



**AFRICAN UNION**



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**Africa EU Joint Task Force Meeting  
4-5 April 2011, Brussels**

1. The Twelfth meeting of the Joint Africa-EU Task Force (JTF) was held on 4-5 April 2011 in Brussels, Belgium. The opening plenary session was co-chaired on the EU side, by Mr. Nicholas Westcott, Managing Director of the Africa Department of the European External Action Service (EEAS), and Mr. Klaus Rudischhauser, Director, DG Development Cooperation in the European Commission. On the AU side, the meeting was co-chaired by Amb. John Kayode Shinkayé, Chief of Staff in the Bureau of the Chairperson of the AU Commission. The meeting was also attended by co-chairs of the Joint Expert Groups (JEGs), the Chair of the African Union, the European parliament, Civil Society from both continents, senior officials of the two Commissions and the EEAS.

2. The Co-chairs welcomed the participants and explained the changes introduced to the EU and AU institutional set up and their implications on the political dialogue between Africa and the EU. On the EU side, Mr. Westcott explained the responsibilities of the newly set up EEAS (1 January 2011) and how it had already facilitated the alignment of the EU and AU positions in concrete crisis situations since then. The EEAS will enable the EU to become a more effective partner. On the AU side, Ambassador Shinkayé explained the new African Union follow up mechanism and composition for the Political Dialogue Meetings at Expert, Senior Officials and ministerial levels, as decided at the AU Summit in January 2011.

3. As regards the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, in view of the next College to College meeting (Brussels, 31 May-1 June 2011) the Co-chairs emphasised that following the adoption of the second Action Plan, more focus should be put on implementation, a matter of shared responsibility, to which resources need to be made available. The co-Chairs called on the Joint Expert Groups to focus on prioritisation of activities and the delivery of concrete outcomes through developing clear roadmaps. The co-Chairs agreed on the need to explore all possible avenues, including existing and new instruments, to finance the implementation of the JAES. Mr. Rudischhauser informed that the European Commission is currently looking into possibilities to address the issue of a “Pan-African financing Instrument” in the Commission proposal for the new EU budget post 2013. Amb. Shinkayé underlined the need to uphold the spirit of an equal partnership and to treat Africa as one. He called on the EU to consider the African proposal for the establishment of the Pan-African Integration Facility. Both sides agreed to continue to engage on these proposals and to exchange views on the establishment of a mechanism to support and facilitate the effective functioning of the JEGs.

4. The JTF noted with satisfaction that much progress had been achieved and looked forward to the successful outcome of the forthcoming tripartite (AUC-EC-UN) meeting in Nairobi, Kenya on administrative cooperation.

5. Civil society from both sides expressed their appreciation for their involvement in the meeting and stressed the continued need for a more inclusive and people-centered approach to the implementation of the JAES

6. A JAES Forum was organised to ensure an effective outreach by bringing together key stakeholders of the JAES to network and exchange information on the thematic partnerships.

7. A bilateral meeting between Amb. Shinkayé, Director Rudischhauser and EEAS colleagues discussed inter alia :

- the division of labour between the EEAS and Commission services with regard to the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES);
- possible solutions to the JAES financing problems including a technical support facility, the African Integration Facility (AIF), and an EU Pan-African Instrument in the framework of the next multi-annual financial perspectives;
- the preparation of the next EC-AUC College-to-College meeting on 31.05-01.06.2011 in Brussels,
- challenges and possible solutions with regard to the financial management of the 55ME support programme and the African Peace Facility (APF), including recovery orders;
- the need for Africa to be treated as One, as envisaged in the JAES;
- specific financing shortfalls for the Energy- and Infrastructure Partnership;
- various legal issues, including the H. Habré trial, Universal Jurisdiction, and the ICC, as well as opportunities and challenges;
- the way ahead on the APF following the postponement of the JCC, including the planned video-conference with RECs and the AU's request for ERM-support for mediation in the Libyan crisis;
- the pending appointment of the new AU Head of Mission to the EU in Brussels.

8. A specific meeting to discuss the financing of the JAES took place. At the Tripoli Summit, *"both sides agree to further engage, without delay, in the discussions on the African proposals to jointly establish an African Integration Facility to support the implementation of the Joint Strategy and its Action Plan"*. Agreement was reached on the urgent need to explore possibilities to set-up an instrument that would address the financing shortfalls of the JAES and its successive Action Plans. Some critical issues still need to be further clarified, notably the scope and management of the instrument, as well as the criteria to select the specific activities to be financed. However, some guiding principles can already be retained, notably the clear added-value, the cross-regional, continental or inter-continental dimension and the principle of subsidiarity. The process and timelines will have to be carefully defined. They must take into account the necessary consultations on both sides to ensure the necessary ownership and political momentum, and should link in the calendar for the establishment of the EU's post-2013 financial perspectives.

9. In the meantime, the financing of the second Action Plan adopted at the Nov.2010 Summit for the period 2011-13 will have to continue through the mainstreaming of the JAES activities in existing instruments. The 2011 Mid-Term Review of the Intra-ACP and the Regional

Indicative Programmes of the European Development Fund, and equivalent reviews of the ENPI programmes, will offer major opportunities in this prospect. No efforts should be spared on both sides to achieve significant results that would benefit the JAES.

10. To facilitate the implementation of the JAES, the last Summit agreed "*to examine the possibility of establishing a small, flexible and demand-driven assistance mechanism to address implementation difficulties and to provide the necessary technical, administrative and secretarial support for the implementation of the JAES Action Plan 2011-2013*". Given the time and procedural constraints on both sides, the discussions between the two Commissions will be pursued urgently in order to allow setting-up such a mechanism before the end of the second Action Plan timeline.

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## Interpretation

**Participants:** *Ms Pernilla Sjölin (DG SCIC), Mr Luigi Fiorino (DG SCIC), Ms Pamela Youth (CSD), Ms Lourdes De Silva (CSD)*

**Outcomes:**

- Various issues were discussed to take our cooperation forward in the next few months. Moreover, SCIC explained aspects of our work, e.g. procedure for hiring freelance interpreters, quality assurance, general organisation of our service, information on recruitment (of both staff and freelance interpreters) as well as contracts for freelance interpreters. Other issues of common interest and concern were also discussed.
- The CSD also showed its strong support of the "African Project for training of conference interpreters and translators", which was explained in detail.
- SCIC will look into the possibilities of inviting interpreter colleagues from the CSD to return training courses (especially for French returns) and for CSD colleagues to take part as observers in the inter-institutional accreditation tests for freelance interpreters.
- The exchange programme for staff interpreters (in the framework of administrative cooperation for which DG HR has set aside funds for 2011) was also discussed. It was agreed that possible exchanges will take place after the summer holidays, for the French and/or Portuguese booths (1 or 2 interpreters in total).
- It is very regretful that until now the CSD has not been able to acquire the *Oracle* licence that is a pre-requisite for the installation of the Planning & Programming Tool that DG Interpretation's IT services have developed for the CSD. This tool will allow for a smooth organisation of meetings and interpreter assignments. Unfortunately, no news as to when the licence will be available was given.

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## **1. Peace and Security**

### **I. Participants**

**Africa**: Abd El-Naceur Belaïd (Algeria Ambassador, Co chair Partnership P&S); John Shinkayé (Chief of Staff AU); Dr Ruben Maye Mangué (Perm Representative Equatorial Guinea); Mohamed Zergot, (Algerian Embassy Brussels); Dr Admore Kambudzi, (AU PSC); Elizabeth Choge, (AU PSD); Charles Mombo, AU

**EU** :Thomas Peyker, EU Del to the AU; Bogdan Batic, EU Del to the AU; Dirk Cauwenbergh, MD Africa/Pan African Unit; Saffia Diop, EC / DEVCO J2; Gerard Quille, EP; Kai Schaeffer, DEVCO; Michael Lakin, France MFA

### **II. Outcomes**

#### 1. Develop implementation roadmaps/review progress in implementation process

The EU-AU Joint Experts Group on Peace and Security, at its meeting held in Brussels on 4 April 2011, adopted the following recommendations:

#### **1. Political Dialogue**

- Improvement of the dialogue to come to a true political partnership that should be dynamic and efficient in its approach, taking into consideration the tragic events on the African continent, such as the crises in Libya and Cote d'Ivoire. In this regard, there is need for better use of the Early Response Mechanism (ERM) for funding AU efforts aimed at addressing conflicts and crises in Africa.

- Mobilization of international support towards African solutions to African conflicts and crises.

### **Joint Initiatives Planned for Implementation in 2011**

#### **Initiative 1**

Completion and implementation of the **political dialogue** framework by establishing systematic and structural linkages between EU COPS and the AU PSC, of which the next meeting is scheduled for 11 May 2011 in Addis Ababa; College-to-College Meeting on 31 May to 1 June 2011 in Brussels, as well as a proposed meeting between the AU Military Staff Committee and the EU Military Committee before the end of 2011.

#### **Initiative 2**

Enhance dialogue towards finding effective means for providing predictable, flexible and sustainable funding for Peace Support Operations undertaken by the AU or under the authority of the United Nations, taking into account the lessons learnt from Peace Support Operations so far and the implementation of the African Peace Facility (APF).

### **2. Operationalisation of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)**

#### **Initiative 1**

APSA Support Programming will be finalised and the Programme launched on 1 May 2011 to ensure that there are no funding gaps.

### **Initiative 2**

The AU-RECs Strategic APSA Roadmap will be finalized by mid 2011 and will serve as a framework for funding by AU partners.

### **Initiative 3**

Organize regular AU/RECs/RMs/EU meetings on APSA implementation.

### **Initiative 4**

-Provision of support to African Training Centres to enable them to contribute more effectively to the operationalization of the African Standby Force (ASF) in accordance with ASF policy documents. These implementation actions will begin by end 2011.

-Accelerate implementation of ASF Roadmap III, the Draft of which will be submitted to the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security in May 2011, for adoption. The aim of the Roadmap is to ensure the attainment of full operational capacity of the ASF by 2015. The major activities of the Roadmap include:

- Further improvement of ASF Documentation.
- Development and implementation of the ASF Roster and Database.
- Establishment of the Continental Logistics Depot.
- Evaluation of the attainment of Full Operational Capability of the ASF (AMANI AFRICA II) by 2015.

### **Initiative 5**

Initiate second AMANI AFRICA cycle, taking into account lessons learned from 1<sup>st</sup> cycle.

### **Initiative 6**

- Provide support towards establishment of linkage/connectivity between the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the decision making institutions on peace and security, and between the regional Early Warning Centres and the CEWS (AU situation Room).

## **3. Cross-Cutting and Thematic Issues**

### **Initiative 1**

#### **Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD)**

-Mobilise support for the implementation of the recommendations of the post-conflict needs assessment studies undertaken with respect to Sudan, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), as well as other post-conflict countries where such assessments have been done.

- The AU Commission will undertake a study, in collaboration with the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the objectives, structure, financial implications, and the location of the proposed African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AUC-PCRD), and report to the forthcoming session of the AU Assembly in 2011.

### **Initiative 2**

#### **African Union Border Programme (AUBP)**

Provide support, in the context of the request made by Sudan, towards the demarcation of the north-south border. In this regard, the EU could provide exchange of experience on cross-border co-operation, capacity building, and assistance in the development of legal

instruments. This initiative could also be extended, through the support of EU Member States, to exchanges of experience on delimitation and demarcation of borders.

### **Initiative 3**

#### **Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)**

The AU Commission will convene a meeting of Member States' experts to elaborate an African common position on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which common position will be presented to a Preparatory Committee meeting at the UN. The meeting of Member States will be funded by the EU under the APSA Support Program (APF 2).

### **Initiative 4**

#### **Pelindaba Treaty - African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone**

The AU Commission will convene a meeting of the African Commission for Nuclear Energy (ACNE) in May 2011, to finalise the structure, terms of reference and the budget of ACNE. Subsequently, there will be a bilateral AU-EU meeting at which EU support will be discussed.

### **Initiative 5**

#### **Security Sector Reform (SSR)**

The AU Commission is developing a Security Sector Reform Policy that will guide reform of the defense forces, police, the judiciary and prison systems, reform of intelligence systems, and the establishment of parliamentary oversight on the security systems for those Member States that will be implementing SSR. The EU will contribute to this process.

### **Initiative 6**

#### **Maritime Safety and Security**

The AU Commission will finalize the elaboration of the African Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIM-Strategy) by the end of 2011. EU support will be secured through the second APF (APSA Support Programme).

### **Initiative 7**

#### **Counter-Terrorism**

- The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) identified the following activities for implementation in its 2010-2013 Strategic Plan:
  - Finalization of the ACSRT databases relating to terrorism and counter-terrorism;
  - Production of publications on relevant topics related to the fight against terrorism in Africa;
  - Operationalization of the terrorism Early Warning System; and
  - Capacity-building activities for Member States
  
- The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission for Counter-Terrorism and his EU counterpart have agreed to establish regular dialogue.

