often profiting from links with transnational organised crime.

The African Union and the regional organisations deserve our recognition and support for the major efforts that they have made to address these crises, including their firm rejection of any attempts to make unconstitutional changes of government. At the same time, I certainly agree that more needs to be done to strengthen governance across Africa. Indeed, it is widely recognised that governance weaknesses are at the root of most conflicts in Africa, in particular, unwillingness to hand over political power, competition over economic resources, poor management of social diversity, corruption and nepotism. Africa’s response is the African Governance Architecture and its key instrument, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. These are hugely important initiatives but it is true to say that their implementation across Africa has been disappointing. This is part of the broader challenge that AU Member States need to do more to implement their own Summit decisions.

At the institutional level we can point to very encouraging and productive cooperation between European Union and Africa. I already mentioned the work of the two PSC’s and they will hold their 9th joint meeting in Brussels in October 2016. Last April we had the 8th AU Commission-European Commission meeting in Addis which took stock of progress across our Partnership and reaffirmed our joint commitment to its vision, values and principles. We also hold the annual EU-AU Human Rights Dialogue which accompanies our joint work in this key area.

Looking forward to the Africa-EU Summit in 2017, my assessment is that the Partnership is very much alive and kicking. Where can we make further improvements? In my view we should look to reinforce our political dialogue by bringing our respective member states more fully into the process. We also need to increase our engagement with the African and European private sectors as it is their investment which will drive growth and create jobs. And above all we need to build people to people relationships. Our Partnership is about people: improving their lives by giving them the educational, health and employment opportunities that they require. We need to help young people, women and girls to take control of their own lives and build their own futures. I have every confidence that at the next Africa-EU Summit our leaders will take these challenges on board to build an even stronger Partnership.

**LINK!**
**LINK!** How effective is the institutional collaboration between the European Union and the African Union? How do you assess the potential of this Partnership, going forward to deal with common and global challenges of Europe and Africa?
Europe’s leading forum on global development and cooperation

The 10th edition of the European Development Days (EDD) took place in Brussels on 15-16 June focused on implementing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, building upon 5 vital “P”s for sustainable development: Partnership, Peace, Prosperity, Planet and People. The event brought together world leaders, young leaders and hundreds of speakers, civil society organisations and international organisations with a record number of over 6,000 development professionals from around 150 countries.

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, said: “The 10th anniversary of the European Development Days is focused on results: turning the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals from commitments into actions. This is Europe’s open invitation to the world to reflect with us how our policies, partnerships and resources can best be put into use to support global development, eradicate poverty once and for all, and shift our planet onto a sustainable, inclusive and prosperous path”.

Speaking at the European Development Days United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasized that the focus of this year’s meeting on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was timely and influential, given that the meetings have fostered partnership and innovation for a better future for the past 10 years.

“National borders do not defend against climate change, emerging diseases or economic shocks,” Mr. Ban said. “Our challenges are global, and it is only as a global family that we can overcome them.”

Acknowledging that developing countries need special attention, Mr. Ban underscored that all countries have inequality and youth unemployment, are vulnerable to economic instability, and need to promote gender equality.

“The goals set out a path for the future of our planet, and all who inhabit it. Everyone, including and especially those who live in the most developed nations, has a role to play in ensuring that our planet can support the people of coming generations,” the Secretary-General said.

“The 2030 Agenda represents a paradigm shift. It challenges us to rethink how we do development,” he added. Ahead of the event, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, met the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, and signed a joint declaration “Towards an EU-Ethiopia Strategic Engagement” which reflects the EU’s strong relations with Ethiopia emphasising Ethiopia’s crucial role in Africa, within the international community and its significant socio-economic development. The EU and Ethiopia will thereby elevate their 40 year partnership to an even more strategic level.

During a debate with eight Future leaders from all over the world organised as part of the EDD, the High Representative for EU foreign affairs Federica Mogherini argued “We too often rely on the idea that Europe is at the centre of the map. – That situation is long gone. This does not mean there is no place for Europe in a multilateral world. We need to build partnerships. We need to move past the donor-recipient dynamic, give up a Eurocentric approach. We need to build a web of partnerships: this is the kind of multilateralism we should work towards.”
Young generations should take the lead in this process, she added: “At your age – Mogherini told the eight young leaders – everybody tells you: you are the future. That is not true: you are the present. Transforming the world we live in would not be possible without you”.

