

Cabinet Newsletter

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Dear Reader,

As Vice President Tajani spends the day in Tripoli, Libya to launch the fourth EU-Africa Business Forum, we would like to reflect on the success that was the 'Commissioner Cooks' event last week. We have just received fundraising estimates, and we could not be more pleased. Raising over 6 500 € over the course of the evening, we have donated the funds to the ALINIHA project of the Foundation Roi Baudouin, which promotes the entrepreneurial spirit of women in Africa.



Antonio Preto
Head of Cabinet

In collaboration with the Italian Ambassador to Belgium, Vice President Tajani joined the Belgian Presidency of the Council in its initiative entitled 'The Commissioner Cooks'. With the help of professional cooks and a few members of his Cabinet, the Vice President prepared a typical Italian dinner, with specialties from his home region of Lazio. Guests attending the dinner were able to contribute to Aliniha, which is currently enabling women in Mali, Burkina Faso and Senegal to be empowered, gain access to microfinance, and protect the environment. The Vice President was so thrilled with the outcome of the evening that we very well may see him more often with an apron and cooking pan! We think the look suits him well.



To join us in supporting this charity, or for more information on its mission and achievements, please visit the website: <http://www.philippsonfoundation.org/index.php?id=35&langue=uk>

This fundraising event could not be more opportune given today's opening of the EU-Africa Business Forum. Vice President Tajani will discuss the two continents' collaboration on raw materials, as well as a joint initiative in space policy that includes a plan for Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) and Africa.

Africa is increasingly speaking with a unified voice on the global scale, and we are taking notice. Its economic growth and natural resources are not to be ignored. Moreover, not only is the EU Africa's most important partner, but Africa symbolises a key partnership for the EU.



Given this mutual importance, the Vice President will stress the need to build on the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership so that it is results-oriented and effective. With eighty Heads of State and principal government officials in attendance, this Summit will be a defining moment for the future of our relationship with Africa, attracting much media and public attention.

We look forward to seeing the conclusions of the Summit, given the importance of this partnership and the need to transform it into a relationship that is strong, sustainable and truly impactful.