### **Initiative 8**

#### **Women, Peace and Security**

The AU Commission undertook a number of measures to ensure that the strong normative foundation that is already in place in the area of Women, Peace and Security, will be enhanced in a more effective and concrete manner, which includes:

- the launch in 2010 of a reflection to prevent and address the scourge of sexual related violence on women and children in armed conflicts under the auspices of the AU Panel of the Wise, who will submit a holistic report to the Summit in 2012;

- the appointment of an AU Special Envoy on Sexual Violence;
- Ensuring that the AU Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Mediators/Special Envoys, which are at an advanced production stage, are gender sensitive;
- providing training to AU staff at headquarters and the field and finalization of the elaboration of a gender training manual for peace support operations in Africa in line with UNSC 1325 and subsequent relevant resolutions;
- convening an annual open session of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on women and children in armed conflicts; and
- strengthening the human resource capacity of the AU Peace and Security Department and its field missions on gender issues.

## 2. Priority actions for 2011

### a. Political dialogue

- (1) PSC to PSC (11.05 / Addis)
- (2) College to college (31.05-01.06 / Brussels)
- (3) EUMC - MSC (before end of 2011, EU to invite)

### b. APSA

- (1) APSA support programming
- (2) AU / RECs APSA roadmap
- (3) ASF roadmap III
- (4) Connect/Link the RECs to Continent in Early Warning
- (5) Initiate Amani Africa II

## 3. Identify opportunities and challenges in the implementation process

### a. Opportunities

- (1) Political dialogue
  - (a) EUMC - MSC (before end of 2011, EU to invite)
  - (b) Develop pragmatic cooperation with UN office to the AU
  - (c) Develop ad hoc thematic / geographic teams (incl RECs)
  - (d) AIM strategy
- (2) APSA
  - (a) AU / RECs APSA roadmap
  - (b) ASF roadmap III
  - (c) Amani Africa II

### b. Challenges

- (1) Political dialogue
  - (a) EUMC - MSC (before end of 2011, EU to invite)
- (2) APSA
  - (a) APSA roadmap
  - (b) ASF roadmap III
  - (c) Amani Africa II
  - (d) Support AU training Centres

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## 2. Democratic Governance and Human Rights

### I. Participants

**Africa:** Amb. Emile OGNIMBA (AUC-DPA); Habiba MEJRI-CHEIKH (AUC/CID); Jimini ADDISA, (AUC/CIDO); Salah S. HAMMAD (AUC-DPA); Omar SHALABY (Egypt-MFA); Joseph CHILENGI (ECOSOCC)

**EU:** Philippe DARMUZEY (DG DEVCO); Melis ALGUADIS (DG DEVCO); Katariina LEINONEN (EEAS); Renéé ILTIS (EEAS); Alar OLLJUM (EEAS); Giorgio FICARELLI (DG DEVCO); Lasia BLOSS (Germany-MFA); Carolina QUINA (Portugal-MFA); Joaquim NEVES (Portugal- MFA); Ama ANNAN (EU DEL to AU); Anne GUION (EU DEL to AU); Armelle DOUAUD (EP); Friederike GAENSSLEN (ENoP); Marta MARTINELLI (OSD); Thomas HUYGHEBAERT (DEVCO)

### II. Outcomes

1. **Platform for Dialogue:** The meeting discussed, amended and agreed upon the Working Methods for an effective functioning of the Platform for dialogue and its working groups. These working methods are the operational translation of the principles agreed upon at the Constitutive meeting of the Platform, which took place on 12 November in Brussels. All documents related to the Platform process will be posted on the joint website ([www.africa-eu-partnership.org](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org)) to ensure that all stakeholders are informed promptly.

The **thematic focus** of the Working Groups will be the following:

1. Freedom of expression, including media, as a vehicle for promoting democratic change
2. Governance of natural resources, including in conflict and post-conflict situations
3. Combating corruption and ensuring accountability
4. Democratic Institution building

Initially two Working Groups, focusing on the abovementioned first two themes, will be established. The African and European Union Commissions will ensure that the Terms of Reference for these two Working Groups will be developed in the coming weeks by the lead actors. The objective is to organise at least the first meeting of one of the two Working Groups before the end of May 2011. The two Commissions will follow up on necessary arrangements and logistics.

2. **AU-EU Human Rights dialogue:** Participants welcomed the outcome of the 7th AU-EU Human Rights Dialogue, which was preceded by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa-EU Civil Society Dialogue on Governance and Human Rights. It was noted that the Dialogue was held in a constructive atmosphere, allowing an exchange of views on a number of human

rights issues of concern to both sides such as the death penalty, freedom of expression and association, right to development, fight against discrimination, as well as rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. The two sides agreed on the importance to enhance the exchanges of information between the mechanisms of the African and the European human rights systems. Pending issues include proposals made by the CSOs Seminar to hold two workshops on the implementation of UNSC 1325, and migration and migrants' rights. Preparations for the 8<sup>th</sup> AU-EU Human Rights Dialogue are underway.

3. The EEAS presented the recent Communication on a new **partnership for democracy and shared prosperity in the Southern Mediterranean**, which captures the EU's response to the recent happenings in North Africa. The meeting stressed the importance of treating Africa as one and ensuring synergies and complementarities with existing frameworks and ongoing initiatives under the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and its partnership on Democratic Governance and Human Rights when implementing the Action Plan for the Strategy elaborated by this recent Communication.
4. The African Union Commission will present the outcomes of the **AU Summit on Shared Values** (Jan 2011) and brief the meeting on the progress made in the consolidation of the African Governance Architecture, which is the overall political and institutional framework for the promotion of governance in Africa. The AGA constitutes a reflection on the part of the continent on how it can build on and protect the gains in democracy and governance processes that it has achieved. Participants welcomed the AU Assembly Decision to establish a Platform for Governance as a tool to implement of the AGA.
5. After a presentation by the African Union Commission on Media Development, the meeting took note of the **Media development** activities that have been carried out so far by the Communication services of the two Commissions and agreed to look into ways of integrating this strand of work in the implementation of the DGHR partnership Action Plan. The possibility of establishing a working group under the Platform for dialogue with a thematic focus on Media and DGHR will be considered by the Platform at its review meeting planned for end of 2011.
6. Cooperation in the area of **cultural goods and other areas of cultural cooperation**
  - Following the selection of contractors in September 2010, the African Union Commission will inform the iJEG on the progress made with respect to the inventory of cooperation in the area of cultural goods
  - Participants were informed of the development in the area of the itinerant exhibition, which has been successful.
  - The European Commission suggested organising a High Level Group of cultural experts in May to ensure that the third pillar of the partnership can deliver on the priorities of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan

**Recommendations/Conclusions:**

1. The two Commissions were mandated to develop a road map for the implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan and presented for approval at the next iJEG meeting.
2. The two Commissions were also mandated to submit a proposal for better coordination in the international fora between the African and European Groups, particularly in Geneva.
3. The next iJEG meeting will be held before the end of May in Europe.

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### 3. Regional Integration and Trade

#### I. Participants

NAME	ORGANISATION
René Kouassi N'Guettia	Director Economic Affairs AUC
Giorgio Cocchi	EU Commission – DG DEVCO
Cynthia Fontenova	EU Commission – DG TAXUD
Florian Iwinjak	UNIDO
Lars Gronvald	EU Commission – DEVCO/E2
Bryonie Guthrie	South African Dept. International Relations
Nolundi Dikweni	South African Embassy / Mission
Bernard Chane Kune	Committee of the Regions DTC
Fliss Liwaaddine	AUC – Economic Affairs Dept.
Jean-Noël François	AUC – Acting Director Trade & Industry
Moustapha Magumu	EU Delegation to AUC, Addis Ababa
Hakan Ander	EU DG Internal Market, B
Joana Cruz	EU / External Action Service, Pan-African issues
Angel Gutierrez Hidalgo	EU COM, DEVCO C6
Leon Peijwenburg	European Parliament, INTA Secr.
Dorothee Demailly	EU Commission DG Agriculture
Malwina Nowakowska	EU Commission DG Enterprise
Elisabeth Pape	EU Commission - DEVCO

#### II. Outcomes

The meeting was given a comprehensive presentation of the AUC agenda for harmonisation on **customs matters**, in particular tariff nomenclature, rules of origin and transit procedures, capacity building aspects, integrity<sup>1</sup> and anti-corruption initiatives and inter-connectivity of customs computer systems.

The AUC services undertook to prepare a draft concept note on priority activities for cooperation between African customs departments (AUC, REC, states) and EU ones (concerned Member States and Commission), notably on technical assistance, technical workshops and short term visits.

On internal market issues, the meeting was informed that, building on the workshop in Addis Ababa on 28<sup>th</sup> February-1<sup>st</sup> March, EU Commissioner Barnier has proposed a ten-point follow-up programme for joint activities.

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<sup>1</sup> NB WCO integrity project.

On Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary issues (SPS) a discussion took place on 5 April jointly with the MDG/Agriculture group on the basis of a draft working document prepared by the AUC services. The European Commission services (DG SANCO and DEVCO) presented their comments on the document. There was consensus on the broad objective and approach for continuing cooperation in this area, building on the achievements of the first Action Plan. Detailed discussion on the draft working document will continue at technical level after the JTF. A video conference AUC/EC services is envisaged the following week.

The meeting updated the rolling working plan for the seven priority areas included in the partnership (documents attached). Concerning SPS, the document attached includes comments from the services of the European Commission on the original AUC services draft for further discussion.

Finally the meeting was informed that the co-chairs intend to structure work as much as possible on the basis of sector task teams, given the difficulty of discussing technical issues in detail in the wider JEG plenary format. It was agreed that meetings will be organised as much as possible back to back with AU institutional events, to limit transport costs and facilitate a wider participation.

*Enclosures : seven priority areas working plans*

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## **A. Regional integration:**

### **Priority 1: Dialogue on the political dimension, policies and experiences on regional integration in Europe and in Africa and on integration in the global economy, including on:**

#### *Activities:*

1. exchange of information between the EU, AU and RECs on integration processes;
2. the development dimension and impact on the African economies of existing (EU-MED, TDCA, African regional economic agreements) and up-coming (EPAs) trade agreements to which African States are parties
3. the impact of the implemented agreements on the Africa overall integration agenda
4. the EU experience of developing and implementing common institutions and policies
5. Cooperation on liberalisation of Trade in services;
6. The findings of the all-ACP study on regional integration monitoring and the AUC study on the Minimum Integration Programme (MIP) and follow-up to be given.

*Expected Results:* Platform for policy and political dialogue and exchange of information on the regional integration process in Europe with the view to assisting regional integration process in Africa is established

*Main actors:* AUC, RECs, Africa and EU MS, EC (DG DEV, TRADE, MARKT) and concerned International Organisations.

## **Overview**

The partnership builds in this area upon the longstanding formal or informal cooperation between the EU Member States and Commission services and the AU Commission, RECs and Member States.

Within this priority, the focus is on continuing improving the common detailed knowledge of on-going or planned integration processes by means of ad hoc meetings and studies.

At the technical level, priority will be given to specialised sector exchanges between experts. The political dimension of regional integration will also be dealt with at senior or political level.

### **Events & actions 2011 – 2013**

*This section lists meetings (ministerial or technical), conferences, workshops, studies, projects, policy or legislative initiatives by AU or EU Member States, Commissions, Regional Economic Communities, private sector, civil society or other stakeholders.*

- 2011 : AUC – EU COM services workshop on Regional Integration, Addis Ababa, 28 February-1<sup>st</sup> March: Technical standards and regulation; Financial Services; Money laundering and Terrorism financing; Competition Policy; Public Procurement; IPR and anti-counterfeiting; Corporate Transparency and country by country reporting. *(NB follow-up was discussed by COM services on 11 March. AUC suggests (a) to structure future activities around specific groups of experts to facilitate detailed technical work; (b) to consider a study on competition policy)* (Activity N° 1 and 4)
- 2011 : EU Commissioners Barnier and Piebalgs attended the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance combined with the ECA Conference in Addis Ababa on 26 to 29 March. Commissioner Barnier proposed a 10 point action plan to follow-up on the workshop (attached).

