



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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**7th EU - Africa Ministerial Troika Meeting
Brazzaville, 10 October 2006
- Final Communiqué -**

In the framework of the EU-Africa dialogue, the seventh Ministerial Meeting of the EU and African Troikas met in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, on 10 October 2006. The meeting was preceded by a meeting of Senior Officials, held on 8 and 9 October 2006. The meeting of Ministers was co-chaired by H.E. Erkki Tuomioja Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland and current President of the Council of the European Union (EU) and H.E. Rodolphe Adada, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Congo and current chairperson of the AU Executive Council.

The EU Troika was also composed of Mrs Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel Director for African Affairs, Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Mr Stefano Manservigi Director General of the European Commission for Development and Relations with ACP Countries, and Mr Koen Vervaeke, Head of the Africa Unit, the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union. In addition the Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal, H. E. Louis Amado was invited to participate.

P R E S S

The African troika was also composed of H.E. Dr. Lam Akol Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of The Sudan, and Ambassador G. O. Ajonye of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and H.E. Dr. Maxwell M. Mkwezalamba, Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the African Union Commissioner.

Preamble

Ministers met today to assess progress achieved since the 6th Ministerial Troika Meeting held in Vienna, Austria on 8 May 2006 and to decide on the way forward.

Ministers

- *welcomed* progress made on the preparation of the joint EU-Africa Strategy and in this context *agreed* to expedite work towards the holding of the second Europe-Africa Summit in Lisbon in 2007;
- *welcomed* the Joint Declaration of the meeting European and African Union Commissions on 2 October 2006;
- *discussed* extensively conflict situations, in particular in The Sudan and Somalia;
- took note of the Governance Initiative proposed by the European Commission and looked forward to the integration of Governance issues in the Joint AU-EU Strategy;
- *looked forward* to the holding of the first EU Africa Business Forum in Brussels on 16-17 November 2006 and the holding of the European Development days with a focus on Africa;
- *agreed* to hold the EU-Africa conference on Migration and Development in Tripoli, Libya on 22-23 November 2006 and underlined the necessity to prepare it thoroughly;
- *agreed* to give priority to further cooperation in the area of infrastructure and welcomed the launch in July 2006 of the EU-Africa Infrastructure partnership, which constitutes the EU's response to the NEPAD Infrastructure Action Plan of the African Union.

1) Enhancing the Dialogue/Strategy

a) Enhancing the Dialogue towards the Lisbon Summit

Lisbon Summit

Welcoming the intensification of the EU-Africa dialogue, in particular in areas such as the elaboration of a joint EU-Africa strategy, migration and development, and cooperation in conflict situations, Ministers agreed to expedite work towards the holding of the second Europe-Africa Summit in Lisbon in 2007, where the Joint Strategy should be adopted.

AU Commission – European Commission Co-operation

Ministers welcomed the historic visit of the delegation of the European Commission led by President Barroso to the African Union in Addis Ababa as an unprecedented signal of the mutual commitment and ever deepening partnership between the two executive bodies of the European and African Union. They also welcomed the outcome of this meeting between the European and African Union Commissions and the signing of the Euro 55 million grant Financing Agreement for capacity building of the African Union Commission by the Presidents of European and African Union Commissions and *encouraged* the African Union Commission, the European Commission and the Council Secretariat to enhance further their policy dialogue and to exchange experience, inter-alia through the EU-AU Task Force.

b. Joint Africa-EU Strategy

Ministers took note of the progress made on the elaboration of the proposal for an Outline for a Joint Africa-EU Strategy. Ministers agreed to the roadmap for further work and mandated the Expert Group composed of the Members of the Troika to implement the roadmap and present the results in the next Troika meeting in May 2007. On this basis both sides will then elaborate the strategy which should be adopted at 2nd Europe-Africa Summit in Lisbon in 2007. The following roadmap was agreed:

- Experts Group will resume work on the Outline in due course and based on the elements identified so far.
- Start consultations with civil society and other stakeholders in all areas relevant to the Joint Strategy including appropriate meetings in January 2007. Internet consultations will prepare and follow up these meetings.
- Experts Group to consider the results of the consultation process in March, 2007.

- On the basis of the ongoing discussions within the Experts Group and outcome of the consultation process, they agree on the draft final outline in time for the Troika to consider it in May 2007.
- It is understood that each side will consult its Member States as necessary.

c. Joint Implementation Matrix

Ministers reviewed the modalities for future updates of the Joint Implementation Matrix and endorsed the recommendation of the Troika of Ambassadors to change the periodicity for future updates from 3 to 6 months. Ministers also endorsed the other recommendations, of the Ambassadors contained in their annexed report of 22 September 2006, which stressed in particular the need to monitor and follow up on the actual implementation of commitments made by each side.