The debate reviewed how the security situation in many parts of the globe has deteriorated over the last years; while the EU has been committed to providing security in its neighbourhood and beyond. Currently, the EU is deploying 16 civilian and military CSDP (common security and defence policy) missions. The security-development nexus has become an underlying principle of the EU’s comprehensive approach. Security and development are mutually reinforcing: security is a precondition for development, while without development and poverty eradication there can be no sustainable peace and security.

A cooperative global order, based on multilateralism and regional integration, is crucial to fight poverty and foster a more balanced world growth, said Federica Mogherini concluding the debate.

The European Development Days has become known as the flagship event for international development cooperation in the EU. Over the past 9 years, the “Davos for Development”, as it is often referred to, has brought together an impressive 2670 speakers and as many as 100 World Leaders, 514 exhibitors and 42,000 participants from 154 countries, as well as 4,500 organisations.
Securing the financial future of African peacekeeping

AMISOM, the first AU-led peace support operation, is restoring hope in Somalia. While the EU has always underwritten the financing of AMISOM, there is a growing understanding that a broader base of financial support will best serve the prevention, management and resolution of conflict in Africa.

**AMISOM success**

The EU assisted the African Union’s efforts in Peace Support Operations since the outset, supporting AMIS - the enhanced Mission to Darfur (Sudan) – from 2005 to 2007. Since day one of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) established in 2007, the European Union (EU) has shouldered much of the financial burden of this important security effort. Since then, the EU’s financial support to AMISOM – the first AU-led active, regional peacekeeping mission with the approval of the United Nations – has been followed by other African-led efforts to address peace and security challenges on the African continent.

The demand for such operations has grown. From the Central African Republic to Mali, Sudan and Somalia, the EU has supported peace building and peacekeeping operations, devoting more than €1.7 billion to these efforts through its African Peace Facility (APF), which ensures that the troop’s allowances are covered, as well as the cost of police components of the mission and international and local civilian staff salaries.

Despite the financial crisis and austerity measures that has affected public expenditure in the EU – and which have seen delays in payments of AMISOM allowances – over the last three years the support for African-led peace operations has increased substantially. In fact, in July 2015, the EU and its Member States took the decision to increase the total allocation for the period 2014-2015, from €750 million to €900 million.

These contributions go to the brave men and women of AMISOM who have made tremendous sacrifices in bringing increased security and a better way of life to the people of Somalia. With crucial elections scheduled for later this year, Somalia now finds itself at a crossroads. The joint efforts of troop-contributing countries, the AU’s Peace and Security Council (PSC) and international support including from the EU means that Somalia has the chance to begin the long process of rebuilding institutions, of creating jobs, of providing education and justice to all Somalis, and of building hope.

**Committed to AMISOM**

- The EU covers 80% of AMISOM troops stipends and salaries for civilian staff and police.
- The EU spends around €20m each month or €240m a year on AMISOM.
- The EU is calling for African and international partners to back AMISOM’s successful military and humanitarian intervention in Somalia.

**AMISOM role model**

With 10 of its 17 current peace missions in Africa, the UN is looking to AMISOM as a model for future peace operations and regional interventions. The AU is able to deploy peacekeepers in enforcement situations and it can do so at speed. In the Central African Republic and Mali, the UN authorised the rapid deployment of AU peace support missions, which were subsequently rehatted as UN operations.

**Sustainable peacekeeping**

New threats to security on the continent are emerging. How should the threats posed by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin be countered and what are the security needs of countries emerging from conflict, such as Guinea Bissau? And will there be a continuous supply of funding to put boots on the ground?
African leaders, in conjunction with European and international donors are working to ensure that conflict intervention is put on a sustainable financial footing. A key decision of the 27th AU Summit, which took place in July in Rwanda was to agree on a roadmap for increased African financing for AU-led peace support operations.

In addressing the financing question one thing is sure, the EU has been committed from the beginning, and will continue to invest in peace and security in Africa. Europe welcomes the African Union’s desire to make funding more sustainable and predictable and to mobilise new sources of funding.