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<sup>2</sup> The full text of the Action Plan is available at :

[http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/doc\\_jaes\\_action\\_plan\\_2011\\_13\\_en.pdf](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/doc_jaes_action_plan_2011_13_en.pdf)

- 2011: Meeting of African Ministers in charge of Regional Integration (COMAI VI) in May 2011 is expected to endorse the Action Plan for the implementation of the Minimum Integration Programme (MIP). Supporting the launching of implementation of MIP Action Plan will be a key priority for 2011 (NB the envisaged feasibility study on AU Integration Fund would require technical assistance, draft TOR submitted to EU Delegation to AUC; a *workshop on EU structural Funds is suggested, in relation to the MIP reference to revenue compensation fund, as well as one on the EU legal enforcement instruments*; consumers protection, waste management and other detailed activities to be agreed). (Activity N° 6).
- 2011: AUC/AfDB/UNECA Report "Assessing Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA V); towards African Common Market" planned for 2011. It would provide a reference document for joint discussions (format, date and venue to be confirmed), possibly linked with the work on the political dimension of regional integration mentioned in the overview above. (Activity N°1). A visit to the EU Commission's services is planned for the first semester 2011.
- Fridays of the Commission on the theme "How can Africa learn from the European integration process" planned to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in May 2011
- 2011: Survey of existing studies relating to Activity N°2.
- 2011-2013 : secondment of officials (starting second half 2011)
- 2012 - 2013: Activity N° 3 (the impact of the implemented agreements on the Africa overall integration agenda) and N°5 (Cooperation on liberalisation of trade in services)

## **Task team**

### ***AU Commission:***

Mr Kouassi, Director Economic Affairs (EAD)  
 Mr Nadir Merah, Head Trade Division (ITD)  
 Mr Fliss Liwadine, Policy Officer, Integration (EAD)  
 Mr Festus Fajana, Trade Advisor (ITD)  
 Mr Briggs, Trade Advisor (ITD)

### ***AU Member States, RECs & Private sector & Civil Society:***

#### **On competition:**

African Competition Forum (constituted in 2010 with support from DFID UK and IDRC Canada)  
 The International Competition Network (African members)  
<http://www.internationalcompetitionnetwork.org/members/member-directory.aspx>

#### **On standards:**

African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO – ORAN <http://www.arso-oran.org>), African National Standardisation Offices

### ***EU Commission:***

Emer Daly, Director, DG Internal Market (MARKT); Francisco Caballero Sainz, Head of Unit, DG MARKT; Erik Nooteboom, Head of Unit, DG MARKT; Sven Gentner, Assistant to the Director General, DG MARKT (secondment to AUC foreseen second semester 2011); Diana Acconcia, Deputy Head of Unit, DG TRADE; Cyril Dirscherl, DG ENTR; Massimo De Luca, Trade Counsellor, EU Delegation to Nigeria; Jorge Gallego Lizon, Political Advisor, EU Delegation to the AU; Chiara Tardivo, Attaché, EU Delegation to the AU; Giorgio Cocchi, Deputy Head of Unit, DG DEVCO

(Other EU Delegations): for the record

EEAS: for the record

### **EU Member States & Private sector & Civil Society:**

#### **On standards:**

European standardization organizations – ESOs : CEN (Comité Européen de Normalisation) /CENELEC (Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique), ETSI (European Telecommunication Standards Institute; national standard bodies (NSBs).

#### **Others actors/stakeholders**

UNECA (notably the Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade Division; the Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration; the Observatory of Regional Integration in Africa), UNIDO, International Organisation for Standardisation – ISO  
<http://www.iso.org/iso/home.html>

#### **On financial services:**

Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

[http://www.fatf-gafi.org/pages/0,2987,en\\_32250379\\_32235720\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.fatf-gafi.org/pages/0,2987,en_32250379_32235720_1_1_1_1_1,00.html)

#### **Documents**

*(Key policy documents, legislation, studies and articles by AU or EU Institutions or Member States, sub regional organisations, private sector, civil society and academia.)*

#### **On Standards:**

National Standards Bodies in Developing Countries , ISO – UNIDO, 2008

[http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user\\_media/Publications/documents/fast\\_forward.pdf](http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media/Publications/documents/fast_forward.pdf)



**Brussels, 21 March 2011**

## **Aide memoire**

Suggestions for further cooperation between the EU and the AUC on regulatory issues related to regional cooperation in Africa following the EU-AUC Internal Market Work-shop in Addis Ababa held on 28 February to 1 March 2011.

In July, Commissioner Barnier had discussions with AUC Chairman, Mr Ping and several other AU Commissioners where the need for EU support for the regional integration process in Africa was repeatedly highlighted. It was felt that the AUC, as well as the Regional Economic Communities, could find the lessons of the European integration process relevant for their own integration process.

Against this background, the Commission (DG Internal Market and other services) organised together with the AUC an Internal Market work-shop in Addis Ababa on 28 February to 1 March 2011. The purpose was to launch in-depth talks with the AUC to identify areas in the Internal Market area for future cooperation.

The work-shop, which was well attended from the AUC and with representatives from the UNECA and different RECs, as well as a strong delegation from the EU Commission, provided a good occasion to compare experience from Africa with the EU Internal market and was considered very useful by all parties. The following areas were discussed; General overview of the EU Internal market, State of play of regional integration in Africa, Technical standardisation in the EU, Financial services regulation in the EU, Fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, Transparency and country-by-country reporting, Competition policy, Public procurement and Enforcement of Intellectual property rights.

The following ten point action plan is suggested to the AUC as possible elements for further cooperation in the field of regional cooperation, as a follow-up to the work-shop in Addis Ababa. The actions would fit neatly into existing cooperation instruments such as the Second Action Plan 2011-2013 under the Joint EU Africa Strategy and more particularly Partnership No. 3 on "Regional Integration, Trade and Infrastructure".

### **1. Organisation of Internal Market seminar again next year**

Given the success of and the interest shown during the work-shop, The EU Commission would be ready to organize a new Internal Market seminar next year in Brussels.

### **2. Secondment to the AUC**

The Commission (DG Markt) will second an experienced officer to the AUC Secretariat for a period of three months, starting mid-September 2011.

### **3. Secondment from AUC to EU**

The Commission will invite the secondment of a person from the AUC Secretariat to the Commission for 2-3 months in 2012. The particular subject area for the secondment will be agreed jointly with the AUC.

### **4. Cooperation on the development of studies concerning the benefits of further integration for Africa in specific subject areas**

Should the AUC have the intention to include studies on the potential benefits of further regional integration in Africa in the Road Map of activities preparing for the 2012 Summit, the EU Commission, based on our own experience, could assist in developing terms of reference and methodology for the research. Possible areas to start with could be Trade and Public procurement. The Commission would also be ready to discuss financing of the studies, e.g. under the TRADE.COM project.

#### **5. Contact with UNECA**

The Commission is ready to receive in the spring 2011 a delegation from UNECA and AUC working on the fifth ARIA Report "Assessing Regional Integration in Africa".

#### **6. Support on Standardisation**

The Commission (DG ENTR) is ready to make available expertise to assist the AUC with drafting of terms-of-reference for the AUC study on the situation of African standardisation. The issue will be discussed with AUC representatives during a visit to Brussels in April. DG ENTR can help to establish contacts between AUC and African standardisation organisations (e.g. ARSO) with the European Standardisation Organisations. DG ENTR is also prepared to co-operate with the AUC regarding the elaboration of a programme for a standardisation –related seminar in Brussels or in Africa.

#### **7. Role of Competition policy in Integration**

The Commission (DG COMP) would be ready to organize a seminar on competition policy for the AUC and Regional Economic Communities in Brussels next year.

#### **8. Financial Services**

The Commission (DG Markt) would be ready to organize a seminar on Financial services regulation for the AUC and RECs in Brussels. The seminar would cover the areas of Supervision, Payments, Retail banking and Insurance.

#### **9. Counterfeit and piracy**

The Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM) is planning to foster international cooperation on the fight against counterfeiting and piracy with third countries including with African partners.

#### **10. Public procurement**

The Commission (DG Markt) would be ready to organise a seminar for the AUC and RECs on Public procurement in Brussels next year.

## Action Plan extract<sup>3</sup>

### Priority 2: Customs and Trade Facilitation:

#### *Activities:*

1. Facilitate cooperation between EU and African customs administrations on customs reforms to conform to internationally agreed standards, in particular in the context of supply chain security as well as on the current African process for development of common Transit procedures, on training and capacity building, including the organisation of Customs Blueprints seminars.
2. Exchange of information with a view to support the interconnectivity of computerized Customs systems within Africa, taking into account existing customs computer projects, e.g. UNCTAD Asycuda.

*Main actors:* EC (TAXUD; DEV), the AUC, African and EU Member States, African business community and concerned donors or international organisations such as the World Customs Organisation.

*Financing:* Different sources can be considered within the European Development Fund (e.g., depending on commitments already made, AUC support programme; ongoing regional or all-ACP programmes with trade, customs, fiscal or capacity components; regional technical cooperation facilities (TCF) or within the cooperation or training programmes of EU Member States.

*Expected Results:* Creation of efficient customs systems in Africa, enhanced dialogue on NTB issues and improved trade within Africa and between Africa and EU.

## Overview

### Events & actions 2011 – 2013

*(Meetings (ministerial or technical), conference, workshops, studies, projects, policy or legislative initiatives by AU, EU, their Member States or Regional Economic Communities, private sector, civil society.)*

- 2011: AUC Services will submit their proposal for priority actions.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> The full text of the Action Plan is available at :

[http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/doc\\_jaes\\_action\\_plan\\_2011\\_13\\_en.pdf](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/doc_jaes_action_plan_2011_13_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Possible items might include :

- Cooperation on customs reforms: what is the situation in the RECs? Is there scope for harmonisation?
- Customs codes
- AU common transit procedures: what is the state of play?
- Training and capacity building: customs blueprint seminars (see attachment); mapping current training programmes
- Computer interconnectivity: what is the state of play? What are the objectives?

## **Task team**

### ***AU Commission:***

Mr. Jean Francois Noel, Head Customs Division (ITD)

### ***AU Member States & RECs & Private sector & Civil Society:***

For the record

### ***EU Commission:***

Ms Cynthia Fontenova, Ms Cristina Grutschreiber (DG TAXUD), Ms Diana Acconcia (DG TRADE)

### ***EU Member States & Private sector & Civil Society:***

For the record

## **Others**

WTO Secretariat ? World Customs Organisation ? UNECA ? UNCTAD ? AfDB ?....

## **Documents**

*(Key policy documents, legislation, studies and articles by AU or EU Institutions or Member States, sub regional or international organisations, private sector, civil society and academia.)*

"Customs Blueprints – Pathways to modern customs" available at :

[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/resources/documents/common/publications/info\\_docs/customs/customs\\_blueprint\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/common/publications/info_docs/customs/customs_blueprint_en.pdf)

## **Joint Strategy for Africa - Action Plan 2011 - 2013**

### **Thematic Partnership N°3 on Trade, Regional Integration and Infrastructure**

#### **Customs issues**

## **Background**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The area of Customs is recognized as one of the pillars sustaining the development of trade and regional integration. Many countries and regional organisations in Africa are already working on the simplification and modernisation of customs administrations, legislation and practices.

The European Commission's DG TAXUD and EU Member States customs services have been long involved in cooperation activities in this area. On the basis of this experience, they have developed a tool which can assist customs reforms in Africa: the EU Customs Blueprints.

The organization of information seminars based on the EU Customs Blueprints has been identified as an early deliverable at the College-to-College meeting of 1 October 2008 between the African Union Commission (AUC) and the EU Commission. At the meeting of the Joint Expert Group (JEG) of 14 November 2008, this same action was agreed as a priority activity for the successful implementation of the Partnership on Trade and Regional Integration. This was then endorsed by the Africa-EU Ministerial Troika, at its meeting of 20-21 November 2008. However, implementation has not yet started.

### **THE EU CUSTOMS BLUEPRINTS**

The Customs Blueprints are practical guidelines laying down clear criteria based on best practices, against which a customs administration is able to measure its own operational capacity. They can be used to compare the existing situation in individual countries with the blueprint standards and thus provide a basis for planning any necessary customs reforms. They can also help to ensure that any assistance requested or provided is structured, consistent and properly targeted, with clear objectives and measurable results.

Starting in 1998, the Customs Blueprints have been developed to assist the customs authorities of central and eastern European countries to prepare to operate in accordance with EU legislation and standards in the light of their upcoming accession to the European Union.

In the meantime, the European Union has successfully completed the enlargement to 12 more new Member States. The Customs Blueprints have proven to be a valuable and useful tool for evaluating the operational capacity of customs administrations, both for the countries undergoing reforms and for those providing assistance to them. The Customs Blueprints have since been revised and improved on the basis of this experience. The Customs Blueprints have enjoyed wide geographical application in recent years well beyond the EU borders, which is in part due to the fact that today's customs services face similar problems and challenges all over the world.<sup>1</sup>

### **GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINARS**

The programme could start with a presentation to the services of the African Union Commission to be followed by separate seminars for the interested regional organisations.

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<sup>1</sup> For further information, please see following address in TAXUD's website:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/resources/documents/common/publications/info\\_docs/customs/customs\\_blueprint\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/common/publications/info_docs/customs/customs_blueprint_en.pdf)

## Action Plan extract<sup>5</sup>

### **Priority 3: Improve the competitiveness and the diversification of African agriculture and industry notably by strengthening African capacities in the area of rules, standards and quality control:**

#### *Activities:*

1. As far as agriculture and agro-industry is concerned, enhance the capacity of administrations, producers and exporters at all levels to meet the regulatory requirements of export markets within Africa and the EU and strengthen harmonization of SPS frameworks within Africa
2. As far as industry is concerned, enhance the capacity of administrations, producers and exporters at all levels to meet the regulatory requirements of export markets within Africa and the EU and support development of quality infrastructure in Africa
3. enhance competitiveness of African agriculture and agri-food industry through particular attention to Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary standards (SPS);
4. follow up to the 2010 pre feasibility study on TBT

*Expected Results:* Improved competitiveness and diversification of African agriculture and industry.

