

The EU Strategy for Africa

In 2005 the international community got together to make a decisive change by helping Africa to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This is because many of Africa's challenges are global challenges: HIV/AIDS, the need for human development and new models for economic growth, peace, and democracy. In addition, Africa clearly is on the move: thanks to the birth of the African Union (AU) and NEPAD, and the emergence of a new generation of African leaders there is now a real momentum for positive change. Africa has many faces, different histories and diverse needs, but it has now collectively embarked on a path of political, economic and cultural integration for the entire continent.



Africa is a continent full of hope and potential and is overflowing with untapped resources. But it is also a continent synonymous with emergency and indignation since Africa remains trapped in poverty, cut off from the rest of the world and from the advantages of globalisation. I am firmly convinced that

we have the means and the will to turn around this ailing situation. Europe and Africa are bound together by common history, interlocking cultures and shared values. With the EU Strategy for Africa, Europe has, for the first time, taken a comprehensive approach embracing the whole of Africa, from Cairo to the Cape. It is also my profound belief that the new Strategy comes at the right time: Africa is on the move, and Africans are more creative and dynamic than ever in searching for viable solutions to their challenges. I am therefore proud that Europe now has a coherent framework for helping Africans work towards a better future.

LOUIS MICHEL,
European Commissioner for Development
and Humanitarian Aid

Europe's relationship with Africa is not new: the two continents are connected by history, culture, strong trade links and aid flows. But for too long the EU's relations with Africa have been too fragmented, both in policy formulation and implementation. That is why the European Union in 2005 rose to the challenge and adopted a new **EU Strategy for Africa.**

The purpose of this Strategy is to give the EU a comprehensive, integrated and long-term framework for its relations with the African continent. It is designed to guide interaction between the whole of Europe and Africa at all levels: pan-African institutions such as the AU, regional organisations and national authorities. It will be an important policy platform for implementing European development aid to Africa in the coming years, which is set to increase by approximately €10 billion per year by 2010.

strategy

A three-pronged approach to achieve the MDGs

The overarching goal of the Strategy is to support Africa's efforts to reach the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To make a concrete difference, the EU will focus its actions in a limited number of selected areas that are key for Africa's development: (i) **good governance, peace and security** as prerequisites for development; (ii) **fostering trade, regional integration and interconnectivity** as actions promoting economic growth and (iii) **actions in areas that tackle the MDGs directly**, such as health, education, and a safe environment.

Increasing the volume of EU Official Development Assistance

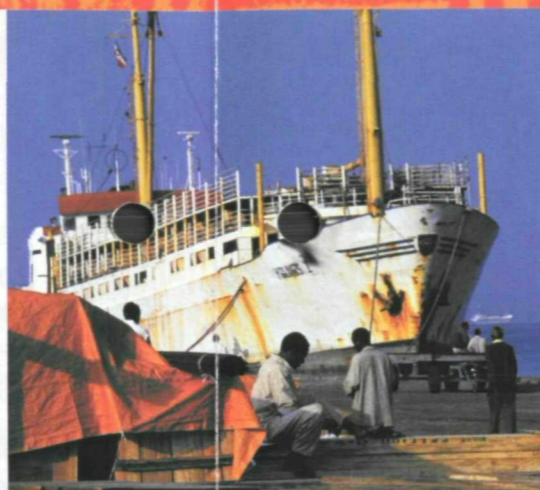
In July 2005, the EU reaffirmed its leading role in the international development debate by agreeing to new, ambitious commitments for financing development: more and better aid, with the firm determination to reach the long-standing internationally agreed target of 0.7% of GNP to official development assistance (ODA) by 2015. The EU has set itself the interim target of 0.56% ODA/GNI by 2010. These EU commitments translate into €20 billion more ODA per year by 2010 and €45 billion more per year by 2015. Half of the increase is earmarked for Africa, the continent most in need of additional support in their efforts to reach the MDGs.

