

MEMORANDUM

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UNION-EUROPÉENNE-TUNISIE: LA COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE SALUE L'ADOPTION PAR LE PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN D'UNE ASSISTANCE FINANCIÈRE ADDITIONNELLE DE 500 MILLIONS D'EUROS

Le Parlement européen a adopté hier la [proposition de la commission européenne](#) visant une nouvelle assistance macrofinancière à la Tunisie pour un montant de 500 millions d'euros. La Commission européenne se félicite du vote du Parlement européen, qui ouvre la voie à la mise en œuvre de ce programme d'assistance, avec le versement d'une première tranche qui pourrait avoir lieu cet automne. La Tunisie occupe dans notre voisinage une place tout à fait particulière et l'appui du Parlement européen à ce programme le montre une nouvelle fois. L'assistance macrofinancière aidera la Tunisie à couvrir ses besoins de financement et à soutenir son économie dans un contexte régional particulièrement fragile et exposé aux tensions. Le Commissaire Pierre **Moscovici** a déclaré à ce sujet : *«L'Union européenne a confirmé son soutien aux réformes ambitieuses en matière économique et sociale entreprises par la Tunisie. L'Europe reste à côté du peuple tunisien en ce moment difficile de sa transition. Il faudra maintenir son élan réformiste pour retrouver la voie de la stabilité et de la croissance - et confirmer sa position exemplaire dans la région.»* Le Conseil doit maintenant formellement approuver ce programme déjà adopté par son comité des représentants permanents. (COREPER) Cette assistance macrofinancière complète l'importante aide au développement que la Tunisie reçoit déjà de l'Union, dans le cadre de la politique européenne de voisinage, par l'intermédiaire de l'instrument européen de voisinage (IEV) et d'autres instruments financiers extérieurs de l'UE. Cette assistance se monte à plus de 1 milliard d'euros de subventions accordées au pays depuis la révolution de 2011, pour soutenir, par exemple, le développement socio-économique, la création d'emplois et le processus de transition démocratique, ainsi que pour aider certains secteurs, tels que la production d'huile d'olive, ou bien encore la réforme du secteur de sécurité. (EC 09-06-2016)

NAMIBIAN BEER MAKING INROADS IN AFRICA, BEYOND

Namibia's internationally acclaimed beer brand the Windhoek lager continues to make inroads in both the African and global markets.

Its biggest markets are in Tanzania followed by Botswana and Zambia in the Southern African Development Community.

The beer is also consumed as far as Australia, United Kingdom, St. Helena and Mauritius.

Its brewer, Namibia Breweries Limited is pursuing new markets in Africa in countries such Cameroon, Rwanda and Uganda, according to National Marketing Manager, Rosemary Shippiki.

NBL, and the Ohlthaver & List (O&L) Group of Companies have also been exploring markets in the United States and Germany, among others.

The beer is brewed in accordance with the Beer Purity Law of 1516, popularly known as The Reinheitsgebot.

The Reinheitsgebot is a centuries-old beer brewing philosophy whereby only malted barley, hops and water may be used as ingredients.

"We believe in brewing beer naturally. Although this process is expensive and more complex, we remain committed to providing only the best quality beer to our consumers.

"Rigorous quality controls and supplier approval procedures are in place to ensure standards are adhered to at all times.

"Our raw materials are regularly quality tested at accredited laboratories in Europe before being shipped to Namibia," she said.

For the tenth consecutive year in 2016, Windhoek lager has been awarded Gold for outstanding quality at the internationally established Deutsche Landwirtschafts Gesellschaft (DLG) Quality Evaluation.

“The awards were a testimony that the Reinheitsgebot has immensely contributed to the success of the Namibian Brewery’s brands as renowned international judges continue to endorse NBL quality,” Shipiki said.

Other NBL brands that also earned Gold medals this year include premium beer brand Windhoek Draught, as well as Windhoek Light and Tafel Lager. (APA 07-06-2016)

US CONCERNED OVER NIGER DELTA VIOLENCE

The United States Embassy in Nigeria on Tuesday expressed concern over sporadic attacks and other incidents in the Niger Delta.

A statement issued by the Embassy’s Public Affairs Unit said: “The U.S. Mission to Nigeria is monitoring reports of attacks and other incidents in the Niger Delta. We share the concerns of all Nigerians about these attacks.”

It said the US remains supportive of efforts, including the promotion of dialogue, to address grievances in the Niger Delta.

It called on all parties to resolve their disputes through peaceful means and emphasize that human rights of all Nigerians must be protected.

It called on all Nigerians to persevere in efforts to achieve common goals and stressed the need to end violence and curb the activities of criminal elements.

It called for the establishment of conditions and mechanisms for profound, positive, and lasting changes in the region.(APA 07-06-2016)

L’EUROPE MISE SUR UN « PLAN JUNCKER » EN AFRIQUE FACE A LA CRISE MIGRATOIRE

L’exécutif européen a demandé aux Etats membres 3,6 milliards d’euros supplémentaires pour lancer un plan d’investissement dans les pays d’origine des réfugiés africains, afin de contrôler la crise migratoire.

Si les dirigeants européens acceptent de déboursier cette somme, celle-ci s’ajoutera aux 3,6 milliards d’euros du budget de l’UE, de l’argent déjà promis par les gouvernements nationaux à Bruxelles.

La grande majorité de la somme – 6,2 milliards d’euros – sera utilisée en tant que garantie de risques pour encourager les investissements privés dans des entreprises dans les pays en développement. L’idée s’inspire du plan d’investissement de la Commission Juncker, qui réserve quant à lui 21 milliards d’euros pour débloquer les investissements en Europe.