2) Peace and Security

Sudan/Darfur

Ministers welcomed the decision of the 63rd Peace and Security Council (PSC) meeting of the AU held, in New York, on 20 September 2006, to extend the mandate of the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) until 31 December 2006, and the initial steps taken towards the implementation of the DPA.

Ministers expressed deep concern about the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur and demanded that all parties to cease all acts of violence and atrocities on the ground and to respect their commitments under the N'djamena Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement of April 2004, the Abuja Protocols on Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement of November 2004, and the DPA. Ministers demanded that those parties that have not signed the DPA should do so without delay.

Ministers appealed to the international community to support AMIS to enable it to effectively discharge its mandate. They welcomed in particular the support to be provided by the UN to this end and accepted by the Sudanese President as officially expressed in his 3rd October, 2006 letter to the UN Secretary General and the Chairperson of the AU Commission. They looked forward to the outcome of the discussions involving the Government of the Sudan, the United Nations, the League of Arab States and the AU relating to the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Darfur, in pursuance of the PSC communiqué of 20 September 2006.

DR Congo

Ministers expressed satisfaction at the successful holding of the first round of the presidential and legislative elections of 30 July 2006. They welcomed the cooperation between the AU and the EU election observer missions as well as support by the international community, in particular MONUC and EUFOR.

Recalling the acts of violence in late August, Ministers urged the two candidates to the second round of the presidential elections to abstain from any acts of violence and to respect the final outcome of the second round. In that respect, they also expressed support for the role of the UN/AU panel of the wise.

Ministers urged the two candidates to the second round of the presidential elections to work towards creating the best conditions for the holding of the elections of 29 October 2006. Ministers agreed on the need to sustain the process until the strengthening of the institutions stemming from the polls, as well as to contribute to the country's reconstruction. They welcomed the progress made in the restoration of the confidence between the countries of the region, notably, within the framework of the processes of the International Conference on the Great Lakes region, the Tripartite Mechanism +1 and the Joint verification Mechanism between the DRC and Rwanda.

Burundi

Ministers welcomed the Agreement signed on 7th September 2006, between the Government of Burundi and the PALEPEHUTU FNL. Ministers urged all Burundian parties to fulfil their respective obligations in a cooperative spirit, within the Framework of the Agreements they have signed, in order to strengthen the democratic process and respect for human rights and facilitate the process of post conflict reconstruction.

Côte d'Ivoire

Ministers expressed their concern over the lack of progress in the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire preventing the organisation of general elections in October 2006, as foreseen in UN SC Resolution 1633. Ministers welcomed the work done by the International Working Group on Côte d'Ivoire since its establishment in October 2005.

Ministers, after the ECOWAS Summit held on 6th October 2006, looked forward to the outcome of the AU PSC meeting, at the Heads of State and Government level, to be held on 17th October 2006, that will indicate the way forward and inform the resolution to be adopted subsequently by the United Nations Security Council.

Ministers expressed their concern regarding the human and environmental catastrophe caused by toxic waste in September in Abidjan and welcomed efforts to clarify responsibilities and assist the victims.

Somalia

Ministers reviewed the most recent developments in Somalia. They reiterated the need for continued and sustained efforts to stabilise the security situation in Somalia and consolidate the peace and reconciliation process in that country. They also reiterated their support to the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), as well as to the dialogue between the TFIs and the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC), facilitated by the League of Arab States within the framework of the Transitional Federal Charter of Somalia. Ministers urged both parties to abide by the agreements reached up to now, to take immediate steps to reduce existing tensions and to meet the aspirations of the Somali people towards peace, stability and reconciliation.

Ministers welcomed the ongoing efforts by IGAD, with the support of the AU, to provide, through IGASOM, security support and institutional capacity building to the TFIs, calling, in this respect, on the international community to provide assistance and engage all parties to work for the peace process in Somalia. In this respect, they urged all parties to work for a broader consensus in Somalia.

Post conflict reconstruction and development and African Peace Facility

Ministers underlined the importance of post-conflict reconstruction as part of the efforts to consolidate peace and promote sustainable development in the continent. In this regard, they welcomed the adoption by the AU Executive Council, at its session held in Banjul last June, of a Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), as well as the steps already taken towards the implementation of the Policy.