The EU decision to apply an 80% ceiling for its contribution to troop allowances was a way to ensure adequate funding for longer-term capacity building and to meet the multiplying of operations across Africa. The financial cost associated with conflict intervention operations continues to rise and demands on the EU to support these operations have significantly exceeded initial estimates.

Winning the fight and paving the way for a peaceful Somalia will require for us to stay together, and for the AU to broaden partnerships. The EU will remain the AU’s strong ally to silence the guns and to secure the financial future of peacekeeping and conflict prevention.
What is e-Government and e-Governance?
E-government is the use of ICT and its applications by a government for the provision of information and public services to its people, institutions and businesses. E-Governance, on the other hand, is the development, deployment and enforcement of policies, laws and regulations necessary to support the functioning of an e-Government.

AU Legal Framework for e-Governance
Today e-Governance is not implicitly provided for in any AU legal instrument. The charters that provide for governance and public administration are the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Administration, and the AU Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection. The AUC, the AU Regional Economic Communities and NEPAD also initiated a Comprehensive ICT Strategy for Africa (2015–25).

Even without implicit e-reference in AU legal instruments, the provisions for effective and corruption-free public service and the right of citizens to access their government services in the most efficient way are all available already now.

The African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service (adopted in 2011, 13 ratifications, not in force) commits to easy access to adequate public services, organised in a manner which ensures that services are delivered in the most effective, efficient and economical manner. The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (entered into force in 2012, 25 ratifications) provides that the State Parties should improve public sector management, efficiency and effectiveness of public services through accountable, efficient and effective public administration. The African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (adopted in 2014, no ratifications, not in force) provides for many electronic services, sets a framework for data protection and cyber security and provides for the right of access to personal information in public databases.

The AU Agenda 2063 envisions that Africa will deliver effective and efficient services to African Citizens and is committed to promoting policies to promote the deployment and utilization of ICTs across all socio-economic sectors in Africa and integrate ICTs into national and regional programs, such as education training systems, health, agriculture and public administration, with a view to promote access and use of ICTs at 10% growth rate per annum. The AU has set a goal that by 2023 at least 70% of the African people will perceive the public service to be professional, efficient, responsive, accountable, impartial and corruption free.

Why e-Governance is Beneficial for Africa
Just to mention a few most urgent benefits – e-Governance is important for African economy because it will drive ICT-based innovation in the whole economy of any given country. Implementing e-governance elevates entrepreneurship to come up with new solutions, which will benefit all economic sectors. In economic sense according to EU Commissioner Ansip some analyses say that up to €50 billion/year can be saved with e-procurement, around 2% of GDP can be saved by implementing digital signature. Increase in access to digital technologies brings more choice and convenience for many people. Through inclusion, efficiency and innovation, access provides opportunities that were not available earlier. E-Governance in fiscal administration helps to curb illicit financial outflows from a country by increasing domestic tax revenue and decreasing corruption. According to Global Financial Integrity report “Illicit Financial Flows from Developing Countries: 2004–2013” illicit financial outflows just from Sub-Saharan Africa average 6.1 percent of the region’s GDP and amounted to an average of 48.2 million USD a year during the period. Not to speak about the sustainability and environmental friendliness argument.

State of Play in Africa
According to the latest UN e-Government Survey from 2014 the progress in African e-governance remains relatively slow and uneven. Progress is measured by E-Government Development Index (EGDI), which is a composite measure of three important dimensions of e-government, namely: provision of online services, telecommunication connectivity and human capacity. The regional average in Africa is 0.2661, which is the lowest
regional average in the world. South Korea ranks highest with 0.9462 and Somalia ranks the last with 0.0139. Six African countries – Tunisia, Mauritius, Egypt, Seychelles, Morocco and South Africa – have EGDI values above the world average of 0.4712, placing them among the top 50 per cent of the world. On the other hand, about 30 per cent (16 countries) of the African countries are at the bottom 10 per cent of the world ranking.