## **Overview**

There is a long lasting cooperation ongoing between the EU and Africa on TBT and SPS which has so far been conducted most often at national or regional level. Since the first EU-Africa Action Plan 2008-2010, cooperation has been significantly expanding at continental level and it is expected to grow further under the second Action Plan 2011-2013. Secondment of officials working on SPS is ongoing.

On TBT, African Countries and Regional Organisations will benefit from an intra-ACP programme expected to become operational in 2012. Provisions on SPS and TBT, including on cooperation aspects, are included in all Economic Partnership Agreements.

## **Events & actions 2011 – 2013**

*Meetings (ministerial or technical), conference, workshops, studies, projects, policy or legislative initiatives by AU, EU, their Member States or Regional Economic Communities, private sector, civil society.*

### 1. Technical barriers to trade (TBT):

- 2011 : Mobilise short term expertise to work with AUC and / or a study to assess the adequacy of regional & continental Quality Infrastructure and Regulatory capacity in order to phase out TBT hampering intra-REC, inter-RECs (Tripartite + ECOWAS) and intra African trade. The study might focus on a priority sector such as agro food processing.
- 2011: Preparation for the RECs (e.g. Tripartite + ECOWAS) and AUC to make a structured request for assistance in the area of TBT and access the funds of the forthcoming TBT Program (expected to be operational in the second half of 2012).
- 2011: Meeting EU Commissioner Piebalgs – UNIDO Director General Yunkella on 24 March discussed cooperation on regional integration and trade in Africa.

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<sup>5</sup> The full text of the Action Plan is available at :

[http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/doc\\_jaes\\_action\\_plan\\_2011\\_13\\_en.pdf](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/doc_jaes_action_plan_2011_13_en.pdf)

- 2011: Regional upgrading programmes supported by UNIDO, AFD and/or EU ongoing (ECOWAS – quality component being implemented - and UEMOA), hard pipeline (CEMAC/CEEAC) or being discussed (SADC, COMESA, Northern Africa). Country pipeline e.g. in Mozambique, Malawi, Cameroun (a comprehensive list of projects will be provided).
- Regional programmes for energy for productive use in regional centers like the ECREEE in Cap Verde (<http://www.ecreee.org/> )
- 2011: AUC will contact AUC-ARSO
- 2012: Agri-Business as a Development Opportunity for ACP countries: Challenges in Value addition, Quality Assurance & Environmental Sustainability planned for April/May 2012; 2 days in Brussels in cooperation between UNIDO, EU Commission,....

## 2. Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures (SPS):

On 5 April in Brussels, a thematic meeting MDG-Agriculture/Regional Integration and trade within the Joint Task Force meeting discussed a draft working document on "Harmonisation of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Frameworks in Africa" (copy attached). Consensus was found on broad principles and approach to continuing cooperation, building upon the achievements of the first Action Plan. Detailed discussions at technical level will continue with a view to finalising a joint document.

### **Task team**

#### ***AU Commission:***

Mr Nadir Merah, Head Trade Division (ITD)

#### ***EU Commission:***

Mr Wolf-Martin Maier (DG SANCO), Mr Moustapha Magumu, Ms Chiara Tardivo (EU DEL to AUC), Ms Sophie Breul-Busson (DG DEVCO)

#### ***EU Member States & Private sector & Civil Society:***

GTZ programme on eco-labelling (tbc)

**Others:** African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO), African Regional Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC), UNIDO, UNECA...

**Documents:** Key policy documents, legislation, studies and articles by AU or EU Institutions or Member States, sub regional organisations, private sector, civil society and academia.

- Draft Working Document "Harmonising of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Frameworks in Africa (version of 4 April 2011) – copy attached

**TASK GROUP**

**HARMONISATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTO-SANITARY (SPS)  
FRAMEWORKS IN AFRICA**

**Including comments from the European Commission's Services**

**Draft Working Document**

**4 April 2011**

This Draft Working Document does not represent the views of the European Commission nor of the African Union Commission



## **A. Background**

In line with the Abuja Treaty, establishing the African Economic Community, trade and integration are recognised as essential components of the wider process of regional integration and development. Regional Economic Communities (RECs) play an essential role as building blocks of the continental integration process. To this end, Africa and EU are working together in the framework of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) to make trade rules and regimes within Africa more coherent and harmonised. In particular, both continents are cooperating to put in place programmes and mechanisms to develop common principles (norms, standards and quality control) at regional and pan-African levels with reference to international Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measures, whose compliance is a key to advancing competitiveness and market access of African agriculture and food processing industry. Harmonising African standards will promote intra-African and South-South trade and the diminution of non-tariff barriers to trade; thus, greater access to international markets.

On basis of the JAES, and taking into account the Reports of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (Lilongwe, 28-29/10/2010) and of the Africa-EU High Level Conference (Brussels, 18-19/11/2010) on food safety issues, the Summit of Africa and EU Heads of State and Government (Libya, 29-30/11/2010) adopted the 2<sup>nd</sup> JAES Action Plan 2011-2013, endorsing the achievements of the 1<sup>st</sup> Action Plan 2008-2010 on SPS.

In particular, the Summit recalled the role of agriculture as a dominant economic sector in which SPS standards are central and agreed to work together towards the harmonisation and enhanced capacities of SPS frameworks in Africa, with reference to international food safety, animal health and plant health standards. The Summit agreed to promote intensive cooperation to enhance African capacities, to advance competitiveness and greater market access and to promote trade and safeguard the health and rights of consumers in Africa.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Action Plan 2008-2010 focused on strengthening veterinary services, harmonisation of food hygiene management, strengthening institutional capacity of the AUC and specialised bodies and SMEs. In particular, 10 regional workshops were held in Africa, resulting in the elaboration of Referential and Guide on food hygiene management and authorisation of food establishments in line with international (Codex) principles.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan 2011-2013 will build on these achievements, in order to strengthen further trade and regional integration in Africa.

## **B. Overall objectives**

The overall objective is three-folds –

- To raise awareness on SPS issues, opportunities and challenges including impacts on health, agriculture, trade and regional integration;
- To mobilise interest and support at high-level policy decision-making to reinforce regional and pan-African management capacity; and
- To promote coordination and harmonisation of SPS standards, policies and strategies within and among RECs to enhance further trade and regional integration in Africa in line with the CAADP framework.

## C. Activities and specific objectives

I/ First and foremost it is crucial to follow up the correct implementation of all SPS activities that have been planned. These activities need to be carefully followed up and coordinated so as to ensure that the overall objectives are kept in mind. This concerns the follow-up of EDES activities in Africa, PIP 2 activities in Africa, the second PAN-SPSO project in Africa, the OIE activities under BTSF Africa in 2011, the BTSF activities planned in Africa in 2011 and beyond, the African Veterinary Governance programme and any other programme that has an SPS component in it. The appropriate coordination between all these activities echoes the support requested by the AU and will in the longer term provide for a clearer outline of outstanding needs.

II/ In addition to organise 3 Task Groups in 2011, of 5 days each, to exchange views, to raise awareness and to develop capacities relevant to the harmonisation of SPS frameworks in Africa.

### Task Group 1

The TG1 will **assess** best ways of–

- c) Working with RECs and AU members to further disseminate, obtain endorsement and implement the referential on food hygiene management among competent authorities.
- d) Fostering regional and pan-African collaboration and strategies to rationalize the use of available laboratory capacity for official controls, to strengthen regional and/or pan-African reference laboratories.

Timing: April/May 2011

Venue: Ouagadougou/Burkina Faso or Nairobi/Kenya

### Task Group 2

The TG2 will evaluate the current capacity for plant health management and – if warranted - develop ToR for a project to improve information exchange and establish a consensus approach for Plant Health Management (referential and application guide). Close coordination with the PAN-SPSO project needs to be performed to maximise output.

In particular, it will assess the gaps in current practice in the field about the development and promotion of consensus approach for plant health management and identify areas for further work that is aimed at adding value to on-going initiatives.

Timing: June/July 2011

Venue: Yaoundé/Cameroon or Lusaka/Zambia

### Task Group 3

Task Group 3 will develop a strategy to strengthen AUC capacity to serve and represent its members in the SPS field.

The group will assess the potential added value and role of AUC as an observer and coordinator at the WTO SPS Committee and standards setting bodies. The group may also examine best ways for the AUC to pursue this goal.

Timing: September/October 2011

Venue: Addis Ababa/Ethiopia or Arusha/Tanzania

## **D. Inputs**

The main inputs for discussion at the TGs will be:

- Background documents on CAADP as they relate to SPS, the Referential and Guide on the food hygiene management and authorisation of food establishments;
- Studies and reports available through WTO, World Bank, STDF, the FAO/WHO system, and other relevant organisations.
- outcome of ongoing work on SPS within Africa following the Commission programmes as described in I,
- new "European Development Policy" and "Trade and Development" Communications,
- Draft concept notes of the projects;
- Presentations on selected issues on harmonisation of SPS frameworks and control authorities, information, traceability and control tools (FVO, RASFF, TRACES, BIPs)

Prior to the TGs the documents will be shared with all participants, who will be asked to review and propose amendments to the projects' concept notes ahead of the meeting.

## **E. Format**

The AUC and EU Delegation to AU (in collaboration with EC/HQ Services) will lead in the organisation of the TGs. Task group chairs will be identified in consensus. The chairs will prepare discussion papers to structure the work of the Task Groups. These discussion papers will be circulated two weeks before the meeting of the respective Task Groups. The TGs will be conducted in plenary sessions in English with interpretation in French. Reporters will be assigned to keep an accurate record of the proceedings of each session. As necessary, a limited number of break-out sessions may be organised to discuss specific issues and report back to the plenary. The final report will include the findings and recommendations of the Task Group, preferably in consensus. The Task Group plenary meeting will last for no more than five days, including simulation exercises and field visits.

## **F. Participants / Actors**

The TGs will be prepared and organised jointly by the AUC, RECs and EU, in close collaboration with other regional, pan-African and international bodies (STDF, FAO, WHO, UNIDO, UNECA, ARSO, etc) and standards setting bodies (OIE, CODEX, IPPC). Participants will be appointed in consensus by AUC, REC's and EU.

Each TG will bring together no more than 30 leading Experts, Practitioners and Policy-makers in SPS (production, processing and distribution chains) in Africa, from across the board (public and private sectors, academia/research institutes, international organisations, specialised Inter-African offices, international and regional development agencies, consumers, etc).

Focal persons from the AUC, REC and EU Delegations will assist in the facilitation of the TGs and the formulation of the outcome documents.

## **G. Expected Outputs**

The overall output of the TGs will be a set of reports and recommendations for a forward looking policy, as building blocs for the creation of regional and pan-African integration, paying particular attention to the question of where actions at pan-African level may have a value added.

## **H. Estimated budget** €300,000 (approx. €100,000 per Task Group)

## ANNEX:

### **Explanatory comments from DG SANCO and DEVCO**

Comments relate to the version of the same document dated 31 January 2011 that was submitted through the EU delegation to the African Union Commission

#### **C. Activities and specific objectives**

There are many SPS-related programmes ongoing in parallel in Africa at all levels and financed by various donors. It is an important task in and by itself to take stock and keep track of these activities, even though we mention here only a selection of EU Commission-funded activities.

##### Task Group 1:

The assessment activities mentioned under point a), b) and c) were already covered – at least to a very large extent - by the STDF study on Regional SPS Frameworks and Strategies in Africa – July 2010. It appears premature to take (or even imply) any steps towards implementing such structures at a continent level through the African Union.

Point d): The development of regional plans for capacity building should be part of the work of this Task Group. This should be done at regional level.

##### Task Group 2:

It is unclear where the current structures really leave gaps in addressing all substantial aspects of plant health management. Maybe, the multitude of organisations that are active in this field (IPPC, CGIAR, FAO, CABI, Universities and other African national bodies, just to mention a few) need better cross-transfer and dissemination of information. Developing a referential guide for plant health management should certainly not duplicate work that has already been done elsewhere. Rather than developing ToRs for a project that may be redundant (at least to a large extent), the Task Group might rather take stock of what is already available - for example by organising a workshop (or regional workshops) with participation of the organisations that are active in the field and discuss where and at which level value can be added.

##### Task Group 3:

The Commission sees no value added by the proposal of the African Union. It is not evident, what a pan-African roadmap could contribute to the identification of needs for technical assistance or to the strengthening of its efficient implementation. Technical assistance needs are identified via national and regional programs and also the implementation is monitored at subsidiary level. There is no clear justification to abandon the principle of subsidiarity in this area.

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has decided to accept the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and two other regional organisations as observers in the WTO committee dealing with sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues. This may give African countries a boost in their ability to follow WTO work on food safety, animal and plant health, and to trade more effectively.

The WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) committee made the decision following its meeting from March 17-18, 2010, according to a news alert from the world trade institution. The other new observers from Africa are the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) and Community of the Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD).

## Action Plan extract<sup>6</sup>

### **Priority 4: Operationalization of Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa (AIDA) Plan of Action in cooperation of UNIDO, RECs and other institutions:**

#### *Activities:*

1. Support the implementation of the Accelerated Industrial Development Plan of Action to facilitate, among others, the upgrading of productive and trade capacities
2. Discussion on the African Agribusiness and Agro-industry development initiative (3ADI) and explore possible avenues for cooperation
3. Discuss a policy framework on an enabling environment for promotion of industrial SMEs and explore possible avenues for cooperation.

*Expected Results:* Progress towards the operationalisation of AIDA

*Main actors:* AUC, RECs, EC, UNIDO, Africa and EU Member States.

## **Overview**

For the record

## **Events & actions 2011 – 2013**

*(Meetings - ministerial or technical, conferences, workshops, studies, projects, policy or legislative initiatives by AU, EU, their Member States or Regional Economic Communities, private sector, civil society)*

- 2011: 3ADI endorsed by AU Summit. By April 2011, UNIDO programming missions in 12 countries have already been conducted.
- 2011: 2 meetings with RECs on industry related issues one in April/May (UNIDO funded) and one in Sept (funding needed)
- 2011: 27-31 March, Algiers, 19<sup>th</sup> Conference of Ministers of Industry (CAMI- European Commission's Vice President Tajani participated): Monitoring and Evaluation (M and E) framework and financing and resource mobilization strategy; flagship activities; raw materials. Adoption foreseen of the implementation plan of AIDA, request for financial support.
- AUC services will inform on priority initiatives for the implementation of 3ADI and AIDA. AIDA Action Plan: more than 50 actions have been identified with UNIDO support.
- 2011: EU COM services are working on a communication on Enhancing Growth and Investment in Developing Countries (provisional title, second semester).
- 2011: launch guidelines on SME based on PROINVEST work/tbc

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<sup>6</sup> The full text of the Action Plan is available at :

[http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/doc\\_jaes\\_action\\_plan\\_2011\\_13\\_en.pdf](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/doc_jaes_action_plan_2011_13_en.pdf)

➤ 2012: Joint EU-AU-UNIDO conference in early 2012<sup>7</sup>

### **Task team**

#### ***AU Commission:***

Mr Djamel Ghrib, Head of Private sector division (EAD)

#### ***AU Member States & Private sector & Civil Society:***

#### ***EU Commission:***

(DG ENTR, DEVCO), ... (Delegations), ...

#### ***EU Member States & Private sector & Civil Society:***

### **Others**

UNIDO, EIB, UNECA, .....

### **Documents**

*(Key policy documents, legislation, studies and articles by AU or EU Institutions or Member States, sub regional organisations, private sector, civil society and academia).*

- MIPS and implementing plan
- 3ADI

### **Action Plan extract<sup>8</sup>**

***Priority 5: Raw materials.*** *We should work toward a coherent vision on development, mining and raw materials, to support African capacity at the appropriate national, sub-regional or continental level and within the available cooperation instruments, in particular:*

#### **Activities:**

##### ***1. On governance:***

Promoting natural resources governance including increasing revenue transparency ( e.g. implementation of EITI and AMV), applying appropriate fiscal regimes and involving relevant stakeholders including the civil society;

Promote and provide training on best practices to negotiate mineral contracts;

Assist in developing policy scenarios for promoting trade and the sustainable development of the mining sector;

##### ***2. On investment:***

Help develop analytical tools for mapping mining development corridors for investment promotion, consistently with any general investment promotion strategy in place;

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<sup>7</sup><http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/11/226&format=HTML&aged=0&language=FR&guiLanguage=en>

<sup>8</sup> The full text of the Action Plan is available at :

[http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/doc\\_jaes\\_action\\_plan\\_2011\\_13\\_en.pdf](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/doc_jaes_action_plan_2011_13_en.pdf)

Cooperate to assess opportunities for increasing local content and value-added through local processing of African mineral resources, particularly by SMEs;  
Assist in improving mineral policy and related regulatory frameworks including on land use planning for minerals and authorization process in order to promote the investment climate;  
Promote Corporate Social Responsibility;

### *3. On geological knowledge and skills:*

Facilitate exploring mineral resources potential in Africa;  
Foster further co-operation between African and European geological surveys;  
Support capacity building to help improve material stewardship, meaning the responsibility for environmental quality shared by all those actions affect the environment, including on rehabilitation of mining sites and management of secondary raw materials (recycling).

Expected Results: Improved governance, infrastructure and investment and geological knowledge and skills.

*Main actors: DG ENTR; TRADE; DEV, EIB, the AUC, UNECA, Africa and EU Member States, geo-surveys, civil society, private sector and concerned donors or international organization*

## **Overview**

The AU and the EU adopted major policy documents almost simultaneously in 2008-2009 (see the documents section at the end of this paper). In 2010 the two Commissions agreed to intensify cooperation in this area at their College to College meeting in June, where Commissioner Tankeu and Tajani identified basic principles for joint work. This was then endorsed by the EU-Africa fourth Summit in Tripoli, Libya, in November 2010.

Previously, the European Commission through the EDF and the now discontinued Sysmin instrument, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and EU Member states through their bilateral cooperation instrument have been active in this sector in Africa, mostly at country level. Cooperation also takes place between the geological services in Africa and the EU.

Confirming the growing political and public attention to these issues, the ACP Secretariat organised a meeting of the ACP Ministers in charge of the development of mining resources on 13 to 15 December 2010 in Brussels.

## **Events & actions 2011 – 2013**

*(NB This section list meetings (ministerial or technical), conference, workshops, studies, projects, policy or legislative initiatives organised by AU, EU, their Member States or Regional Economic Communities, private sector, civil society).*

- 2011: EITI Global Conference, Paris, 2-3 March.
- 2011 : UNECA Training course on contract negotiation for natural resource development (NB: in the working plan of the Regional Integration Division for 2010-2011 <http://www.uneca.org/crci/6th/ReviewECA-NRIDWorkPrgEng.pdf>)
- 2011: On contract negotiation, synergies with the AfDB Legal Support Facility will be explored <http://www.afdb.org/en/topics-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/african-legal-support-facility>

- 2011: The second Ministerial Meeting of African Ministers responsible for natural resources is expected to endorse the report of the International Study Group to Review Africa's Mining Regimes (September, tbc).
- 2011: EU COM services (DG Internal Market in the lead) is preparing a communication on transparency of financial information and country by country reporting which is also relevant for the mining industry.
- 2011 : Mining corridors, desk review of existing studies
- 2011: Corporate Social Responsibility, the EU COM services are preparing a communication to be finalised in principle by July.
- 2011: Geological Services, desk review of on-going cooperation
- Country by country reporting
- 2012: Mapping development corridors
- 2012-13: Increasing local added value

### **Task team**

#### ***AU Commission:***

Mr. Hussein Hassan Hussein, Head Industry Division and current acting director ITD  
 Mr. Adolphe Lawson, Head of AU Anti-corruption Commission for transparency  
 Mr Nadir Merah, Head of Trade Division (ITD)

#### ***AU Member States & Private sector & Civil Society:***

International Study Group to Review Africa's Mining Regimes  
[http://www.unece.org/eca\\_resources/major\\_eca\\_websites/ISG/index.htm](http://www.unece.org/eca_resources/major_eca_websites/ISG/index.htm)

#### ***EU Commission***

Malwina Nowakowska (DG ENTR), Mr Christian PETER, Mr Mariusz TAMBORSKY, Mr Giorgio COCCHI (DG DEVCO), ....(DG TRADE),...(Delegations)

#### ***EU Member States & Private sector & Civil Society:***

The Association of European Geological Surveys [www.eurogeosurveys.org](http://www.eurogeosurveys.org) -  
[www.geology.eu](http://www.geology.eu) (tbc)  
 EUROMINES - European Association of Mining Industries <http://www.euromines.org>

#### ***Others***

UNIDO (as a potential partner for value addition to raw materials), EIB, Mr Antonio M.A. Pedro (UNECA),.....

### **Documents**

Key policy documents, legislation, studies and articles by AU or EU Institutions or Member States, sub regional organisations, private sector, civil society and academia.

1. Africa Mining Vision
2. European Commission Communication "Raw Materials Initiative" COM 699 (2008)
3. European Commission Communication " Tackling the challenges in commodities markets and on raw materials" COM (2011) 25 of 02.02.2011.



4. ECDPM "Shopping for raw materials" February 2011
5. UNIDO mining statistics : <http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=1001206>

## **Action Plan extract**

### **Priority 6: Improve the investment climate**

#### *Activities:*

1. Facilitate the exchange of best practices in the area of regional investment codes with a view to supporting harmonization, as foreseen in the Africa Action plan
2. Strengthen the African regional and continental private sector and Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) networks, such as AfrIPAnet, and create links with European partners building on solid business data and tools.
3. Strengthen the Africa-EU business forum as a platform to promote business between Africa and Europe

*Expected Results:* Improved investment climate.

*Main actors:* AUC, RECs, Africa and EU MS, EC, UNIDO, Regional investment agencies.

## **Events & actions 2011 – 2013**

*(NB this section lists meetings - ministerial or technical-, conference, workshops, studies, projects, policy or legislative initiatives by AU, EU, their Member States or Regional Economic Communities, private sector, civil society.)*

- 2011: Support the harmonization of investment codes and work toward a pan-African investment code, which is foreseen in the Action Plan – expected to be adopted in 2011 - for the implementation of the AU Minimum Integration Programme (MIP), starting with the identification of the state of play (internal study). EU COM will seek to provide inputs from existing studies (e.g. TRADE.COM).
- Subsequently (2011 – 2012) AUC envisages proceeding to exchanges of experiences with concerned stakeholders and drafting a template (*comment : this may require working with National Parliaments and certainly with RECs*).
- End 2011, EU COM has planned to adopt a Communication on Enhancing Growth and Investment in Developing Countries (provisional title) focusing on the role of the private sector. A debate may follow end 2011 or beginning 2012 (format, date, venue to be agreed). 2011: In cooperation with the Investment Promotion Agencies in Africa, UNIDO's Investment Promotion Programme (Africa's Investor's Survey, Investment Monitoring Platform, capacity building) has been extended until end 2011. Consultations on the extension to all Africa (and in effect all ACP) are under way.
- The EU-Africa Business Forum will be continued (date, venue and format to be confirmed); the possibility of Regional Business Fora (SADC exists already), ways and means for enhance its role and best engage with the private sector including SME, reinforcement of the Africa Business Forum that meets annually, the need to support a better organization of the African Private Sector will be discussed starting in 2011.
- 2012 – 2013: discussion on possible support to investment promotion agencies networks.

## **Task team**

### AU Commission:

Mr Hussein Hassan Hussein, Head Industry Division and current acting director ITD  
Mr. Baboucarr Koma, Policy Officer  
Mr Fliss Liwadine, Policy Officer, Integration (EAD)

### AU Member States & Private sector & Civil Society:

The Investment Climate Facility for Africa <http://www.icfafra.org>  
African Regional Investment Agencies, AfriPanet,...

### EU Commission:

Mr Luca Marangoni, (DG DEVCO), ...(Delegations)

### EU Member States & Private sector & Civil Society:

## **Others**

UNIDO, EIB, UNECA,.....

## **Documents**

*(Key policy documents, legislation, studies and articles by AU or EU Institutions or Member States, sub regional organisations, private sector, civil society and academia.)*

AU Minimum Integration Program and Action plan.

## **Action Plan extract<sup>9</sup>**

### *Activities:*

1. Support the provision of quality statistical services in Africa through the Implementation of the Charter on Statistics and of the strategy on the harmonization of statistics in Africa (SHaSA);
2. Strengthening the AUC capacity in statistics, notably transforming the Statistics Unit into a Division as decided by the AU Executive Council.

*Expected Results:* Improved quality statistics in Africa

*Main actors:* AU Statistic Unit (to become a Division), Eurostat, in particular the ACP section of unit D2 (International Statistical Cooperation), statistical services of RECs and Africa and EU MS, UNECA (ACS).

## **Overview**

Cooperation between the AU and EU services has been ongoing for several years. Secondment of staff started in 2009. Cooperation between AUC and UNECA is laid down in the AU policy document on statistics, aiming at ensuring complementarity of tasks; AUC focuses on economic, social and cultural data.

Financial support has been provided by EDF via the AUC budget (3M € within the 55 M € allocated to the AUC). Staffing is a limiting factor; after the decision of the AU Summit in January 2011 to transform the Unit into a Division, it is expected that total permanent staff will increase in the coming months to six officials.

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<sup>9</sup> The full text of the Action Plan is available at :

[http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/doc\\_jaes\\_action\\_plan\\_2011\\_13\\_en.pdf](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/doc_jaes_action_plan_2011_13_en.pdf)

It is also expected that the statistical service will have to play a particularly prominent role in the preparation of the 2012 AU Summit which will be dedicated to **[African trade nb to be checked]**.

