



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation — EuropeAid

Sustainable Growth and Development  
**Financial Instruments**

### **JOINT EU-AFRICA STRATEGY REFERENCE GROUP ON TRANSPORT, ENERGY, ICT AND TRANSBOUNDARY WATER**

#### **1. MANDATE OF THE REFERENCE GROUP**

The Partnership Steering Committee (PSC) of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership that met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 29th March 2012, agreed that

"the institutional status and place of the Africa-EU Infrastructure Partnership should be examined in the framework of the review of the overall institutional structure of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy. Until then a reference group should ensure the exchange of information, knowledge sharing and coordination between the sectors of transport, energy, ICT and transboundary water".

The PSC further concluded that such Reference Group should be

"using the opportunities of structured dialogue, within the Joint Africa-Europe Strategy (JAES), to further develop and identify areas where the European Union could contribute, through knowledge sharing or in any other manner as may be deemed appropriate, to accelerate the programme's implementation and reaching of its objectives. In this regard African and European partners will particularly assist in identifying the synergies between PIDA and the "Sustainable Energy for All" at appropriate level to develop complementarities, coherence and ownership."

Implementing this conclusion of the PSC, the African Union Commission and the European Commission organise the functioning of the Reference Group (RG) as follows:

#### **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE REFERENCE GROUP**

The RG will ensure coordination, knowledge-sharing and coherence of the JAES structures in developing and implementing the sectoral responses in the areas of transport, energy, ICT and transboundary water.

To this effect the RG, will be

1. examining the coherence, synergies and complementarities between the different policy responses in the above sectors, intended for issuing policy guidance and provide strategic orientation to the Partnerships
2. exchanging information amongst its members as regards the needs of infrastructure and the planned regional or national action plans
3. sharing experience between its members on the sectoral regulatory frameworks and their evolution, pursuing complementary approaches, where appropriate

4. structuring information exchange with other international initiatives supporting infrastructures, such the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa or the Sustainable Energy for All.

### **3. ORGANISATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

#### **1. PARTICIPATION**

1. To ensure sectoral representativeness of both sides to the RG, participation is defined as follows:
  - a) Transport: the Co-Chairs of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership, presently the AUC and the EC.
  - b) Energy: the Co-Chairs of the Energy Partnership, presently the AUC, Mauritius, Austria and Germany.
  - c) Transboundary Water: the Co-Chairs of the Africa Working Group of the EU Water Initiative (EUWI-AWG), presently Netherlands and AMCOW.
  - d) ICT: The Co-Chairs of the ICT component of the !th Partnership, presently Finland and Tunisia. Joint Task Force (JTF)  
or the assigned representatives of the above Members.
2. Representatives of the African Union Commission and the European Commission participate ex-officio at the meetings.
3. Subject to the agreement of the RG, observers to the RG meetings are allowed with the right to actively intervene, as per specific arrangements that may be set by the RG.
4. The African Union Commission, Department of Infrastructure and Energy, through the Secretariat to the PSC shall ensure the secretarial services to the RG also.

#### **2. MEETINGS**

1. The RG is planned to meet in person in the framework of the regular JAES meetings.
2. In addition to these regular meetings, ad-hoc in person meetings can be convened, as may be necessary, at the request of a participant to the RG to its Secretariat and subject to the agreement of at least three out of four JTF-Chairs or co-Chairs.
3. The above in person meetings can be similarly decided to be complemented by remote ones through video- or tele-conferencing.
4. Participants to the RG are not to receive any special compensation for their participation in the RG meetings.