

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AFRICA-EU HIGH LEVEL SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION DIALOGUE FIRST SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING</b></p>
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**WHEN? 10-11 October 2011**

**WHERE? Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
African Union Commission Headquarters, Congo Hall**

**WHAT? Research policy leaders from the African Union and the European Union and their respective executive Commissions will meet to prepare a policy agenda for extended cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation between Africa and Europe. The meeting coincides with the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) 6<sup>th</sup> biannual Forum which will present recent advances in the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in Africa**

Africa is the continent where the **scientific divide** – the gap between what society demands and what science delivers – is the widest. The Millennium Development Goals identify the essential role of **science and technology for socio-economic transformation**. However, investments in African scientific capacities have often not been a priority and the continent is losing some of its best scientific and technical expertise to other regions.

The adoption of the **Lisbon Partnership** in December 2007, with science and technology as a priority focus, boosted scientific cooperation between the two continents. Since then, the European Commission and the African Union Commission have together made substantial progress towards the identification of a broad range of scientific projects and initiatives. These have helped reinforce the African science and technology base and its research systems both in terms of **production and use of knowledge** and of **institutional capacity in science and technology policy**.

African participation in the European Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development has been increasing in recent years. To date, the direct budgetary contribution to African participants is approximately **€100 million** and the amount of European cooperation in science and technology with Africa is comparable to that of other regions such as Asia.

In order to maintain this momentum and to further consolidate the scientific cooperation between the two continents, the African Union and European Union agreed to set-up a **High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation** which engages them to **enhance and drive forward cooperation** between the two continents. This agreement was

jointly endorsed by **the Africa-EU Joint Summit of Tripoli** in November 2010. In June 2011 **Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn** and **Commissioner Ezin** agreed to launch the first **Senior Officials' Meeting** of this dialogue at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa.

## **WHO?**

Held at the level of Directors General and Permanent Secretaries from the EU and African science and technology Ministries, the meeting will include, amongst others, interventions from:

- **Jean-Pierre Ezin**, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, African Union Commission
- **Robert-Jan Smits**, Director-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- **Koen Vervaeke**, Ambassador of the European Union to the African Union
- **Maged Al-Sherbiny**, President of the Egyptian Scientific Research and Technology Academy, and S&T Vice Minister, AMCOST Chair
- **Phil Mjwara**, **Director General of the Department of Science and Technology, South Africa**
- **Pascoal Mocumbi**, High Representative of the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership

### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm>

#### **For information on the first EU-AU Senior Officials Meeting**

**Fadila BOUGHANEMI**, Senior Policy Officer, European Commission - DG Research

Tel. : +32.2.299 26 38, Mobile: +32.488 46 65 55, Email : [fadila.boughanemi@ec.europa.eu](mailto:fadila.boughanemi@ec.europa.eu)

#### **For information on the African Union Commission**

**Habiba MEJRI-CHEIKH**, Directorate of Information and Communication, African Union Commission

Tel: +251 11 517700 Ext. 1016 Email: [HabibaM@africa-union.org](mailto:HabibaM@africa-union.org)

#### **For information on European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP):**

**Gert Onne VAN DE KLASHORST**, Communications Officer, European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)

Tel: +31.70.3440885, Fax: +31.70.344 08 99, Mobile +31-(0)6 53221758 (during the Forum), Email: [klashorst@edctp.org](mailto:klashorst@edctp.org)

#### **For further information on the activities of the European Union:**

**Christophe BOULIERAC / Biruk FELEK**, Press and Information Advisor, Delegation of the European Union to the African Union, Tel: 251-11-416.37.00 Ext 502, Mobile 0911 514809

[Christophe.boulierc@ext.eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Christophe.boulierc@ext.eeas.europa.eu), [Biruk.FELEKE@ext.eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Biruk.FELEKE@ext.eeas.europa.eu)