Ministers called for sustained support for the African countries emerging from conflicts, including, Sudan, Liberia, Burundi, DRC, CAR and the Comoros. They also stressed the need for enhanced cooperation, including through the exchange of experiences, between the AU and the EU in this regard.

Ministers further welcomed the EU commitment to support the strengthening of African capabilities in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa. Substantial financial and technical support for further development of the African Peace and Security Architecture will be provided under the African Peace Facility and other funding sources as well as EU's crisis management instruments. Both sides discussed proposals from the EU on the framework for support to Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (CPMR) capabilities and agreed that further contribution from the AU and the Sub-regional organizations on the concept will help define the EU overall approach to supporting Africa Peace and Security agenda.

Ministers expressed their appreciation for the continuous substantial support of the African Peace Facility to the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) operation and welcomed in particular the 50M€ replenishment of the Facility as well as the pledge of €30M to AMIS bringing the total support of the African Peace Facility to €242M.

3) Governance and Human Rights

a) Governance

Ministers agreed on the importance of having a broad holistic approach to governance embracing all aspects, including political, institutional, socio-economic, cultural and environmental. They noted that dialogue, consultation and incentives for reform were likely to have greater impact than conditionality and sanctions.

Ministers welcomed, in this respect, the development of Governance Initiative proposed by the European Commission and took note that this initiative is still under consideration by AU side.

Ministers underlined the need for collaboration between the AU and the EU on a broad range of governance-related issues, including institutional development and capacity building; the promotion of free, fair and democratic elections; respect for human and peoples' rights; constitutionalism and respect for rule of law; combating corruption; consolidating effective public service systems, effective decentralization (local governance) and improving governance in the security (security sector reform) and corporate sectors.

b) APRM

Ministers welcomed the continued progress made under the APRM to promote governance in Africa. Ministers also welcomed the submissions of country reports by Ghana, Rwanda and Kenya and expressed satisfaction at the completion of their Peer Review. Ministers noted progress being made in peer reviewing Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda.

Ministers acknowledged the urgent need for financial and technical resources for implementing the recommendations of the Peer Review and urged partners to assist. The European side confirmed its readiness to continuing support to the process and the reforms it generates at the national level. Ministers also noted that although many countries have signed on the Peer Review, they have not launched the process due to lack of resources and technical capacity. In this respect the Ministers urged UNDP as coordinator of partners to find ways of assisting these countries kick start the review process.

c) Human Rights

Ministers reiterated the deep commitment of the AU and the EU to democracy, human rights and the rule of law as basic conditions for peace, security and development. They also underscored the importance of strengthening the role of civil society participation in promoting human rights and facilitating its networking and dialogue as well as mobilising resources to support related programmes at continental, regional and country levels.

Ministers welcomed the progress made by the African Union in establishing institutions that promote and enforce human rights in Africa and in particular the recent launching of the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights in Banjul, the Gambia.

Ministers recalled their discussions at the Ministerial Meeting in Vienna, where they agreed to follow up country situations in a modified Troika situation consisting of human rights experts of both sides.

d) Fight against corruption - Return of illegally acquired assets - Cultural goods

Ministers welcomed the entry into force of the African Convention against Corruption, which further enhances the fight against corruption and corrupt practices and promote transparency and accountability on the continent. Ministers also welcomed the entry into force of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption UNCAC, in December 2005. Ministers emphasised the effective implementation of both African and UN Conventions against Corruption and encouraged the informal preparations of the Conference of States parties to UNCAC in December 2006 in Jordan, including consultations on asset recovery, technical assistance and a proper review mechanism.

Ministers also reaffirmed their shared responsibility, in the context of the Africa-EU Dialogue, in the return of illegally acquired assets to their countries of origin. Ministers, therefore, called on all concerned to speedily address the legal and other obstacles to the return of illegally acquired assets to their countries of origin in Africa.

Ministers reiterated commitments made at the Bamako and Vienna Ministerial meetings on the return of cultural goods to their countries of origin.

4) Regional Integration and Trade

a) Rationalisation of Regional Economic Communities and Status of Economic Partnership Agreements and multilateral trade

Ministers welcomed the Banjul AU Summit decisions on the way forward on rationalization of regional economic communities (RECs), and particularly noted the moratorium on the recognition of new RECs. Ministers noted the AU Summit decision on the coordinating role of the Commission of the African Union with the RECs to ensure optimal synergy and harmonization of programmes and policies within and among the RECs. In this regard, Ministers agreed that rationalisation of the RECs would contribute to creating sufficient critical economic mass leading to the strengthening of regional markets and promote the establishment of an African common market. Ministers agreed that the rationalisation of the RECs and the EPA negotiations are mutually re-enforcing processes, which will facilitate both regional economic integration and the utilisation of the regional envelopes foreseen under the 10th EDF.