Common objectives

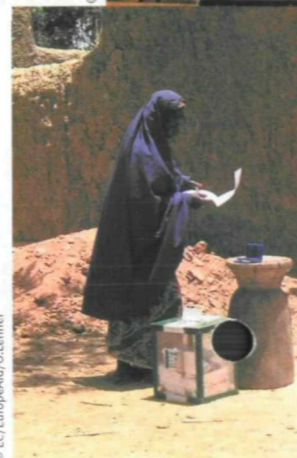
The Strategy also recognises that the world and the context within which the EU and Africa cooperate have changed. Events during the last few years, especially relating to international terrorism and the impact of globalisation on our societies, have shown that Africa and Europe are interdependent. Thus, the EU wishes to put a new thrust into its cooperation with Africa and to work better towards common objectives.

Improving governance systems

The eradication of poverty in the world cannot be achieved without a radical improvement of governance systems in the developing countries. In order to create a decisive incentive for the reform of African governance, the Commission has placed governance reforms at the heart of the programming process of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF; €22.7 billion for the period 2008-2013) to assist Africa build credible national and local institutions, reinforce respect for the rule of law, for human rights and democratic norms and promote gender equality. The Commission also proposes to create a **European Governance Initiative**, which will support the implementation of reforms following recommendations of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The Governance Initiative also proposes a definition at EU level of a set of policy principles to support good governance processes efficiently. This will enable EU Member States to act coherently in this area.



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Peace and security

Security and development are intertwined. Establishing a stable and secure environment is a prerequisite to build on sustainable long-term development and to break the vicious circle of war, poverty, environmental degradation and failing economic, social and political structures. The African Peace Facility (APF) provides African partners – the African Union and sub-regional organisations – with the necessary means to identify and implement own solutions for managing and resolving African conflicts according to the principle of ownership. Created in 2004, the APF has rapidly become the financial foundation of Africa's peace and security architecture. It has so far been used to fund the efforts of the *Force multinationale en Centrafrique* (FOMUC) of the *Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique centrale* (CEMAC) in the Central African Republic and the AU-led African Mission in Sudan (AMIS). It has also funded a smaller short-term AU-led mission in the Comoros and provided capacity building support for the AU. In view of its success, the European Council decided in the spring of 2006 to provide long-term and substantial funding for the Peace Facility, as a part of the EU's commitments under the Strategy for Africa. The next Peace Facility will be endowed with an amount of €300 million – more than the original Peace Facility – for an initial period of three years, 2008-2010, with funding from the EU's 10th European Development Fund (EDF).

Interconnecting African networks and promoting trade

The EU Strategy for Africa proposes measures to build regional markets and promote trade. In addition to the ongoing process of establishing regional Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with Europe, a new **Europe-Africa Partnership for Infrastructure** will be set up. The partnership, based on strategies elaborated by the AU and NEPAD, will support the establishment of sustainable cross-border infrastructure in a broad range of areas (road and railway transport, ports, water, energy and ICT networks) which are essential for the interconnectivity of the continent. The assistance provided by the European Union will be channelled through a Trust Fund managed by the European Investment Bank and will be designed to leverage private sector investments. The Commission has decided to contribute €60 million to this Trust Fund, which is open for contributions from all European donors.

In order to stimulate private investment and to boost the private sector in Africa, the first **EU-Africa Business Forum** will be organised late 2006.

objectives

Striving towards more equitable societies and access to basic services

Promoting universal access to basic services like health, education, hygiene, employment and environment is the third key pillar of the Strategy for Africa. Most of this support will be implemented through bilateral aid programmes for individual African countries.

In order to stimulate higher education, the EU will support an African university exchange scheme, the **Nyerere programme**, which the African Union plans to set up.

services



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... WHERE CAN I READ MORE?

All documents that explain the EU Strategy for Africa in greater detail (as well as the full text of the Strategy itself) can be consulted at the following website: www.europe-cares.org/africa

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