

ROADMAP			
TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE	Africa – EU Partnership: renewed impetus		
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT – AP NUMBER	EEAS AFRICA5	DATE OF ROADMAP	13/01/2017
LIKELY TYPE OF INITIATIVE	Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council		
INDICATIVE PLANNING	<a href="#">Commission Work Programme 2017 – Q2/2017</a>		
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	<p><b>This Roadmap aims to inform stakeholders about the Commission's work in order to allow them to provide feedback and to participate effectively in future consultation activities. Stakeholders are in particular invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to make available any relevant information that they may have. The Roadmap is provided for information purposes only and its content may change. This Roadmap does not prejudge the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content.</b></p>		

A. Context, Problem definition and Subsidiarity Check
<p><b>Context</b></p> <p>The "Africa-EU Partnership: renewed impetus" initiative was included in the 2017 Commission Work Programme for the preparation of the EU's strategic objectives and priorities in its relations with Africa in view of the 5<sup>th</sup> Africa-EU Summit scheduled to take place in November 2017 in Cote d'Ivoire. The Summit provides a key opportunity to further reinforce the Africa-EU Partnership, which is based on the <a href="#">Joint Africa-EU Strategy</a> adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU-Africa-Summit in 2007, and to strengthen mutual engagement and joint action for the period 2018-2020, and potentially beyond.</p> <p>A renewed impetus for the Africa-EU Partnership is needed to take account of the way in which Africa's role in world affairs and its importance as a partner for the EU have grown in the last decade, as well as the development of the EU's own profile as a global actor. A more uncertain and competitive world, the interconnected future between Africa and the EU, the impact of developments in Africa on the political priorities of the EU and the ongoing work on the implementation of the <a href="#">Global Strategy on the EU's Foreign and Security Policy</a>, the <a href="#">2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</a>, and reflections on a new framework for partnership with countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific following the expiry of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, all call for a new impetus to the EU's approach towards Africa.</p>
<p><b>Problem the initiative aims to tackle</b></p> <p>Africa and Europe are bound together by their history, geography, interests and values, and most importantly by their interconnected futures. The EU remains for Africa a major political and trading partner, as well as main investor, donor and source of remittances. Africa is a continent of opportunity with considerable natural resources and agricultural potential, and hosts most of the fastest growing economies in the world. By 2050 Africa will be home to nearly 25% of world's population and its youth population is expected to double to over 830 million. If properly harnessed, this increase in the working age population could support increased productivity and stronger, more inclusive economic growth across the continent. This represents also for the EU a huge potential for trade, innovation and investments.</p> <p>Against this background, the 2017 Africa-EU Summit is a key opportunity for the EU and Africa to deepen their strategic partnership and jointly address common challenges and opportunities. While the five priority areas<sup>1</sup> defined at the 2014 Summit remain broadly valid, cooperation would need to be focussed on challenges that have emerged and increased in scale. In particular, in light of Africa's projected demographic developments, the central challenge ahead is to generate sustainable inclusive development and jobs.</p>

<sup>1</sup> (i) Peace and security, (ii) Democracy, Good Governance and Human Rights, (iii) Human Development, (iv) Sustainable and inclusive development and growth and continental integration, (v) Global and cross-cutting issues