Ministers also welcomed the capacity building component on regional integration for the AUC included in the 55 mill € grant provided to the African Union.

Ministers reaffirmed that EPA's should serve as an instrument for development, poverty reduction and to reinforce the economic integration process in Africa and Africa's integration in the global economy. In this regard, Ministers noted progress made in the negotiations on regional Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) to be completed by December 2007. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the multilateral negotiations at the World Trade Organization and regretted their suspension. They considered that this should not have a negative effect on the EPA negotiations, as they can already build on existing rules.

Ministers welcomed the review of the EPAs to be carried out in the context of article 37.4 of the Cotonou Agreement.

b) Non tariff barriers

In order to conclude successfully the creation of integrated markets, Ministers noted that it is necessary to build the capacities of RECs through the development of an appropriate legal framework governing product quality and standards. Implementation and enforcement of this framework requires technical tools in a number of areas such as quality control, sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards.

The EU and the AU will also share experience on how to facilitate trade by streamlining customs procedures and modernising working methods in line with best practice.

All these improvements will contribute to enhancing the investment climate.

c) Cooperation for the setting up of a conducive environment with a view to increasing productive capacities and investment

Ministers took note of African efforts to reorganize and develop the African commodities market. The AUC will, more generally, coordinate efforts to build an enabling economic environment, with a view to attracting both domestic and foreign investment. Ministers also emphasised the importance of adding value to African products and strongly encourage policy efforts which will contribute to this goal.

d) Private Sector Development and Business Forum

Ministers noted with satisfaction progress made in preparing for the first EU-Africa Business Forum to be held on 16-17 November 2006, in Brussels, Belgium. Ministers noted the desirability of synchronising the holding of this Forum with that of other fora, such as the African Union Private Sector Forum. Ministers looked forward to the holding of the European Development days in Brussels on 13-17 November and welcomed its focus on Africa.

5) Key Development Issues

a) Migration and Development

Ministers welcomed the offer by Libya to host the Africa-EU Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development in November 2006 and agreed that the Conference be held on 22-23 November 2006 in Tripoli preceded by a Senior Officials meeting on 21 November, 2006. Ministers further noted that a preparatory Experts' Meeting between EU and AU enlarged Troikas will be convened 26-27 October 2006 in Malta hosted by the EU. Ministers agreed that the outcome of the Conference should be a joint Africa-EU Declaration that is substantial and action oriented with an appropriate Follow-up Mechanism.

In this context, Ministers welcomed the African Common Position on Migration and Development of the AU, and noted the outcome of the Euro-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development held in Rabat on 10-11 July 2006 and the outcome of the UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in New York on 14-15 September 2006.

b) Avian Flu

Ministers noted with concern the delay in mobilizing the financial resources (€30 million) pledged in Beijing and confirmed in Vienna to support Africa's activities on Avian flu. EU side acknowledged the delay and reaffirmed its commitment to make concrete progress before the Global meeting scheduled for 6-7 December 2006 in Bamako, Mali.

c) Agriculture and Environment

Ministers agreed to conclude joint strategies in the area of agriculture and environment including the integration of agricultural and environmental issues into the African development programme.

Ministers also agreed on the need to exchange relevant policy documents on agriculture such as the Proposal for a Pan-African Partnership on Agricultural Development (PAPA), the Thematic Programme on Food Security (FSTP) from the EU side and the conclusions of a study on African Common Markets and the Issues paper and its calendar for consultation on Land issues from the Africa side.

The exchange of "know-how" and policy experience will strengthen African Union capacity in the environmental and natural resources area with special emphasis on increasing expertise on key aspects such as: (i) desertification and land degradation; (ii) climate change; (iii) natural disaster risk reduction measures; (iv) monitoring environment; (v) sustainable use of marine, coastal and fresh water resources; (vi) sustainable forestry management; and (vii) conflict and environment linkages.

d) Infrastructure and Energy

The European Commission informed the meeting about the launch in July 2006 of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership, which constitutes the EU's response to the NEPAD short-term Infrastructure Action Plan. Ministers welcomed the Partnership, which will support programmes in the sectors of transport, energy, water and sanitation and ICTs that facilitate interconnectivity at continental and regional level. A series of short-term actions in support of the Partnership were identified including institutional support, sectoral and operational activities, and flagship projects.