What Needs to be Done to Kick-start e-Governance
E-Governance has four main tracks that a government needs to implement. First, ensure access to ICT connections, the Internet, fixed and mobile networks. Second, information needs to be digitalised in order to able to deliver digital services and exchange information. Third, formalised digital exchange platform that must be created between various registers and government databases, without creating a super-database. And fourth, electronic identity is needed for all people to access the e-services safely. Many countries’ experience shows that starting implementation of e-governance can be done quite quickly, it just needs a political decision and actual execution.

There Is a Strong Need for Practical Guidelines in Africa
The EGDI index classifies and benchmarks a situation in a given country against recognised best practices and common denominators showing where one country is in comparison to others. However, not much help is globally available for practitioners, who actually are responsible for implementing an e-Government. Building an e-Government is an extremely complex task. According to the UN Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG) there are ten major areas of governmental services: general public services; defence; public order and safety; economic affairs; environmental protection; housing and community amenities; health; recreation, culture and religion; education; and social protection. In these functional areas there are 69 sub-areas, like police, border control, revenue administration, public finance, social insurance, health services, civil registers, etc. and most of them need implementation of e-Government services. There are tens, if not hundreds, of different modernisation programs to be initiated and implemented in order to achieve e-services in all important areas. On top of that, complexity is added by the need to integrate all those different e-services into one consistent and coordinated service delivery platform. That platform should use state registries like the population register, business register and land register, to mention a few, and be based on secure electronic identity available for all citizens. Implementation of the e-Government services even in one specific domain takes time and contains a lot of risks. Development of a holistic e-Government is an exponentially challenging exercise. This is why it is necessary to have clear and specific practical guidelines for all the functional areas for all involved players supported by comprehensive training courses.

Need for a Toolkit and Training Module in Africa
Setting up continental e-governance would probably take 15–20 years of continuous modernisation efforts, if started from the scratch. Africa is in a good position to leapfrog to the best available practices in the world, while developing its own practical tools. Africa could develop its own e-Governance
toolkit with guidelines and training programme for politicians, reform planners, procurement officers, developers, end users etc. A toolkit typically also contains description of best practices and necessary reference models of business processes, data and IT applications. The AUC is already planning to create an e-Governance training module within the AU Academy available for all African countries. There are already good examples in other areas in the world, where such common toolkits have immensely helped develop a sector.

**EU-AU Joint High-level e-Governance Roundtable**

On 8 April 2016 the AU and the EU organised a joint e-Governance roundtable at the AUC Headquarters in the margins of the EU-AU Commission to Commission meeting. The roundtable was chaired by EU Commission Vice President Andrus Ansip and the AU Commissioner for Energy and Infrastructure Dr. Elham Ibrahim. It was the first joint effort to exchange information, best practices and major challenges. Commissioner Ibrahim urged the AU member states to invest and enhance the relatively low level of engagement on e-Governance. EU Vice President Ansip noted that e-Governance is a must in public services in the 21st century, the solutions have to be open and cross-border and Africa is in the position to use the latest technologies, learn from Europe’s mistakes and harmonise e-Governance rules at the very early stage to ensure true interoperability. Mr. Moctar Yedaly, Head of AUC Information Society Division explained how the AU Comprehensive ICT strategy encompasses deployment and integration of ICTs across all socio-economic sectors in Africa, aims to improve access of rural communities to ICT services and e-applications and develop e-Government applications to allow easy access to all government services.
While the people of Africa have enjoyed considerably more peace in recent years than in earlier decades, the number of violent events has been rising since 2011. At the same time, the nature of violence is evolving from large-scale civil wars to political unrest or acts of terrorism.

The theme of this year’s Day of the African Child on 16 June was ‘conflict and crises in Africa: protecting all children’s rights’. The organisers, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), use the day to communicate recommendations.

The Day of the African Child events and the ACERWC’s recent study on the impact of armed conflict on children in Africa, is part of a wider effort to elevate the child protection agenda in conflict situations.

“Accountability for violations in conflict situations remains a serious problem…very limited lessons seem to have been learned from earlier conflicts; the same violations continue and states remain aloof to the plight of their children,” warned Prof. Benyam Dawit Mezmur, Chair of the ACERWC.

