

6th EU/African Union Commission meeting: joint press conference by Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairwoman of the AUC, and José Manuel Barroso

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On 26 April 2013, José Manuel Barroso, President of the EC, and Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairwoman of the African Union Commission (AUC), held a joint press conference following the 6th College-to-College meeting of the African Union Commission and the European Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



HEURE	DESCRIPTION	DUREE
00:00:00	Statement by Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairwoman of the African Union Commission (AUC), (in ENGLISH) saying that they discussed a wide range of issues; what regards peace and security, they talked about how the EU and the AU can act together on supporting the peace efforts in Africa and also, linked to that, how they can strengthen their projects on democracy, good governance, respect for human rights; saying that peace and security cannot be sustained without good governance; saying that they discussed cooperation, again on a whole range of issues: trade, development, agriculture, energy, health, education, science and technology, climate change; they also looked at how they can work together on bilateral and international issues.	00:04:50

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Statement by José Manuel Barroso, President of the EC, (in ENGLISH): Good morning ladies and gentlemen, Indeed we are a little bit late, probably very much late, and I apologise for that. But the reason was the quality, the depth, the richness of our discussions: very open and constructive discussions on very important topics. I am really happy with the quality of the conversations we had just today. I believe this is the added value of these kind of meetings, not just to have, let's say, a traditional diplomatic type of meetings. It's also a more business-like approach, in the sense that we are trying - of course building on political goals - to deepen concrete ways of addressing very important issues, for both Africa and Europe, regarding namely growth, sustainable growth and development. So I am really delighted to be here today for our 6th meeting of the European Commission with the African Union Commission. I had the privilege of launching this process and of co-chairing all of these meetings so far and I can really tell you that our cooperation is growing in breath and depth. We have now a network of

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...have now a network of dialogues and a density of contacts that in fact is much more developed than before 2007, when we had a Summit in Lisbon and we defined a joint Europe-Africa strategy. And this meeting takes place in a symbolic year for the African Union, the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the continental integration. The 50th anniversary of the African Union is so important also for this pan-African vision. We in the European Union also are developing this vision. We believe that the role of the European Commission on one side and the African Union Commission on the other, have, of course in a different context, many things in common. It is the idea to put together the resources, the competences, the capabilities of our Member States for a wider perspective.

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Statement by José Manuel Barroso (in ENGLISH): The reality is that throughout these last decades Africa has been transforming itself for the better and we are very happy and proud to be partners of Africa in this process. The African Union has been playing a role in all these important matters for Africa, namely in the efforts to develop a strategic vision for the continent: tackling crises

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...in the short-term, and designing long-term policies for the political, economic and social development of Africa. 50 years ago all this seemed a distant prospect, but as President Mandela has recalled us many times: it all seems impossible until it's done. And now we are doing this. I am therefore particularly honoured that the European Commission has also been part of this process through our consistent and continued support to the African Union Commission, to Africa's integration, and to our bilateral partnership. These College-to-College meetings are precisely part of our partnership. This meeting that concludes in its plenary form will now continue throughout the day, and we are now having in mind particularly the 4th Africa-EU Summit that we will host in Brussels in April next year. We have set in motion a process of reviewing and refreshing the Joint Africa-EU Strategy in order to make it more efficient.

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Statement by José Manuel Barroso (in ENGLISH): Our truly remarkable cooperation has been materialising in a number of areas. First and foremost peace and security, where together we have been

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... have been  
addressing challenges  
for instance in Mali and in  
the wider Sahel region, in  
the Democratic Republic  
of Congo, in Somalia and  
the Horn of Africa, in the  
two Sudans and in  
Guinea-Bissau. I take  
this opportunity to  
welcome the effective  
African leadership in the  
prevention, management  
and resolution of  
conflicts, which the  
European Union has  
supported politically and  
financially since the  
beginning. 1 billion euros  
have been committed to  
the support of this  
agenda through the  
Africa Peace Facility. Let  
me also praise the  
African Union's  
consistent and  
unequivocal rejection of  
unconstitutional changes  
of government and  
ensure you of our  
determination to support  
Africa's ambitious  
agenda for the promotion  
of democratic  
governance and human  
rights. We have also  
agreed to step up our  
cooperation to promote  
sustainable and inclusive  
growth. This is a  
challenge for both Africa  
and the European Union,  
and the urgently- needed  
progress in empowering  
women and creating  
decent work  
opportunities for young  
people will benefit both  
sides. I think that our  
cooperation works  
because it delivers  
concrete outputs from

concrete steps, from fighting the scourge of malaria and other tropical diseases to borders security, from climate change to trade. Between 2007 and 2013, the European Commission has invested more than €24 billion on cooperation with Africa.

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Statement by José Manuel Barroso (in ENGLISH):Africa is today experiencing one of the biggest growth rates of any region in the world. The potential for our economic cooperation is immense. Africa also has a favourable demography with its population expected to double by 2050, many of them, most of them young, and certainly dynamic and eager to build a prosperous live.The European Union has been consistently the African continent's main trade and investment partner, accounting with a total of one third of overall trade. This is why we also have addressed this very much in detail. There are many untapped opportunities to expand our mutually beneficial cooperation. We have been working on this, today we have addressed among many other issues, for instance, the importance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development.So. to

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developments, to conclude, I am encouraged by our discussions, by our common determination to keep our two organisations as the drivers of the process of integration in both Europe and Africa. I think that we can give a very important contribution not only of course to the well-being of our citizens, but also to a global order based on the principles of peace, democracy, development and justice. Thank you.

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Question and answer session

00:22:27