Ministers took note of the envisaged formulation of policies and Partnership Master Plans for some key infrastructure sectors and welcomed the ongoing cooperation between the EU and AU Commissions in this respect. These Master Plans will be used to establish priority actions including missing links to ensure interconnectivity in Africa.

Ministers welcomed the establishment of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund as an innovative instrument, open to the contributions of the EU Member States and other partners, that will help attract investments to Africa in the areas of infrastructure and noted the role that African institutions and actors will play in the operation of the this Fund.

Building on the discussions between the two Commissions, Ministers noted the ongoing work within the EU for a Strategic Europe Energy Review. They committed themselves to strengthen the political EU-Africa Dialogue on Energy and called for a comprehensive Europe-Africa energy partnership including the sustainable exploitation of resources.

e) Investing in People - Employment and Public Health

Ministers noted with concern the huge unemployment problem facing most African countries and its attendant consequences of illegal migration, drug abuse, crime and other social repercussions. They emphasised the urgent need to address issues of unemployment, particularly for the youth. In this regard, Ministers agreed that the two key priorities for further cooperation on employment and social policy, which have a strong link with migration and development, possibly in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation are:

- (1) follow-up and implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Action Plan on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, with its focus on decent work; and
- (2) expert advice to and support of the ongoing development of regional frameworks for integrated policy programmes in Africa.

Ministers also emphasised the need to give priority to youth skills development and employment as a means of curbing labour migration and crime.

Ministers welcomed the EU's pledge for support to the Nyerere Programme, a student exchange programme scheme across Africa as well as the complementary support provided within the Erasmus Mundus programme, allowing for more well qualified African students to come to Europe for post-graduate education.

Concerned about the increasing disease burden in Africa particularly due to HIV and AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and other communicable diseases; the EU agreed to assist the AU to develop and implement a roadmap on universal access to sustainable prevention, treatment, care and support envisioned in the Gaborone Declaration (2005) and Abuja Call for Action (2006).

6) Any other Business

Both sides shared information on other ongoing activities with other partners, in particular on the EU-China Summit, the Africa-South America Forum, the Africa-China Forum and Strategic Partnerships with India, Brazil and China.

Ministers welcomed the commitment of these other development partners, to work together in favour of peace, stability and sustainable development. Both sides also recognized the need for all partners to enhance their information sharing and reporting in order to promote effectiveness of aid.

The African side expressed concern on the question of immigration and freedom of movement related to the condition of entry and residence in the Schengen countries.

The African side requested that the issue be put on the agenda of the next Ministerial Troika meeting. The European side took note of this request.

Ministers agreed to hold the 8th Ministerial Meeting of the African and EU Troikas on 15 May 2007 in Brussels.

For the African side

For the EU side

Progress Report by the Troika Ambassadors on the Joint Implementation Matrix
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1. The Final Communiqué of the 6th EU-Africa Ministerial Troika Meeting held in Vienna on the 8 May 2006 requested Troika Ambassadors to update and follow-up the Joint Implementation Matrix on regular basis (at least every three months), based on a joint proposal by both Commissions and the Council Secretariat.

It furthermore requested Troika Ambassadors to table progress reports at the bi-annual EU-Africa Ministerial Troika Meetings.

2. In fulfillment of this mandate, experts from both Commissions and the Council Secretariat met on 15 – 16 June 2006 in Addis Ababa, agreed on an updated version of the Joint Implementation Matrix and submitted it to Troika Ambassadors for endorsement.

On 10 August 2006 the Troika Ambassadors met in Addis Ababa, reviewed the updated version of the Joint Implementation Matrix and endorsed it.

At this occasion, the Troika Ambassadors emphasized the need to put more effort in the implementation of the commitments outlined in the Joint Implementation Matrix in order to give more value to the EU-Africa dialogue.

3. On 21-22 September 2006 experts from both Commissions and Council Secretariat met in Addis Ababa and agreed on new updates to the Joint Implementation Matrix.

These updates were reviewed and endorsed by the Troika Ambassadors on 22 September 2006. It was suggested that it should look at the actual implementation commitments in the framework of a special session. Such a meeting could also examine how the matrix could be made user friendly inter-alia by putting it into a database.

4. Troika Ambassadors also reviewed the modalities of future updates to the Joint Implementation Matrix. They agreed that the Joint Implementation Matrix should continue to be a living document and that it should focus on commitments and programmes under implementation.

They also agreed to recommend to the 10 October 2006 Ministerial Troika Meeting in Brazzaville to request future updates to the Joint Implementation Matrix in six month intervals.

Addis Ababa 22 September, 2006