**Education denied**

The situation of children in armed conflicts in Africa is grave. Globally, an estimated 28 million children are denied education because of attacks on schools in areas affected by conflict. Of these, almost 50% or some 12.6 million are in Africa. The Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack — an inter-agency coalition formed in 2010 to address the problem of targeted attacks on education during armed conflict — found that between 2005 and 2014, national armed forces and non-state armed groups, multi-national forces, and peacekeepers have used schools and universities in at least nine countries during armed conflicts, including in the Central African Republic, Chad, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo, Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda. Attacks on schools and universities are prohibited under international humanitarian and human rights law and can constitute war crimes.

**2016 PSC Open Session**

On 10 May 2016, the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), which is tasked with the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, held its third annual open session on children and armed conflict in Africa. The session was dedicated to protecting schools from attacks during armed conflicts. The panel consisted of the main high-level personalities who carry the child protection flag in Africa – the AU Commissioners for Peace and Security and Social Affairs, the AU Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security, the Chairperson of the African Child Committee, the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, UNICEF, Save the Children. The EU Delegation to the African Union, made a statement on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

In the statement, delivered by Ambassador Gary Quince, he emphasised that the EU welcomes the focus on protecting education and schools from attack and military use during conflict. According to UNESCO, this situation is particularly acute in sub-Saharan Africa, where 30 million children are out of school; over 12 million due to conflict.
Smail Chergui, the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, reminded that AU Member states have the primary responsibility for ensuring safety of children, and recalled that attacks on schools is prohibited by International Humanitarian Law.

The EU strongly supports the work of the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and its continental report on children and armed conflict in Africa. The EU is backing the Committee with a grant of €1.2 million over the next three years.

The EU also urged the seven AU Member States that are yet to ratify the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, to do so. There have been no new ratifications since 2012. The EU also called on AU Member States to use national, continental and international justice systems in conflict and post-conflict situations to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of grave violations against children.

ACERWC Continental Study

The ACERWC presented the findings of the continental study, funded by the EU, on the impact of armed conflict on children in 13 African countries and emphasised that accountability for violations in conflict situations remains a serious problem. It set out the situational context of conflict and crisis in Africa and the impact on children and it highlights best practice examples for the elimination of conflicts.

**The main recommendations of the study include:**

- ensure a rights-based approach;
- enrol all children, rebuild and equip health care systems to cater for the needs of children affected by conflict, including psychosocial support;
- adopt appropriate policy initiatives to fulfil people’s right to food;
- institute a protective environment for children to help prevent and respond to violence;
- vehemently condemn sexual and gender-based violence in conflict situations and ensure the prosecution of perpetrators, no matter who they are;
- provide every person with a legal identity and birth registration;
- counter radicalism and extremism; and
- end impunity and bring to justice perpetrators of crimes against children in conflict situations.
Emergency Trust Fund for Africa is taking off

The scale of migration and the number of displaced persons is particularly significant in Africa. Since the beginning of the year the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa has kicked into gear and it is taking concrete steps to address both the root causes of migration as well as to improve migration management for migrants and local communities.

EU taking action

The European Union’s (EU) Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) was officially launched at the Valletta Summit on Migration on 12 November 2015. Up to €1.8 billion has been pledged from the EU budget and the European Development Fund (EDF) being complemented by contributions from EU Member States and other donors. The pledge has quickly become a reality. The Emergency Trust Fund for Africa is already assisting 23 countries in three regions particularly affected by migration.

The Trust Fund aims to foster stability in the regions and to contribute to better migration management. More specifically, it aims to address the causes of destabilisation, forced displacement and irregular migration, by promoting economic and equal opportunities, security and development. The measures at regional level reinforce overall cooperation between countries of transit and origin and promote a coherent approach to combating trafficking and facilitating returns and reintegration. The fund is thus a vital instrument for the delivery of the Valletta Summit’s action plan.

Case study 1: Rapid Action Groups

The overall goal of the €41.6 million Rapid Action Groups – Monitoring and Intervention in the Sahel (GAR-SI SAHEL) is to boost national authorities’ operational capacity to control their territory effectively and to extend the rule of law across the entire Sahel region by creating robust, flexible, mobile, multi-disciplinary, self-sufficient police units able to exercise proper control on the ground.


