



EU-AU Commission to Commission take their cooperation forward

#AUEU #EUAU

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As partners with shared interests, the EU and the African Union are joining forces to tackle today's continental and global challenges.

The African Union (AU) is the EU's political and institutional partner at Pan-African level. The AU and its Commission play an essential role in building peace and security across the continent, driving the continental integration progress and being a key partner on global issues.

The European Commission and the African Union Commission meet 'Commission to Commission' once per year, as part of their ongoing dialogue. This complements other meetings between the EU and other African partners at continental, regional, national and local level.

In addition to launching the preparations for the 6th EU-AU Summit, due to take place in Brussels in autumn 2020, this high-level meeting provided an opportunity for dialogue on a number of important continental and global challenges, which will be key areas for future cooperation.

Sustainable Investment and Jobs

Africa is home to many of the world's fastest-growing economies, driven by a young, innovative workforce and booming entrepreneurialism.

The continued development of the private sector will be vital in creating the jobs that Africa needs as 15-20 million young people enter the African labour market each year.

Through the EU External Investment Plan, the EU has already allocated €4.6 billion in funds, which is in turn expected to leverage €47 billion of public and private investment.

Climate Change

Tackling the global climate crisis will be one of the defining challenges of the 21st century.

For economic growth to truly benefit Africa's citizens, it must be environmentally sustainable.

Africa has huge renewable energy potential, meaning it is well-placed to capitalise on its green transition as a means of promoting economic growth.

Solar Power in Burkina Faso

The EU has supported a project in Burkina Faso to build the largest solar power plant in West Africa.

This power plant is a reliable source of renewable energy, providing electricity to more than 660,000 people. In a country in which just one in five people have access to electricity, this will make a real difference to people's lives and boost the local economy.

The EU invested €25 million in almost 130,000 solar panels on an area equivalent to 84 football fields. This plant saves 26,000 tonnes in CO2 emissions per year.



Digitalisation

Digitalisation has the power to transform almost every aspect of Africa's economies and societies – from banking and e-commerce through to online education and e-services.

Already, Africa is at the forefront of many of the most innovative applications of the digital revolution, including digital financial services.

Over the past ten years, Africa has recorded the highest growth globally in Internet access.

'AfricaConnect' – boosting pan-African Internet Connectivity

In December 2019, the EU announced an additional €30 million for the 'AfricaConnect' project. This will provide

affordable, high-capacity Internet for research and education networks across Africa.

High-speed broadband connectivity enables African youth, students, and researchers to boost collaborative scientific research with their peers around the world to help them tackle challenges in Africa.

It will also enable education, training and research institutions to develop and use applications to improve their teaching and learning environments, such as virtual classes or massive open online courses.

This project is now in its third phase. Since its launch in 2014, more than 800 higher education and research institutions have been connected, their high-speed capacity has been significantly increased, while costs have been lowered.



Peace and Governance

Peace, security and good governance are all interlinked, and are vital for sustainable economic and social development.

Peace and security in Africa are also vital for Europe's own security.

Security and development can only be sustainable in the long-run when rooted in full respect for human rights, democratic principles, gender equality and the rule of law.

Mobility and Migration

In an increasingly globalised world, it is essential that Africa and Europe work closely together on issues relating to mobility and migration.

Our partnership approach has proven that together we can save and protect lives, assist those in need and break the cruel business model of smugglers and traffickers.

Well-managed migration and mobility benefit both our societies and are key objectives for Africa and Europe.