## **Events & actions 2011 – 2013**

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- Action Table 2011 attached.
- Meeting of the Directors General of the National Statistical Offices (for the record).
- Advocacy for the signature and ratification of the African Charter on Statistics and Strategy on the harmonization of statistics in Africa (SHaSA)

## **Task team**

AU Commission: Mr Yeo Dossina, Head of Statistics Unit (EAD)  
AU Member States & Private sector & Civil Society: for the record  
EU Commission: Mr Amerigo Liotti (EUROSTAT D2/ACP Section).  
EU Member States & Private sector & Civil Society: for the record

## **Other actors/stakeholders**

UNECA- Africa Centre for Statistics (ACS)  
Africa Development Bank Statistic Department (ESTA)  
Afristat (<http://www.afristat.org/afristat/presentation> )  
World Bank  
Paris 21 (Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century -  
<http://www.paris21.org/globaldirectory>)

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- African Strategy for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008

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Mr Luca Marangoni, (DG DEVCO), ...(Delegations)

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- Strategy on the harmonization of statistics in Africa (SHaSA)
- African Strategy for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008

**Actions Table - ESTAT-AUSTAT Partnership - 2011**

<b>Action point</b>		<b>AU</b>	<b>EU</b>	<b>When</b>
1	<b>3 months staff secondment of Estat harmonisation experts</b> – to indicate 3 precise domains with short description of tasks for the seconded official.	X		First quarter
2	<b>3 months staff secondment of Estat harmonisation experts</b> – to look for at least one appropriate candidate.		X	First semester
3	<b>EU-Africa Strategy</b> - Both sides to raise profile of statistics in bilateral meetings: working level up to C2C.	X	X	Continue
4	<b>Advocacy on the Charter for Statistics</b> - Support in meetings, missions, etc.; in particular reference to the Charter in the ESTAT comments on JAR from African countries.		X	Continue
5	<b>Advocacy on the Charter for Statistics</b> – Indicate specific cases on which DEVCO should be approached for further advocacy.	X		Continue
6	<b>Joint publication</b> - ESTAT and AUSTAT to agree on the content and to co-operate on a joint publication on Africa, going further than the 2010 SiF.	X	X	By end 2011
7	<b>AUSTAT participation in ESTAT trainings</b> – Provide update list of planned trainings.		X	On 15 of each month
8	<b>AUSTAT participation in ESTAT trainings</b> – Indicate timely the trainings in which participation is wished.	X		Continue
9	<b>Study visit to Eurostat</b> – Indicate matters and issues to be discussed with ESTAT experts.	X		First semester
10	<b>Study visit to Eurostat</b> – Prepare the agenda and convene the experts.		X	First semester
11	<b>Eurostat comments on main strategic documents</b> – Send the documents as soon as possible	X		Continue
11	<b>Eurostat comments on main strategic documents</b> – Provide comments in no more than 2 weeks		X	Continue
13	<b>Exchange of publications and information</b> – Regular information on relevant publications, news and events and transmission in paper and/or electronic version.	X	X	Continue
14	<b>Meetings in Addis Ababa</b> – Indicate as soon as possible the most relevant AUC meetings for ESTAT participation.	X		Continue

# Infrastructure

## I. Participants

**Africa** : Philippe Niyongabo (AUC, Dept Infrastructure and Energy); Imed Zammit (AUC, Dept Infrastructure and Energy); Lorenzi Klopper, Counsellor, Embassy of RSA in Brussels

**EU**: Paulus Geraedts (DEVCO) ; Juergen Kettner, DEVCO ; Guillaume de Gerlache de Gomerey, DEVCO; Ana Rios Olmedo, MOVE; Alain Baron, MOVE; Stefano Scarda, ENTR; Michel Bosco, ENTR; Graeme Preston, EU Delegation to AU; Sandra Paesen, EEAS

## II. Outcomes

This report summarizes the highlights of the bilateral meetings between African Union Commission, European Commission, in the framework of the EU Africa Partnership on Infrastructure, which (partly) took place in presence of the European External Action Service:

- Date, location and draft agenda of the Fourth meeting of the Infrastructure Partnership Steering Committee was agreed: AUC will host the PSC on 24 May 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with the theme: 'Launching the 2nd Action Plan 2011-2013'. A preliminary draft of the agenda is attached, with a side-event on 23 or 25 May.
- The initiative of past Infrastructure PSC Joint Declarations to organize an Africa-EU High Level Dialogue Meeting on Infrastructure was further explored and it was agreed to further discuss timing, theme, agenda and level of participation at the PSC Meeting in May 2011, including possible synergies with MOVE's Transport Forum. As for timing, parties would investigate opportunities for first semester of 2012. This might be further discussed at the PSC Meeting in May.
- For the Actions identified for INTRA ACP funding (total 24 m€ to be confirmed) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan, the African Union Commission declared that they should be the Executive Agency for the implementation, in the same way as the Port Moresby Agreement, and that the project formulation process should involve all stakeholders, including international organizations, if required. In response, the European Commission stated that the Cotonou Agreement places ACP Secretariat in a prominent role, and proposed that the joint project formulation process would prepare the detailed implementation arrangements.
- Africa Union Commission reiterated their involvement in the governance structure of the EU Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund – with the objective of a more active engagement in the decision making process. This was agreed to be further discussed at the PSC Meeting in May, with the intention to inform the scheduled C2C Meeting of June 2011.

\*\*\*\*\*



## 4. MDGs Partnership

### I. Participants

Africa: Fayçal Gouia, Director General for Africa, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Tunisia (Co-Chair); Leila Ben Ali, Head of Gender Analysis and Monitoring Division, AUC; Dr. Kouassi N'Guettia, Director, Economic Affairs Dpt., AUC; Yeo Dossina, Sen. Off.-Eco. Policies, Research & Stats, AUC; Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel, Director, Rural Economy and Infrastructure, AUC;

EU: Luis Riera Figueras, DG DEVCO; Nicolas Gérard, DG DEVCO; Pierre-Christophe Chatzisavas, DG DEVCO; Mustapha Magumu, DG SANCO; Amerigo Liotti, Eurostat; Sven Kühn Von Burgsdorff, DG DEVCO; Peter Craig McQuaide, DG DEVCO; Antoine Gilbert, EEAS; Charles Brasseur, EEAS; Willem Olthof, DG DEVCO; André Liebaert, DG DEVCO; Victoria Correa, DG DEVCO; Sophie Breul-Busson, DG DEVCO; Franco Conzato, DG DEVCO; Georgina Georgiou, DG SANCO; Celia Cranfield, Light for the World; Peter Schaffler, MarieStopes International; Gina Wharton, IPPF-EN; Valentine Delcoustal, France; Moussa Badji, Belgique

### II. Outcomes

- The meeting afforded to have a general exchange of views and information on respective processes and initiatives related to the MDGs (review of MDG progress in Kampala, AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, MDG Initiative, EU preparation and position for the LDC IV conference in Istanbul, Green paper process (EU development policy)).
- Overall, the strong shared political commitment to achieve the MDGs was reminded. However, there is a crucial need to match better our political ambition with adequate human and financial resources/capacity if we want the Africa-EU Partnership on MDGs to deliver concrete results.
- As regard the LDC IV UN conference, it was agreed to continue regular exchange information on respective plans and positions in the context of the negotiations process (primarily through respective delegations/representations in NY). The importance of EU-AU coordination and policy dialogue ahead of such international gatherings was reminded (for the future).
- The crucial need to reinforce African capacity at the regional/continental level to collect MDG-related data/statistics and to monitor and report on MDG progress was highlighted. Possible support from the EU will be explored in that regard (technical assistance).
- On the governance of the Partnership, the need to design urgently a new co-chair on the European side was recalled. In the meantime, the European Commission will continue to play a proactive coordination role, together with the Tunisian co-chair and the African Union Commission, with the purpose to "revive" the Partnership and raise progressively the interest of EU and African Member States as well as external stakeholders. Participants underlined the importance of a proactive participation of

both EU and African Member States in the implementation of the MDG Partnership (only Tunisia, France and Belgium participated in the meeting).

- As regard the participation of Non State Actors in the Partnership, the difficulties to involve African civil society actors was raised by some European NGOs participating in the meeting (African civil society actors need to comply with the eligibility criteria of the AU ECOSOCC).
- In terms of follow up, the concrete next steps will be to set up the six thematic task forces and to agree for each of them on a realistic set of shared priorities and objectives (taking into account available human capacity on both sides) and on a work programme. The structure and mechanism set up in the context of the Africa-EU work on Water & Sanitation (presented during the meeting) provides an interesting example.
- In that regard, it was recalled that one of the key objectives of the 55M support programme is to contribute to the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. Therefore, there will be a need to better link in the future the programming of the 55M with the work plans of the different thematic task teams to be set up in the context of the MDG Partnership.
- Two specific thematic meetings (on agriculture/food security and on gender) took place during the morning of the second day (5<sup>th</sup> April) (see separate reporting). Videoconferences will be organized for the other thematic areas in the coming days.

## **Thematic session on Gender**

### **I. Participants**

Africa: Leila Ben Ali, Head of Gender Policy and Development Division

EU: Victoria Correa, DG DEVCO, COM.

### **II. Outcomes**

- Within the activities proposed by the Action Plan the MDG Partnership on Gender, this morning's meetings helped identify possible areas to include in the Medium-Term Strategy of Cooperation between the AU and EU on Gender.
- Bearing in mind that this is the first discussion on the matter and that other potential Members of the Gender Task Force of the MDG Partnership still need to be involved, the following sectors were identified as potential areas for cooperation:
  - Capacity building on gender equality in general; development of tools and instruments for gender mainstreaming; and statistical collection on gender equality (activities could be linked with the existing gender observatory).
  - The main sectoral theme could be women's economic, social (including disabilities) and political empowerment.

- The next steps will be to share these potential priorities with colleagues working on gender in the COM and EEAS and with other EU MS that have shown interest in being part of the. On the AU side, this will also be consulted. Once the main priority areas are confirmed we can go ahead with the elaboration of concrete activities for each objective identified under the AU-EU Partnership on gender.

## **Thematic session on Agriculture**

### **I. Participants**

Africa: The AUC was represented by three departments (Rural Economy and Agriculture, Industry, and Social Protection).

EU: representatives of the Commission (DEVCO, AGRI, SANCO, EU Del. In Addis Ababa), Member States (France) and civil society (APRODEV/CONCORD).

In addition, UNIDO was present.

### **II. Outcomes**

The following are main issues to be included in a roadmap:

- Widening and deepening the engagement in CAADP, as well as the alignment of all development assistance to it. More European Member States could be engaged, as well as civil society organisations and private sector. Additional African and European financing to support the CAADP processes and institutions (MDTF) as well as to the implementation of investment plans at national and regional level will be important to accelerate agriculture-led development in Africa.
- On land policy, the main area of attention will be the consistency between the implementation of the AU Land Policy Guidelines (ongoing EU-supported programme with AUC, UNECA and AfDB) with the FAO Guidelines on access to land and other resources (and other policy frameworks like those on responsible agricultural investments) currently under development.
- The AUC-EC developed proposals on cooperation on Geographical Indications and Organic Farming will be included in the 2012 AUC budget (partly supported through 55M programme). Preparation of concrete programmes to be done beforehand.
- EU-Africa cooperation on the strengthening of farmer organisations, both in terms of the recently established platforms (the Pan-African Farmers Federation - PAFFO; and the five constituent regional platforms), and in terms of assisting pastoralist communities to develop regional representative bodies.

## **Thematic session on Water and Sanitation**

- Presentation of the work of the Africa-EU Partnership on water and sanitation
- identification of opportunities to strengthen the political role of the Partnership through its integration in the Africa-EU strategy framework

- identification of synergies between the work programme and activities of the Partnership and the 55 m support programme to AUC in the field of water management
- emphasizing the multi-dimensional character of water issues (MDGs, climate change, infrastructure and regional integration, peace and security) : need to explore the possibility to hold a workshop with relevant EU and African actors to ensure complementarity of programmes and activities

\*\*\*\*\*

## **5. Energy Partnership**

### **I. Participants**

Africa: Philippe NIYONGABO, Cheikh DIAKHATE, Dossina YEO (AUC), R COOPAMOOTOO (PermRep Mauritius to EU)

EU: Hein WINNUBST (Germany), Rui COSTA, Kjell LARSSON, Martin LARNEMARK (EC, DG DevCo), Graeme PRESTON (EEAS), Marta ABRANTES (EC, DG Energy), Amerigo LIOTTI (EUROSTAT), Sandra Paesen (EEAS)

Steffen BEHRLE (EUEI PDF), Edgar BLAUSTEIN (EUEI PDF)

### **II. Outcomes**

#### **Status of Implementation of 2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan of the AEEP is designed to contribute to the achievement of the AEEP 2020 political targets adopted at ministerial level on 15 September 2010 by the First High Level Meeting of the AEEP. The targets are by the year 2020 to bring access to modern and sustainable energy services to at least an additional 100 million Africans; double the capacity of cross border electricity interconnections, both within Africa and between Africa and Europe; double the use of natural gas in Africa, as well as doubling African gas exports to Europe; build 10 000 MW of new hydropower facilities, 5 000 MW of wind power capacity, 500 MW of all forms of solar energy capacity, triple the capacity of other renewables, and improve energy efficiency in Africa in all sectors

A draft status report on the implementation of the 2nd Action Plan of the AEEP was presented at 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Experts Group Meeting on 17 March 2011 in Port Louis, Mauritius.