Case study 2: Youth Empowerment in The Gambia

An €11 million youth empowerment scheme in The Gambia aims to develop the economy and reduce migratory pressure by offering job and training opportunities for returnees and people most likely to migrate.


Sahel Region and Lake Chad

A total of 36 projects in the Sahel Region and Lake Chad area have been approved comprising 4 regional programmes and 32 national projects in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

The Trust Fund Operational Committee for the Sahel region and Lake Chad area approved a first package of 10 programmes on 14 January 2016. With a total budget of €101 million, the core objective is to address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement. On 18 April 2016, the European Commission announced the launch of 20 new programmes in the region for an amount of over €280 million. These actions are to support the stability and resilience of partner countries as well as to promote economic development and job creation.

The initiatives are clearly needed. One call for expression of interest launched in Mali led to 22 different proposals and will result in the identification of €17 million worth of projects in the field of resilience. Calls are being launched in Burkina Faso and Cameroon, a regional project and two projects in Senegal have been signed and the remaining projects will follow shortly. On 13 June 2016, the European Commission announced 6 additional measures for this region worth a total amount of €146 million.

Horn of Africa

A total of 20 projects have been approved in the Horn of Africa comprising 4 regional programmes, (2 of which relate to IGAD and 16 national projects in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.
On 16 December 2015, ten projects for a total amount of €253 million were approved by the Operational Committee for the Horn of Africa. Two of these, in Uganda and Somalia, form part of the EU Regional Development and Protection Programme for the Horn of Africa. Of the remainder, two have a regional scope and six are national actions in Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda.

On 28 April 2016, a further package of ten projects was approved by the Operational Committee for a total amount of €117 million. These projects include actions under the EU Regional Development and Protection Programme (in Sudan, Kenya and Ethiopia), as well as two regional projects and five national projects in Somalia, Kenya and Sudan.

Contracts have already been signed and activities have begun focusing on areas including employment opportunities, building resilience through the provision of basic services and livelihoods, and strengthening institutional and capacity building on migration issues, including the fight against trafficking and smuggling, border management and legal migration and mobility.

**North of Africa**

The first Operational Committee for this area – specifically Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia – took place on 16 June 2016. The Committee adopted projects totaling €27.5 million covering one regional project, and national projects in Egypt and in Libya.

In addition, African neighbouring countries of the eligible countries may benefit, on a case-by-case basis, from projects with a regional dimension in order to address regional migration flows and related cross-border challenges.

**Prevention and Management**

The Emergency Trust Fund for Africa is tackling the issue of irregular migration and displacement in countries of origin, transit and destination, using a mix of methods involving prevention, management and building for the future.

Economic programmes are seeking to create employment opportunities, especially for young people and women in local communities, with a focus on vocational training and creation of micro and small enterprises. Resilience is augmented through support of basic services for local populations and refugees persons, such as food and nutrition security, health, education, and social protection.

Improved migration management in all its aspects is another key goal, including national and regional strategies to limit irregular migration and fight human trafficking, effective return and readmission practices and enhancing synergies between migration and development.

Finally, the fund also wants to boost stability and governance, in particular through conflict prevention, addressing human rights abuses and enforcing the rule of law through capacity building. This will include action to counter radicalisation and extremism. The trust fund complements existing European development aid to Africa and aims to support inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

**Emergency Trust Fund for Africa**

For all the latest news about the Fund and the projects visit: [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/africa/eu-emergency-trust-fund-africa_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/africa/eu-emergency-trust-fund-africa_en)
A follow-up workshop of the EU-Africa Business Forum (EABF) took place in Brussels on June 15, 2016 as a side event to the European Development Days. Building on the success and momentum of the 5th EU-Africa Business Forum, held in 2014, this is the fourth in a series of EABF follow-up workshops organised in Africa and Europe by the European Commission and the African Union Commission.

Following the opening remarks by Klaus Rudischhauser, Deputy Director General at the European Commission's Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development and Business Africa Secretary General Jacqueline Mugo, the workshop focused on two thematic sessions: the first session - Sustainable energy enterprises and the role of public-private partnerships – looked at mobilising private investment and finance for Africa with a view to scaling up sustainable energy production, transmission and distribution in order to power development and economic growth in the region. The private sector will need to play a much more prominent role in financing this investment which, in turn, will require African countries to create an enabling environment for innovative financing solutions.