<p><b>Subsidiarity check</b></p>
<p>This initiative will ensure that EU external action, and in particular its foreign policy and development cooperation policy vis-à-vis Africa and that of the Member States better complement and reinforce each other, to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure consistency of actions.</p> <p>Lessons learnt from past Summits show that it is crucial to define priorities and possible deliverables well ahead of the upcoming Summit and engage with the partners on a solid basis to ensure a tangible outcome.</p> <p>The present initiative is in line with the ten priorities of the Commission, as it supports the priority of the EU as a strong global actor. The initiative is enabled by Article 21(2)(d) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) which identifies the areas in the field of international relations where the EU is to pursue common policies and actions, with a high degree of cooperation. Article 21(3) TEU provides for ensuring consistency between the different areas of the EU external action and between these and its other policies.</p>
<p><b>B. What does the initiative aim to achieve and how</b></p>
<p>The primary objective of the initiative will be to put forward proposals to increase the effectiveness of the EU as global actor by consolidating the EU's political and strategic engagement with Africa on the path to the Summit. The Communication will therefore aim to identify priorities, objectives and deliverables for the Summit, building on the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and its <a href="#">Roadmap 2014-2017</a>, while taking into account new developments, policies, and tools available. This will provide a basis for consultations and negotiations with African partners, thus ensuring a well-prepared and focussed Summit.</p> <p>The Communication will reflect the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Partnership as well as translate the Africa/North Africa strand of the Global Strategy on the EU's Foreign and Security Policy into action. Coherence with recent initiatives will also be ensured, in particular with the Joint Communication on A renewed partnership with the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific and the revision of the European Consensus on Development. Other key documents such as the Africa's Agenda 2063 and the <a href="#">Valletta Action plan</a> will also be taken into account when defining the EU's approach.</p> <p>With reference to the chosen 2017 theme of the African Union - "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend Through Investments in Youth", the Summit could specifically address how to harness the potential of the African and European youth, offer them the opportunity to develop their skills, integrate into the labour market in a stable environment, enjoy well managed mobility and benefit freely from technological progress, including digitalisation. This is a major condition for security and sustainable development both in the EU and in Africa; allowing for poverty reduction, better governance, more stability, better managed migration and more resilient societies. It requires inter alia a quantum leap in investment in Africa, including by European companies, in order to contribute to unlocking this potential and promoting mutual interests. The <a href="#">European External Investment Plan</a> proposed by the European Commission on 14 September 2016 should be the backbone of the EU's support to this effort.</p> <p>More specifically, the Communication will therefore - framed by the Summit's proposed central theme "Youth" - examine the main areas of engagement with Africa, including (i) peace and security; (ii) Governance and political leadership, (iii) Human development and migration, (iv) Growth and jobs and (v) Climate, and identify how the needs and aspirations of African (and European) Youth in all their diversity can be attended to.</p>
<p><b>C. Better regulation</b></p>
<p><b>Consultation strategy</b></p>
<p>The objective of the consultation approach is to gather views and relevant data from key stakeholders involved in the Africa-EU Partnership and in the Summit preparation, ranging from relevant public authorities (including governments, international organisations), to civil society organisations and their representative umbrella organisations (including private sector actors and business organisations, research institutes, think tanks, foundations, youth organisations) in order to provide strong rationale for the way forward.</p> <p>More specifically Member States will be fully involved from the outset, with full discussion at all level of relevant Council working groups. Consultation of other key stakeholders will be organised on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis in particular with civil society organisations (CSO), youth organisations and the private sector. The Communication will also build on all relevant existing consultations such as those undertaken in the context of the Joint Communication on A renewed partnership with the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific, the revision of the European Consensus for Development, the Global Strategy and the review of the Neighbourhood Policy as well other foreseen <i>ad hoc</i> consultations with regards to the Summit.</p> <p>A brief summary and analysis of all consultation contributions will be captured in a staff working document that will accompany the communication.</p>

**Impact assessment**

No impact assessment is foreseen with regard to this Communication, given the broad strategic nature of this initiative, which will set out in broad terms how the EU will partner with Africa in making progress towards Agenda 2030 and addressing long-term challenges. The findings of the impact assessment related to the Joint Communication on A renewed partnership with the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific will also be taken into account.

**Evaluations and fitness checks**

The Joint Communication will build on the relevant work carried out in the context of the Global Strategy, the Post-Cotonou process and the revision of the European Consensus on Development, complemented by further targeted internal review of existing strategic evaluations related to EU cooperation within Africa. Existing academic and think tank literature as well as relevant studies on trends in Africa and EU-Africa relations will be reviewed. A synthesis of all existing relevant evaluations will be captured in a staff working document that will accompany the communication.