The report focused on EU contributions and examples of on-going projects in the six priority areas (energy access, energy security, renewable energy & energy efficiency, institutional capacity building, scaling up investment, and dialogue) of the 2nd Action Plan and its 32 individual activities. The AUC provided preliminary contributions from Africa at the JTF on 4 April 2011.

The report reiterates the character of the energy partnership as a framework for guidance on Africa-EU energy cooperation including reviews of existing finance mechanisms and the mobilization of additional funds in order to promote implementation of priority actions.

In the final report particular emphasis will be given to capacity building, research & development and technology transfer as well as to the necessity to indicate concrete tools for facilitating the implementation of priority projects through the partnership.

#### **AEEP priorities for 2011**

##### *AEEP Partnership Forum*

The 6<sup>th</sup> JEG of the AEEP concluded that the AEEP Partnership Forum will be a major highlight in 2011 aimed to broaden and deepen the level of cooperation among the actors of

the AEEP (civil society, the private sector, research institutions) and gather their contributions to achieving the AEEP 2020 political targets.

The 6<sup>th</sup> JEG concluded that all 2020 targets (energy access, energy security and renewable energy and energy efficiency) will be addressed in the AEEP Partnership Forum while establishing a special focus on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for the First AEEP Forum.

The host of the AEEP Partnership Forum is still to be found in consultation with African and EU member states. The AUC will contact potential host countries in April 2011.

#### *Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP)*

The RECP will commence with a start-up phase 2011-2013 financed through ENTRP programme of the European Commission with € million.

In 2011, the AEEP will begin to implement the start-up phase of the RECP which is (a) providing support to the management, coordination and M&E of the RECP and (b) supporting the implementation of renewable energy policies and the development of markets through the EUEI PDF, and is (c) supporting capacity development for project preparation and for the mobilization of financing through AFD.

A dedicated RECP manager will be recruited by EUEI PDF in 2011 to coordinate the start-up phase.

Further, in 2011 the currently unfunded R&D component of the RECP start-up phase should be activated to take action on R&D in Africa as soon as funds become available.

Already this year, the AEEP has proposed a long-term vision for the RECP up to 2020 aiming for the programme to become visible and ambitious as well as dedicated to have a major impact on the development of Africa's vast renewable energy potential. The RECP vision is to make Africa a prime destination for renewable energy investments.

A much larger RECP may in the future consist of four modules: Policy Advisory Services, Private Sector Match Making, Flagship Investment Projects, and Technology Innovation and Capacity Development. The *Regional Geothermal Programme for Eastern Africa* and the *Solar Energy Studies* for the three major desert regions of Africa will be considered as flagship projects under the RECP.

#### *AEEP 2020 targets: monitoring their implementation*

The partnership will develop a monitoring tool which is aimed at measuring the achievement of the AEEP 2020 political targets.

The AEEP will update the activity mapping which was carried out under the first action plan.

The AEEP in 2011 will form a small working group between the EC, EUROSTAT and the AUC (including AFREC and NPCA-NEPAD) coordinated by EUEI PDF in order to

- (a) establish a joint list of indicators for the AEEP 2020 energy targets,
- (b) establish contacts with African, EU and international organisations that are providing primary energy data, and

- (c) participate in the international discussion on energy access in view of the 2012 UN year of sustainable energy for all.

### *Status report on implementation of 2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan*

In 2011 the AEEP will provide a status report on implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> action plan

- including African contributions to achieving the action plan activities;
- information on financing and implementing mechanisms as well as the process for project identification and submission to these institutions; and
- details on major bilateral initiatives of both sides;
- advocacy for the implementation of priority projects.

### **Opportunities and Challenges in Implementation**

#### *Challenges*

- Monitoring implementation of AEEP 2020 targets presents a challenge due to limited capacity to collect relevant data.
- Mobilising additional funding to meet the needs of identified priority projects. In this regard the newly announced Paris-Nairobi initiative could eventually provide a welcome input to the RECP.
- Mobilize additional human resources to build institutional capacity of RPPs, RECs, African Union Commission and national energy institutions.

#### *Opportunities*

- The RECP of the energy partnership provides an opportunity to channel climate funds towards this programme particularly with regard to COP 17.
- The UN year 2012 of “Sustainable Energy for All” provides an opportunity to endorse concrete activities under the partnership to contribute to the target of providing an additional 100 million people with access to energy.
- Growing market for renewable energy technologies in Europe and Africa provides an opportunity for increased private investments towards the achievements of targets of the AEEP on renewable energy (10,000 MW hydropower, 5,000 MW of wind power etc.).
- Active involvement of the African Development Bank in implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan.
- Interest shown by other major development partners such as the World Bank and UN agencies in supporting the AEEP.

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## 6. Climate Change and Environment

### I. Participants

Africa: Francis Bokilo (AU's permanent mission in Brussels); Driss Isbayene (Co-chair Africa-EU JEG); Lorenci Klopper (South African permanent mission in Brussels); Mohammed Maktit – Department of Environment (Morocco); M.H. Khalil Timamy (Environment Division, AU Commission)

EU: Jozias Blok (DG DEVCO I/2); Elisabeth Ellegaard – DG CLIMA C/3; Jean-Claude Gazeau – France, Ministry of Environment ; Simon le Grand – DG DEVCO I/2; Walter Kennes – DG DEVCO I/2; Bella Nestorova – DG DEVCO I/2; Sandra Paesen – EEAS; Saffia Diop – DG DEVCO J/2; Bernardo Sala – DG DEVCO I/2; Alessandro Trevisan – DG DEVCO I/2; Françoise Villette – EEAS Addis Ababa; Patrick Wegerdt – DG ENV E/1; Franz Coidan, France, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### II. Summary of the discussions

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Khalil Timamy (AUC) and Mr Walter Kennes (EC). There was first a review on the state of the **draft Joint Africa-EU Declaration on climate change**, which had been prepared last year to be adopted before the Cancun Climate Conference. Unfortunately, it had not been possible on the African side to endorse the text by the Tripoli EU-Africa Summit. It was considered that a number of changes were needed to better reflect the African position. All participants agreed on the importance to work towards a Joint Declaration to be adopted before the next UNFCCC COP17 in Durban. A practical suggestion was made for both EU and the AU to contact their negotiators, currently in Bangkok, to explore the possibility of a meeting between them on this issue. Should this not be possible in Bangkok, EU and AU expressed their intention to address this issue during the meetings in Bonn next June. It was agreed that a revised and mutually agreed text needs to be endorsed in a parallel process on Africa and EU side.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to review the state of progress of the priority actions contained in the Action Plan 2011-2013.

#### **Priority Action 1: Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative.**

- The AU reported on the recent meeting of the new Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall, which took place in Chad. A new meeting shall take place in the next few weeks, to define the status and budget of the new body; the location of the new meeting has not been decided yet.
- The European Commission reported on the activities announced by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF are preparing a concept note with the World Bank, which should be finalised next September, in view of the GEF Council which will take place next November. Countries now can contribute with proposals for their national action plans. The Regional Economic Communities will supplement Green Wall actions.



- As regards the programming of intra-ACP funds for mobilisation in 2012, an Action Fiche will have to be prepared by September 2011, and an Identification Fiche before the Summer.
- Funds are foreseen, within the capacity building envelope of the EU support programme to the AU, for the recruitment of an EU GGWSSI Coordinator who shall work with the AU Commission for the reinforcement of the capacities of the various actors involved in the implementation of the GGWSSI.
- The development of a regional harmonised strategy for implementing the GGWSSI and mobilising resources will be unlikely in 2011.

**Priority Action 2: CLIMDEV and Climate Information Services using Earth Observation data**

- For the EU support (€6million) to the Africa Climate Policy Centre (ACPC), a contribution agreement has been reached with UNECA and a first payment should be made before the end of 2011. Recruitment of ACPC staff shall be completed by the end of 2011.
- The AU Commission will also be supported by the EU (€2 million) to increase its coordination capacity for Climate Change and Desertification. Recruitments are expected to be completed by the end of 2011.
- The AMESD project (African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development) will terminate in September 2011. The AU Commission has requested the EU to retain some of the consultants until the end of 2012. The opportunity to hold a visibility workshop in 2011 to sensitise policymakers and planners on how to use AMESD data has been discussed. This should lead to 2 publications, to be presented at a side event during UNFCCC COP17 in Durban.
- The Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) will follow the AMESD. The Africa component will be referred to as Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA). This will be led by the Directorate of Rural Economy and Agriculture (REA) of the AUC.

**Priority Action 3: Strengthening Climate Adaptation.**

The EU recalled that climate adaptation is one of the priority areas of the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA). Implementation of GCCA actions at country level will continue during 2011. Presently preparations are under way to decide new country adaptation work under the GCCA in the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Benin and Uganda.

At regional level implementation of support actions has started involving COMESA and ECOWAS through CILSS as a specialised organisation.

**Priority Action 4: Fight against Deforestation.**

- Promotion of forest enforcement and forest governance will start next year.
- The EU recalled the importance of improving forest governance as necessary to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. For the EU there are synergies between the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiative and REDD+. The EU briefly reported on the progress on the bilateral FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements with African countries. VPAs have

now been agreed with Ghana, Cameroun, Central African Republic and Congo (Brazzaville) and negotiations are ongoing with Liberia, Gabon and DRC.

- The new EU REDD-FLEGT facility is aimed at strengthening the links between the two initiatives.
- The AU reported that Congo has requested the setting up of a sustainable development forum, also intended to deal with deforestation issues. A feasibility study is being envisaged.
- Promotion of sustainable forest management.

#### **Priority Action 5: Enhancing African negotiators' capacity in negotiations including the UN Framework on the Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol**

The EU pointed out that training activities are planned under the Global Climate Change Alliance. These must be targeted to the specific needs of the experts that will be involved. Support of the African negotiators has been earmarked for 2011.

#### **Priority Action 6: Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**

- The AU Commission shall organise a mission to identify possible locations for the regional centres of excellence for DRR. It will be important to keep in mind the need to avoid duplication.
- The EU reported on the progress with regard to the Africa Risk Capacity initiative. This is conceived as an insurance scheme for food security risk as a consequence of drought; governments willing to participate have to pay a yearly premium. Funds would be paid out directly into government budgets in case of drought measured in an agreed way. The overall capital required for setting up the mechanism would be USD 300 million. The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission is working on the software upon which the insurance system could be based. This software, called Africa Risk View, aggregates data and helps with disaster prevention and quantification of damages. A similar insurance mechanism has been in place for the Caribbean countries: the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF). This covers the risks of hurricanes and earthquakes and has proved very effective in providing rapid compensation for the damages suffered by countries which experienced disasters. This Africa programme to cover drought risk should start with a limited number of pilot countries, and later be scaled up. The possibility to organise a workshop in May 2011 to inform the African states of this initiative has been discussed.
- In a recent meeting of DRR (last week of March 2011) an African working group was launched for the implementation of the DRR Strategy.

#### **Priority Action 7: Biodiversity**

- The AU Commission will develop a biodiversity framework by the end of 2011, and will hold a meeting on the integration of biodiversity in national development and planning processes in the fourth quarter of 2011.
- A desirable initiative could be the enhancement of the understanding of the economics of ecosystem services and biodiversity. The possibility to have a

meeting on this aspect, linked with the Nairobi conference to be held later in 2011, shall be explored.

- The AUC informed the other participants in the meeting that a decision has been taken at the Heads of State level on how to proceed on biodiversity issues; at the AU level, an existing mechanism will address biodiversity issues.

### **Climate change and security**

During a "synergy meeting" involving also representatives of the Rural Economy and Agriculture and the Peace and Security departments of the AU, the peace and security partnership and other stakeholders, there was a discussion on the links between climate change and security issues.

A workshop to discuss a draft framework on climate change and security is envisaged to be held in the 4th quarter of 2011 or 1st quarter of 2012. This will bring together all the relevant stakeholders where cross-cutting concerns on climate and security affect their operational domains.

ACCES, the African Climate Change, Environment and Security initiative has started a dialogue process, which will involve:

- Preparing vulnerability maps and carrying out risk analysis;
- Building inventories and undertaking risk assessment;
- Identifying sets of fundable projects.