This was followed by a session that looked at impact investment as a way to boost the private sector’s contribution to sustainable development in Africa. Impact investing generates a measurable social and environmental impact as well as financial returns for the investor, and is an innovative way to help Africa raise the enormous sums needed to meet its Sustainable Development Goals.

Namibia’s successful facilitation of trade relations for their business people was presented as an example emphasising political process is central to creating a conducive environment for social and environmental investment. Namundjebo-Tilahun representing the Namibian private sector speaking at the Impact Investment for Africa session said Namibia needs to invest in its human capital in order for the economy to develop even further and to bridge the gap of citizens’ education levels. “Countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia have seen a boom in impact investment because the countries are considered to have vibrant markets that are constantly growing, especially in agricultural aggregation and renewable energy,” she said.

The EU-Africa Business Forum (EABF) is an integral part of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES). Its main objective is bringing the views of business to European and African leaders together on critical issues pertaining to both continents’ relations. The previous EABF was held in Brussels on March 31 – April 1, 2014 and provided a unique opportunity for African and European companies to network and exchange views on EU-Africa business and investment relations and how to jointly address the challenge of consolidating sustainable economic growth.
Leading the way to energy security and sustainability

At a time of increased international attention on energy in Africa – including in the scope of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy – the Second Stakeholder Forum of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) was a key milestone in delivering results post COP21, as well as an opportunity to feed into the results of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. The high level event was designed to forge new strategic linkages between the private sector, the scientific community and state actors, and thus further bolster energy relations between Europe and Africa.

Complementary energy goals
Africa and Europe have a shared interest in accelerating access to sustainable, efficient and secure energy supplies. While it is endowed with abundant renewable energy resources, Africa requires significant technical and financial investment alongside capacity building as it broadens access, reduces its fossil fuel dependence and expands renewable energy markets. Europe, in turn, seeks to enhance its energy security in cooperation with African partners.

Stakeholder forum
Taking place from 16-17 May 2016 in Milan, Italy, the Second Stakeholder Forum of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) focused on how to advance renewable energy innovation, capacity building and investment, under the overall theme ‘Business and Science: Leading the Way to Sustainable Energy.’

Held every three years as a high-level event, the stakeholder forum is one of the strategic dialogue events organized by the AEEP. The Milan event was jointly organised by the AEEP, the Italian government, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Commission.

Over 500 participants took part, including African and European ministers, Commissioners and senior officials from the African Union (AU) and European Union (EU), along with representatives of regional institutions, international organisations, the banking and finance industry, the private sector, academia, civil society, and the media. Modalities included a mix of plenary and specially structured panel discussions, targeted networking and ‘business match-making’ events. An exhibition and fair formed an integral part of the event’s activities.

Discussions centred on investment in energy infrastructure, partnerships for on-the-ground implementation, as well as influencing energy and climate policy to provide an enabling framework for stakeholders to accelerate the delivery of post-COP21 results.

The objectives of the AEEP forum were to increase private sector investment in energy infrastructure in Africa; enhance the engagement of non-state actors in the development of the sustainable energy sector with an emphasis on human capital for renewable energy; and to encourage dialogue between African and European leaders across key thematic areas around energy security and development.

AEEP 2020 targets
As H.E. Dr. Elham Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union pointed out, “Africa has enormous potential for renewable energy sources, but energy poverty prevails, concerted effort is needed from all stakeholders for concrete project investments.”
The stakeholder forum was a welcome opportunity to consider how to progress towards the AEEP’s 2020 targets, which aim to: provide an additional 100 million Africans with access to sustainable energy services; double electricity interconnection between African countries and increase gas consumption and exports in order to enhance energy security; raise the proportion of renewable energy in the energy mix through, for example, generating at least 15,500 megawatts (MW) of new hydro, wind and solar power; and increase energy efficiency across all sectors.

Next steps
The forum launched new AEEP reports and initiatives, including the Mapping of Energy Programs and Initiatives in Africa Report, the 2016 AEEP Status Report and the Renewable Energy Solutions for Africa (RES4Africa) Initiative. At the conclusion of the two-day event, participants adopted the Milan Communiqué and a call for action in which different stakeholders announced a comprehensive portfolio of activities to contribute to the AEEP 2020 Targets.

