

EU-Africa co-operation strengthens with 4th meeting between European Commission and African Union Commission

Almost one year on since the launch of a new strategic partnership between the EU and Africa at the Lisbon Summit, tomorrow's joint College to College meeting will highlight the increased partnership between the two institutions. Discussions will focus on the priority actions to be taken in areas such as migration, energy and the Millennium Development Goals as well as current concerns surrounding global economic stability and the increase in food prices.

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso said: "This meeting is a concrete example of co-operation between Europe and Africa. We must act together to tackle our major concerns: food prices, the impact of climate change, trade and regional integration, peace and security or the current global economic downturn. Africa is on the move, with less conflicts and better governance across the continent. But progress to achieve the Millennium Development Goals is essential and still not yet satisfactory. In these times of uncertainty and talks about financial rescue, I call on our Member States not to forget human rescue. I hope that the Member States and the European Parliament will soon approve our proposal of a €1 Billion Food Facility to support agriculture production in countries affected by the food crisis."

This continent-to-continent approach is a unique opportunity allowing both Europe and Africa to work in close partnership on a broad agenda which goes beyond traditional development cooperation and involves common political concerns and common interests. The meeting will be jointly led by European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and Jean Ping, Chairperson of the AU Commission. In addition, Commissioners from both institutions will also have an opportunity to participate in a number of meetings to discuss a broad range of issues within the framework of the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership.

The eight partnerships identified in the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership cover:

1. Africa-EU Partnership on Peace and Security:
2. Africa-EU Partnership on Democratic Governance and Human Rights:
3. Africa-EU Partnership on Trade, Regional Integration and Infrastructures
4. Africa-EU Partnership on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
5. Africa-EU Partnership on Energy
6. Africa-EU Partnership on Climate Change
7. Africa-EU Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment
8. Africa-EU Partnership on Science, Information Society and Space

Background:

The second European Union-Africa Summit took place in Lisbon in December 2007, following the historic first Summit in Cairo in 2000. Following the creation of the African Union (AU) in 2002, a more structural political dialogue between the EU and Africa is taking place. The meeting tomorrow is the fourth meeting between the EU Commission and the AU Commission.

The EU-Africa Strategic Partnership:

http://ec.europa.eu/development/geographical/regionscountries/euafrika_en.cfm