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## 8. Science, Information Society and Space

### I. Participants

Africa: Ahmed Hamdy (AUC HRST Head, ST& ICT), Hambani Masheleni, (AUC HRST), Daan Du Toit (Minister Counsellor, Rep. South Africa) Mr Abdelhafiz (Rep. of the African Co-Chair)

EU: Francesco Affinito (DEVCO); Eduardo Sorribes (DEVCO); Fadila Boughanemi (RTD); Thierry Devars (INFSO); Laurent Bochereau, (RTD), Jérôme Lebouc, (DEVCO); Harry De Backer, EU Delegation; Paolo Roggeri (JRC), Michel Massard (DG ENTR), Peter Maxson (DEVCO), Nicholas Kaye (ENTR); Luis Magalhaes, EU Co-Chair, Ana Neves (UMIC), Carla Dos Santos (Rp PT); Christine Leurquin (EABF Co-Chair); Michèle Makaroff (EABF Co-Chair)

### II. Outcomes

#### Science, technology and Innovation

- Develop implementation roadmaps/review progress in implementation process :

The implementation roadmap of the P8/Science and Technology dimension will be characterised by the need for continued technical and financial support to the concrete initiatives started under the first action plan, and the gradual definition of additional projects and deliberate efforts to attract the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as Africa's building blocks to play a critical role to advance Africa's science agenda, and indeed to bring onboard other key players and implementing agents. Science, technology and innovation are largely recognised as engines for sustainable development. With this in mind, the creation where they don't exist and the strengthening where they exist of STI capacities should be seen as an integral part of the EU Development Policy and current and future instruments. Within this perspective, instruments such as RIPs should play a key role in the second action plan.

Through the AMCOST and the Tripoli EU-Africa Joint Summit, science, technology and innovation got a historic boost with the launching of a high-level policy dialogue through a platform meant to bring the Ministers in charge of science and technology around the same table to agree on matters of mutual interests that can advance science, technology and innovation on both continents.

The partnership has achieved substantial milestones. The critical programme though small in magnitude has been the successful launch of the African Union Research Grants Project to support collaborative research on Africa's science and technology policy and capacity building for the AUC to create and manage a competitive system of grants to support its development priorities. The AU Commission, with the support of the EC relevant services in Brussels and the EU Delegation in Addis Ababa, successfully designed and launched the First African Union Research Call for Proposals for 2011, valued at about €7 million to support research in Post-harvest and Agriculture; Renewable and Sustainable Energy; and Water and Sanitation. A second Call for Proposals will be published in November 2011. The programme

is funded by the Financing Agreement<sup>11</sup> between the European Commission and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States. The long term view is for this project to evolve into a durable pan African research programme framework. This requires full engagement of all stakeholders and Member States.

The research multi-disciplinary Africa Call amounting 72 MEUR is being considered as a major milestone in the Africa-EU Partnership on science, technology and innovation. The AUC is urging the EC to renew its efforts so that FP7 upcoming Work-Programmes and future research and innovation financial frame integrate a more systematic coverage of EU/AU S&T cooperation priorities.

The AUC is urging the European Commission to take the necessary measures to strengthen the STI area in the EU Delegation in Addis by speeding up the process of deployment in Addis of a Science Councilor position with a Pan African portfolio.

There are several light house projects focusing on building Africa's capacities such as PAIPO and the Observatory which will, over the years, have a long term impact on Africa's endeavours to harness science, technology and innovation; they will continue to require financial and technical support to ensure their sustainability.

Focusing on strengthening Africa's infrastructures in STI and addressing brain drain will be a crucial aspect of the second action plan.

- Prioritize actions for 2011

The short term objective for 2011 will be to sustain and expand flagship initiatives launched under the AP 2008-2010.

This includes :

Continuation of the African Union Research Grants Programme which supports collaborative research on Africa's science and technology policy and capacity building for the AUC to create and manage a competitive system of grants to support its development priorities. The challenge is to maintain the project beyond this promising first phase as the long term view for this project is to evolve into a *durable pan African research programme framework*.

Continuation, beyond 2012, of the African Union Scientific Awards Programme: The AU Commission has successfully launched the AU Scientific Awards programme for young and women researchers at the regional and at continental levels. The implementation of this programme, which directly involves the Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the AU Commission, was successfully implemented in 2009, with a second edition in 2010/2011 named "African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards". It is necessary to ensure that this programme is sustained.

Implementation of the Africa-EU High Level Science and Technology Policy Dialogue Platform, in accordance with the Joint Africa-EU Summit Declaration of Tripoli in

<sup>11</sup> Agreement No REG/FED/2009/021-575) under the ACP Research for Sustainable Development Program RPR/011/09, of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF Intra-ACP Envelop

2010, and the AMCOST<sup>12</sup> (IV) recommendation, Cairo 2010. In this regard, the Joint Taskforce set-up an EU-AU Preparatory Committee (composed of: Africa: AMCOST Chair, First and Second Vice-Chairs, and the AUC; EU: the trio of EU past, current and future Presidencies, the JEG 8 Co-Chairs, and the EUC).

Enhance EU cooperation with RECs and individual African countries on mainstreaming science and technology for socio-economic sustainable development, and support the strengthening of their capacities in this area via the insertion of this dimension in the National and Regional Indicative Programmes (NIPs and RIPs) reviewing process.

Support the deployment of regional and global high quality research infrastructures in Africa.

Support the launching of the *Science and Technology for the development of African Small and Medium Enterprises and Business Incubators Network*.

Support the sustained development of the PAIPO project

Pursue EUC–AUC Exchange programme.

Both Commissions will work on further mobilizing stakeholders (including MS, AfDB, EIB, Foundations, private sector and financial institutions) for the identification of concrete projects in support of the AP 2011-2013 priorities in support of CPA. Work will also concentrate on the identification of innovative funding mechanisms for STI, including though public-private partnerships.

Both parties urge in particular African RECs to earmark EDF regional funds for the implementation of this important JAES priority, in the context of their coming regional review.

## **Information Society**

- Develop implementation roadmaps/review progress in implementation process :

The implementation roadmap of the P8/Information Society will be discussed in Gaborone on 11-12 May in the context of the IST-Africa2011 Conference where a meeting of the dedicated multi-stakeholders implementation group (as planned in the P8 AP 2011-2013) will be convened. Work has already started to identify the scaling-up of flagships projects launched under the AP 2008-2010, including the HIPSSA, ALICT and African Virtual Campus projects. The AYIN project is currently being refined taking into account possible cooperation and bridges to be established with the Finland/InfoDev incubators programme, ENoLL (the European Network of Living Labs as well as emerging African Living labs. A workshop on this Africa-EU cooperation on Living Labs will be held in Gaborone on 10 May 2011, this is organized notably with the cooperation of ENoLL and FAO.

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<sup>12</sup> African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology

It was also decided to launch at policy level a mapping exercise regarding synergies to be identified between the EU 2020 Digital Agenda and the AU ICT development frameworks including the current ARAPKE and its follow-up that the AUC is preparing.

- Prioritize actions for 2011

The short term objective for 2011 will be to sustain and expand flagship initiatives launched under the AP 2008-2010. This includes :

- scaling-up the HIPSSA project (to be finished at the end of 2011) in support of implementing the AU Reference Framework for Harmonization of ICT policies and regulation in Africa. The identification of key priorities to be implemented were identified in the context of the January 2010 AU Summit on ICT for African Development and their implementation is considered as a short term priority in order to benefit from the community-building dynamics generated by the on-going HIPSSA in terms of regional coordination and integration.

- expanding geographic scope of the African Virtual Campus project which started to be implemented by UNESCO in 11 countries of West Africa. This was already a recommendation of the 2010 C2C meeting and this geographical extension (Sub-Saharan Africa at large) is considered as an urgent priority given the maturity of the initiative, and the investments already made to deploy the e-learning network in Northern and Western Africa

- expanding geographic scope of the ALICT project, which started being implemented by GeSCI (Global e-Schools initiative) in Eastern and Southern Africa

- refining the definition of the AYIN project together with committed stakeholders in view of its short term implementation

In parallel both Commissions will work on further mobilizing stakeholders (including MS, private sector and financial institutions) for the identification of concrete projects in support of the AP 2011-2013 priorities not covered yet (e.g. support to the development of local digital content and e-services) in support of ARAPKE II. Work will also concentrate on the identification of innovative fast track funding mechanisms for ICT applications projects on the model of the e-transformation Trust Fund launched by the World Bank in cooperation with South Korea in order to support public-private partnerships in the field. A short term objective for the 2 Commissions is to organize a dedicated workshop mid-2011 with committed and interested parties including the World Bank, AfDB, the EU-Africa Business Forum, the EIB, EU and African development banks as well as MSs.

- Identify opportunities and challenges in the implementation process

Huge cooperation opportunities exist in the Information Society sector given the current dynamics of ICT penetration and adoption in Africa and the possible EU transfer of experience in setting up a regional inclusive Knowledge Economy, which resulted in Europe being world leader in broadband internet and mobile penetration and ICT accounting for more than 50% EU productivity growth. ICTs have indeed a unique potential to fast-track African development path in all socio-economic sectors. Those opportunities might however be wasted given the lack of available funding in the EU development programmes related to the P8/Information Society priorities despite the outcome of the January 2010 AU Summit that

declared the ICT sector as a top priority for Africa's development strategy. In this context, both parties urge in particular African RECs and countries to earmark EDF regional and national funds in the context of the EDF 10 NIPs and RIPs re-programming for the implementation of this important JAES priority.

## Space

- Develop implementation roadmaps/review progress in implementation process :

The implementation roadmap of the P8/Space component will be predominantly advanced through the successful development of a roadmap for Africa's space programmes that enables the continent to harness its space potential to contribute in a more coordinated and systematic manner to development. Currently there are a number of fragmented efforts running at all levels and that are hardly making a visible impact on the development agenda. Africa has expressed a strong desire and demand to ensure that space as a resource is fully incorporated in its national, regional and continental strategies both at research and application levels. Africa's space programmes and strategy will see the continent setting up its space programme and policy coordinating institutions such as for example the proposed African Space Agency and other Institutions, policies and programmes. A feasibility study has been initiated in Africa to investigate the prospect of establishing an African Space Agency given that there a number of fragmented efforts that are currently running and other African Member States are advancing well in this field.

There has been momentum to enhance cooperation in space and its application on the global front. GMES and Africa Initiative was launched by the Lisbon declaration on GMES and Africa (2007) in response to the Maputo Declaration (2006). The initiative forms part of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy's 8<sup>th</sup> Partnership on Space component, and is included into the Book of Lighthouse Projects (2008-2010) and extended into the second action plan due to the fact that GMES and Africa provides a framework for long-term African-European cooperation in the development and implementation of operational earth observation based services that directly respond to African needs for sustainable development. To support its implementation, the AU Commission will expeditiously set-up a GMES and Africa Secretariat as agreed in the Hammameth Strategic Document (SD), with a view to support the development of the GMES and Africa Action Plan. The plan will be developed through systematic involvement of the members of the Coordination Team (CT) set-up in the SD, November 2010, and a series of consultations, in close coordination with the co-chairs.

The roadmap will also take into account the currently running initiatives with regional dimension such as the AFREF support for which has been included in the AUC work programme for 2011.

- **Prioritize actions for 2011**

- The AU Commission to expeditiously set-up the GMES and Africa Secretariat within the AUC
- Finalise the development of the GMES and Africa implementation Action Plan for further consideration by the next EU-Africa Troika after taking into account all the necessary consultations with the key stakeholders



- The EC is setting in place a contact group from its services for interaction with the AUC/secretariat on the GMES and Africa to ensure the smooth running of the programme and efficient information dissemination
- Identify funding instruments including existing ones
- Support the continuation of the current efforts including the successful implementation of the AFREF among others.
- AU Commission with the support of the EU services to expedite work on developing Africa's Space programmes and Strategy to optimally contribute to the sustainable development agenda.
- Mobilize the Joint Expert Group to optimally contribute to advance space cooperation.

• **Identify opportunities and challenges in the implementation process**

Space offers us huge cooperation opportunities. Africa is not fully exploiting its space for both its security and development challenges and priorities. There is a renewed desire to incorporate space and its applications in Africa's cooperation, development strategies and political agenda to enable Africa to be an equal partner in global space programmes. Space partnerships will directly contribute to Africa's integration efforts through supporting both international and intra-Africa cooperation.

Space will support a number of cross-cutting priority actions including transport, communication, research and education, agriculture, marine and coastal, environmental and natural resources management and water, health and security.

**Overall Conclusions for the 8<sup>th</sup> Partnership**

The concrete project-oriented approach developed throughout the implementation of the P8 AP 2008-2010 allowed to trigger a sound mobilization of relevant EU and African stakeholders across the 3 P8 priorities. A number of structuring initiatives have been launched to support African capacity-building in science and technology, ICT and space. Those seeds and related investments need to be made sustainable. The current level of available funding for the implementation of the AP 2011-2013 is indeed insufficient to reach any credible impact and this seriously jeopardize the short term future of this Partnership

**In this context, it is considered as a critical and urgent priority to identify any possible funding sources for the implementation of the P8 AP 2011-2013, in particular regarding the upcoming negotiation with African RECs on the reprogramming of EDF10 un-allocated regional funds.**

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