A number of interesting recommendations and conclusions emerged from the forum.

- The AEEP targets should be updated to align with the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) targets enhancing links to the SDGs, to reflect changes in the market and to realise even more ambitious targets in the coming years
- The role of the AUC is key to facilitating regional energy agreements and assuaging political sensitivities around cross-border interconnection that can hamper energy security goals.
- The AEEP strategies to involve the youth in energy programmes should align with the objectives of African Union Agenda 2063 that places priority on programmes to develop skills in science and engineering.
- The AEEP is to streamline many regional initiatives in the ongoing efforts to integrate the work of the main regional economic communities in Africa.
- Support for regional programmes can address the lack of accurate data on energy access, especially via off-grid solutions in order to improve the current AEEP progress indicators.

Catalysing energy investment
A key takeaway from the Milan stakeholder forum was that Africa’s sustainable energy future is not the sole responsibility of the public sector, nor can it be achieved solely through public investment. The private sector, civil society and academia have a critical role to play in fostering sustainable energy projects, investment and the right policy frameworks. It was emphasised that access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy is a precondition for social and equitable development at local level.

The senior business and policy roundtable recommended 14 concrete actions to stakeholders and leaders of Africa-EU energy cooperation, ranging from creating alternative financing mechanisms that facilitate access to finance for small and medium sized enterprises, to creating a mechanism to exchange best practices on permitting (including a league table of countries and how long it takes from project inception to project award and implementation) to supporting the business involvement of women in the energy market.


The Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP)
A long-term framework for political dialogue and cooperation between Africa and the European Union (EU), the AEEP aims to increase effectiveness of efforts to secure reliable and sustainable energy services in the coming decades on both continents and to extend access to modern energy services and expand the use of renewable energy in Africa. To achieve this, the AEEP Steering Group - currently comprised of the European Commission, the African Union Commission (AUC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Egypt, Germany and Italy - entrusted the EUEI PDF (EU Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility) with providing the AEEP Secretariat.
EU and the Southern African countries sign Economic Partnership Agreement
This development-oriented agreement is the first of its kind with an African region pursuing regional economic integration.

The agreement was signed by Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström on behalf of the EU. Commissioner Malmström said: “Trade is a tool to spur economic growth and sustainable development. It’s also an important factor for integrating regions and forming stronger bonds between countries. With the Economic Partnership Agreement that we are signing, we want to base our trade relations with our partners in the Southern African region on commonly agreed, stable rules. Trade has helped lift millions of people from poverty throughout the years. Thanks to agreements like this one, we are preparing the ground for that process to continue.”

The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland – the so-called “SADC EPA group” – is a development-oriented free trade agreement. The EPA takes into account the different levels of development of each partner. It guarantees Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, and Swaziland duty-free, quota-free access to the European market. South Africa will also benefit from enhanced market access, going beyond the existing bilateral arrangement. Furthermore, the agreement signed increases the flexibility of Southern African producers to put together products from components from various countries, without the risk of losing their free access to the EU market. It also provides for a number of protective measures, for instance for nascent, fragile industries or for food security reasons.

The Southern African markets will open gradually and partially to EU exports, in an asymmetric way. In the process of diversifying their economies and broadening production, imports of certain goods are important for Southern African nations – certain industrial parts, seeds and machinery, for instance. The import duties on many of these so-called intermediary goods will be significantly reduced, making the products more easily accessible to Southern African entrepreneurs.

For the South African market specifically, particular advantage has been granted to EU producers of traditional quality products with a worldwide reputation – for example wines and food products – that will now get the exclusive right to use their traditional names, or ‘geographical indications’, in South Africa. Correspondingly, several South African geographical indications will, from now on, be protected on the EU market, such as different types of South African wine such as Stellenbosch and Paarl, along with Rooibos tea and other products.

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, added: “Fully utilising the economic potential of the private sector and further strengthening trade is critical for the new global development agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals. The agreement can help us to tap this potential.”
Best wishes for our departing colleagues
EU-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP

INVESTING IN PEOPLE PROSPERITY AND PEACE

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