



AFRICAN UNION



EUROPEAN UNION

Joint Statement

On the EU – Africa Infrastructure Partnership – 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee

TUNISIA, 7 APRIL 2010

The 3rd Meeting of the Partnership Steering Committee on Infrastructure took place in Tunisia, on 7th April 2010 at the Hotel Ramada Plaza, Tunis with the participation of Members of the PSC (list annexed).

The members of the Partnership **Steering Committee** (PSC) underlined the need to actively pursue the development and implementation of Infrastructure priorities which are in line with overall regional and continental plans supported by Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AU-NEPAD and in accordance with Action Plan. For the successful achievement of the various activities entrusted to the PSC, the members of PSC will work closely and with other stakeholders – both public and private - in the context of other ongoing international and global initiatives in the domain of infrastructure.

Furthermore, the members of the Partnership Steering Committee agreed:

a) On management and reporting of EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership

The members of PSC acknowledge the critical importance of regional and continental infrastructure within the African development agenda and of the necessity to improve the effectiveness and visibility of the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure.

The members of PSC agree that the governance of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership is fundamental and should ensure proper visibility of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership at EU TROIKA level as well as adequate and effective cooperation with related partnerships under the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership. The members of PSC agree that the institutional status and place of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership should be examined in the framework of the overall institutional structure of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy in view of the Tripoli Summit. In this context, the members agree that the establishment of ad-hoc working groups has to be considered.

b) On the promotion of capacity building

The members of PSC affirm the need to strengthen the relations between AUC and EC on the implementation of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership and maintain and reinforce coherence between national, regional and continental level in the implementation of the partnership.

In this respect, the members reaffirm their commitment and support to:

- reinforcing communication and exchange on best practices, including the organisation of the Euro-Africa Forum on Transport and Energy in June-July 2010 to report on implementation of Naples Declaration (21-22 October 2009) and be presented as a deliverable at the EU-AU Summit in Tripoli
- strengthening of institutional coordination structures between African stakeholders and in the pursuing of work on defining a comprehensive Capacity Building Programme to support such stakeholders, at regional integration organisations and RECs level but also at country level where most of the decision making process (legal framework, climate change, policies,..) and the implementation of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership take place.
- the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), aiming inter-alia at improving regional infrastructure interconnections between all regions of the African continent

For the transport sector, interconnections between the African networks and the Trans-European transport networks will be explored, notably in the context of the Motorways of the Sea concept (MedaMOS for Mediterranean region) and the extension of such concepts to Africa to facilitate inter-regional trade. The European Commission (EC) reiterates its continued support through its active involvement in such initiatives and in making available all information on the Trans-European Network programme and MedaMOS project.

c) On the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund

The PSC takes note of the continued progress of the Trust Fund in 2009 and as presented in the 2008 Annual Report. The progress in the mobilization of resources and identification and implementation of projects is encouraging, with twelve EU countries participating financially in the Trust Fund and a total of 20 projects approved to date. All projects form part of a regional interconnected network and provide the basis for reinforcing the economic and social capacities at regional and continental level.

For the next year, and in order to further expand and strengthen the pipeline of projects of the Trust Fund, the PSC recommends prioritising efforts in the following areas:

- Reinforced dialogue and exchanges between the Secretariat & financiers of the Trust Fund, the African Union Commission (AUC), the RECs and the potential recipient countries to identify regional and continental priority and sustainable projects that are sufficiently mature to be incorporated to the Trust Fund pipeline. It is agreed in this respect that the AUC shall be invited to ad-hoc information meetings between the Executive Committee of the Trust Fund and the PSC;
- Closer cooperation with African regional development banks and private sector to explore possibilities of investments of common interest;

- Advancing the process with African Development Bank with the objective of its admission as a full member of the Project Financiers Group to enable it to actively and fully participate in project financing and definition;
 - Particular focus on the transport sector for the development of suitable projects, notably for the Trans-African Highways, but also including multimodal projects, ports, airports and pan-African infrastructures for all transport modes (e.g. satellite navigation), as well as the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) sector (for supporting broadband interconnectivity, the rolling-out of regional terrestrial backbones as well as broadband wireless/satellite-based networks to increase rural access) in line with the outcome of the February 2010 AU Summit of Heads of States focused on ICT for Africa Development
 - Wherever relevant and feasible, considering cross-sectoral approaches in view of exploiting possible synergies and infrastructures-sharing between the transport, energy and ICT sectors
 - The AUC will be invited to meet with the members of the Executive Committee of the Trust Fund in 2010
- d) On the PIDA Programme and the promotion and identification of projects in the sectors of transport, energy, water management and ICT.**

The members of the PSC reiterate their support to the improvement of sustainable infrastructure networks and services in the fields of Transport, ICT, Energy and Water to foster sustainable economic development in Africa.

The members of the PSC call for the active participation of the European Commission, European Member States and their European development Financing Institutions in the implementation, in line with the criteria of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund, of current and upcoming initiatives, such as PIDA; and call for the Secretariat of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership to actively liaise with the PIDA process.

