

## **High Level Conference on Africa** *Towards a renewed partnership with Africa*

Brussels, 22 November 2017

Many positive transformations such as rapid economic progress, strengthening of institutions and the rule of law have affected the African continent over the last two decades. At the same time, challenges remain linked to security deficiencies, desertification and environmental degradation, the outbreak of famine, poverty and unemployment, which cause migration flows.

Development in Africa is a necessity. There is a need to stabilize the continent, attract investments to create jobs to enable young Africans to have a future in their own countries.

2017 is a crucial year for our relations with Africa. Many political and legislative actions were undertaken at European and international level, for instance under the German Presidency of the G20. To list a few, in May, the High Representative and the European Commission issued a joint communication for a renewed impetus of the Africa-EU Partnership. In June, the Council adopted conclusions stressing the EU's genuine strategic interest in deepening and strengthening its longstanding partnership with Africa. Conclusions that will also prepare the important Africa-EU Summit to take place end of November in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Furthermore, recently, on September 28, the European Parliament and the Council have adopted the European Fund for Sustainable Development, the heart piece of the EU's new External Investment Plan.

Over the past months, the European Parliament has also had a crucial role establishing a direct political dialogue with Africa by inviting African leaders such as the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki in May, as well as the President of Ivory Coast, Alassane Ouattara in June, to address the plenary in Strasbourg.

The idea to organize a high-level conference on Africa on 22 November, one week before the Summit is to build upon these initiatives, to create a political momentum, and to raise the visibility and role of the European Parliament in Abidjan.

This year the focus will be on "Investing in youth", which has become a key priority for Europe as well as for Africa, in a context of African demographic trends creating major challenges in terms of economic development and job creation, security, political participation and migration. Therefore, youth and gender balance will be at the core of the high-level conference and discussed horizontally across the various panels.

The European Parliament, with its significant delegation including its President, the Chairs of the DEVE, AFET, INTA, SEDE, and DROI Committees and the Chairs of the Delegations to the ACP-EU JPA, the Pan-African Parliament and the relations with South Africa, can be a real added value to both the Parliamentary Summit and the Heads of State and Government Summit. These Members should have a key role in the conference.

The aim of the high-level conference is also to use the expertise of the relevant parliamentary committees and delegations to feed in the message conveyed by the European Parliament to both Summits.

### **Preliminary draft programme**

**13:00**

**Registration**

**14:00 - 15:30**

**Opening session**

**Antonio Tajani**, President of the European Parliament

**Ernest Bai Koroma**, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

**Faustin-Archange Touadéra**, President of the Central African Republic

**Federica Mogherini**, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission

**Werner Hoyer**, President of the European Investment Bank

**Akinwumi Adesina**, President of the African Development Bank

**15:30 - 19:00**

**1st Roundtable: *Peace & Security and democracy, good governance and human rights (in parallel)***

This roundtable could be divided into two parts.

*1. Peace and Security* - co-chaired by the AFET and SEDE Chairs

*2. Democracy, good governance and human rights* - co-chaired by the AFET and DROI Chairs

Guest speaker:

**Smail Chergui**, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security

**Cessouma Minata Samate**, African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs

**15:30 - 19:00**

**2nd Roundtable: *Attracting investments for sustainable and inclusive development and growth via digitalization and industrialization***

Co-chaired by the DEVE and ITRE Chair

Guest speakers:

**Albert M. Muchanga**, African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry

**Neven Mimica**, European Commissioner for International Cooperation & Development

**Mariya Gabriel**, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society

**Mukhisa Kituyi**, Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

**15:30 - 19:00**

**3rd Roundtable: *Migration and human development (in parallel)***

Chaired by the LIBE Chair

Guest speakers:

**Amira El Fadil**, African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs

**Dimitris Avramopoulos**, European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship

**Mohamed Anacko**, President of the Regional Council of Agadez

**15:30 - 19:00**

**4th Roundtable: *Energy, agriculture, environment and water management***

Co-chaired by the DEVE and ENVI Chairs

Guest speakers:

**Amani Abou-Zeid**, African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy

**Sacko Josefa Leonel Correa**, African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture

**Firmin Edouard Matoko**, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Africa

**Sanusi Imran Abdullahi**, Executive Secretary of the Commission of the Lake Chad Bassin

**19:00 - 20:00**

**Closing session**

**Michael Gahler**, Chair of the Delegation for relations with the Pan-African Parliament

**Louis Michel**, Chair of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

**Leaders of the Political Groups**