In line with the priorities identified through the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership, the following goals shall be pursued:

- As regards transport, both parties will aim at increasing interconnectivity by investing in and improving infrastructure along the Trans-African highway corridors and rail networks, improve transport services by removal of non-physical barriers, and build capacities in the field of safety, security and protection of the environment particularly for air and maritime transport. With regard to air transport, the Executing Agency which is aimed at managing and overseeing the liberalization of African air transport markets will be made operational and studies related to the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) will conclude by a validation workshop of YD implementation at continental level to be held in the second semester of 2010;
- In the field of Information and Communications Technologies both parties will work towards the development of interconnected Broadband networks and services within the continent,

especially in the remote and rural areas while improving the universal access and its funding mechanisms;

- In the field of positioning and navigation, the members of the PSC took note of the presentation of the Satellite-based Augmentation Services (SBAS).
- As regards water, both parties will reinforce their efforts to address the challenges of water security and climate change, sustainable access to safe and affordable water supplies, including through the Water Facilities, in line with the African priorities as stated at the AU Summit in Sharm El Sheik 2008. Priorities will be identified in close collaboration with the African Ministerial Council on Water and the EU Water Initiative and in synergy with the Water Facilities. The approach of Integrated Water Resources Management will be encouraged and the parties will reinforce their efforts particularly on sanitation taking into account the Africa-EU statement on Sanitation which was quoted during the African Union Summit in July 2008.
- In the field of energy, both parties will reinforce their efforts to address the challenges of energy security and access to sustainable and affordable energy services to stimulate economic growth and social development, in synergy with the Energy Partnership and the Energy Facilities.

e) On appointment of coordinators for pilot projects

The members of the PSC agree on the identification and nomination of coordinators for pilot projects to be implemented in one or two of the corridors for Trans-African Highways (TAH) whose principal task is to assist in brokering funding, and call on the EC to ensure suitable support for their appointment. The African Union will select high-level African personalities that will be the coordinators of specific corridors and observe the deliverables obtained. DG MOVE will facilitate the information in regard to the similar project that is implemented in Europe and provide the profiles of the European coordinators

f) On cooperation with other initiatives

The members of the PSC recognize the need for continuing and reinforced cooperation with other institutions pursuing an integration agenda in Africa, such as the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) and United Nations - Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA), to better contribute to our shared goal of better infrastructure services provision in Africa.

g) On the private sector

There is increasing acknowledgment in Africa of the role of the private sector to promote and finance infrastructure provision. However, mobilisation of the private sector to date remains limited and largely concentrated in the telecommunications sector and, regionally, in a few countries such as South Africa. The members recognise the need to reinforce the involvement and participation of the private sector and recognise the prerequisites in this respect through the establishment of an enabling environment for investment, combined with improved transparency and good governance practices.

In order to support initiatives funded by Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and to address the investment gap for infrastructure in Africa, currently estimated at USD 31 billion per year (source: AICD),

there is thus a need for development of a strategy for increased involvement of private sector in development cooperation, with innovative financing mechanisms, and associated policy framework at the continental level for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) as one of the potential mechanisms for infrastructure provision. The strategy should aim principally at assessing potential contribution of the private sector and a framework for mobilisation of user charge methods for cost recovery, with necessary social accompaniment. The PPP policy framework should provide the components for achieving private sector mobilisation through the strengthening of enabling legal, fiscal and regulatory environments.

The members of the PSC support such initiatives aimed at providing greater coherence and visibility at a continental level and encourage African countries to reinforce efforts in this area. They moreover call for:

- Intensified contacts and cooperation with relevant private sector organizations for their involvement in the funding of regional infrastructure in the context PPPs;
- The promotion of the active participation of the private sector, research institutions and Civil Society in the implementation of the Africa – EU Infrastructure Partnership;

h) On the Action Plan, Road Map and Monitoring and Evaluation plan

The members of the PSC confirm their support of the Road Map adopted during the seminar, and the immediate need to develop such infrastructure priorities, including the securing of funding, where necessary. They underline the need to prepare a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan and M&E Road Map as a tool for programme / project improvement. For the successful achievement of the various activities entrusted to the PSC, members of PSC will liaise closely and ensure coordination with other stakeholders.

i) On the implementation of European Development Fund (EDF) actions in support of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership

The members of PSC take note of AUC's commitment to make further progress in the implementation of the € 55 million EC support programme for the period 2007-2011, in order to improve AUC expertise in the infrastructure sector, launch technical studies, raise awareness and play an effective role as an "engine" for the active participation of the African regional authorities, African countries and stakeholders in the Africa - EU Infrastructure Partnership. This would include the RECs and other pan-African institutions and relevant national authorities.

The members of PSC welcome the commencement of the technical assistance services in February 2010 as part of the additional programme of € 10 million designed to specifically support preparatory activities and which shall be instrumental in this regard. They confirm their agreement to the priorities, as presented in detail at the PSC meeting as a basis for further actions to ensure their proper preparation and implementation.

The AUC and the EC also confirm their agreement to conduct a 'High level Africa – EU dialogue meeting' that will address infrastructure issues related to Transport, Energy and ICT. Both AUC and EC will continue their effort to join forces in order to make swift progress in implementing the Partnership in full cooperation with its partners.

j) On the road to Tripoli

In preparation of the AU-EU Summit in Tripoli, a set of coherent actions supported by the Infrastructure Partnership will be elaborated with assistance of the Secretariat.

This may include:

- Projects funded by the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund
- Actions under the Port Moresby Agreement
- Side event on Infrastructure
- Report on implementation of Naples Declaration, including identification of transport corridor coordinators for pilot projects
- Progress of PIDA
- Priorities for the Second Plan of Actions 2011-13
- Other actions which may be identified by the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership

The members of the PSC agree to ensure a good communication of information related to the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership within the members of the PSC and stakeholders and, where relevant, to the wider public.

Adopted in Tunis, 9 April 2010.