Selon la Commission, les 6,2 milliards d’euros pourraient lever jusqu’à 62 milliards d’euros d’investissement dans des pays comme le Liban, la Jordanie, le Niger, le Sénégal, le Nigéria, le Mali, l’Éthiopie, la Tunisie et la Libye.

La somme initiale serait donc multipliée par dix, alors que le Plan Juncker prévoit quant à lui de multiplier par 15 le montant initial pour créer 315 milliards d’investissements sur trois ans.

« Nous devons agir pour améliorer les opportunités dans les pays d’origine pour que les gens ne se sentent pas obligés de quitter leur pays. Nous devons reconsidérer nos modèles traditionnels de coopération au développement et donner plus de rôle aux investisseurs privés », a déclaré le premier vice-président de la Commission, Frans Timmermans.

« Nous proposerons bientôt un nouveau fonds d'investissement externe pour attirer l'investissement privé dans les pays en développement. Nous mobiliserons pour cela 3,1 milliards d'euros, qui déclencheront 31 milliards d'euros. On pourrait même atteindre 62 milliards si les États membres et d'autres partenaires y contribuent », a-t-il déclaré à Strasbourg devant le Parlement européen.

Les autres partenaires sont des institutions financières comme la Banque européenne d'investissement, qui est détenue par les États membres.

Améliorer la situation des pays d'où viennent les migrants est tout aussi important que de convaincre ces pays de reprendre les personnes qui se sont rendues en Europe illégalement, a ajouté Frans Timmermans.

Fonds fiduciaire pour l'Afrique

La Commission a également demandé 1 milliard d'euros en plus pour le Fonds fiduciaire pour l'Afrique, un programme visant à arrêter l'afflux de migrants en promouvant et développant les économies africaines. Les gouvernements européens y contribueraient à hauteur de 500 millions d'euros.

« Nous pourrions piocher 500 millions d'euros dans les réserves du Fonds européen pour le développement et nous appelons les États membres à compléter cette somme pour atteindre 1 milliard d'euros. Cela pourrait être fait immédiatement – sans attendre que le prochain bateau fasse naufrage », a commenté Frans Timmermans. « Réorganiser des fonds européens pourrait permettre d'élever le montant à 8 milliards d'euros entre 2016 et 2020, ce qui encouragerait les pays pauvres à mieux contrôler leurs frontières et à accepter le retour des migrants. »

L'idée a été lancée dans le cadre d'une communication de grande ampleur adressée aux dirigeants européens, qui se rencontreront à Bruxelles pour le Conseil européen le 28 juin.

« Nous invitons le Conseil à rejoindre le projet et à y contribuer financièrement », a déclaré la responsable de la diplomatie européenne, Federica Mogherini, à Strasbourg.

Les dirigeants européens doivent approuver le projet pour que l'argent soit versé. Ils ont déjà accepté de déboursier de l'argent pour le Fonds fiduciaire pour l'Afrique l'année dernière, mais tout l'argent n'a pas encore été reçu.

Une stratégie sera présentée à l'automne pour savoir comment faire fonctionner le système d'investissement – probablement grâce à la contribution de chaque pays, selon sa population et son PIB.

« Pour mettre un terme aux morts inacceptables dans la mer Méditerranée et mettre de l'ordre dans les flux migratoires, nous devons repenser la manière dont l'UE et ses États membres unissent leurs efforts pour travailler avec les pays tiers », a expliqué Frans Timmermans.

« Nous sommes prêts à accroître le soutien financier et opérationnel et à investir dans l'économie, le développement social, la sécurité, l'état de droit, et les droits de l'homme à long terme en améliorant la vie des gens et en s'attaquant aux causes de la migration. Notre devoir, et aussi notre intérêt, est de donner aux gens la chance et les moyens de mener une vie sûre et décente », a déclaré Federica Mogherini.

L'argent servira à une série d'accords passés avec des pays non européens. Ils se concentreront sur le renforcement des frontières et la gestion de la migration, y compris la protection des réfugiés.

Tout accord devra comprendre l'accord des pays de transit de reprendre les migrants qui passent par leur pays pour se rendre en Europe.

« Nous voulons utiliser un mélange d'avantages positifs et négatifs pour récompenser ces pays tiers qui acceptent de coopérer avec nous et sanctionner ceux qui ne veulent pas. Cela signifie utiliser les politiques commerciales et de développement en tant que levier », a expliqué Frans Timmermans.

Des sources proches de l'UE ont néanmoins prévenu que l'engagement financier et politique des États membres était crucial pour surmonter la crise, qui crée de profondes divisions dans l'Union et entraîne le retour des contrôles aux frontières dans l'espace Schengen.

Critiques

« Il faut investir davantage dans les pays en développement pour que les populations en bénéficient et pour une croissance durable de la richesse mondiale. Mais l'investissement ne peut pas être utilisé comme un pot-de-vin pour forcer les pays pauvres à faire le travail de l'UE », a estimé la directrice adjointe d'Oxfam, Natalia Alonso. « En choisissant de sous-traiter aux pays tiers le contrôle des frontières européennes et la gestion de la migration, l'Europe cherche à se soustraire à ses obligations de respect des droits de l'Homme. »

« L'Europe veut dépendre de pays connus pour leur abus et leur répression. Nous connaissons déjà les résultats de cette politique, avec l'allocation de fonds européens de développement pour le matériel et cellules de détention au Soudan », ajoute-t-elle.

« Selon moi, ce Migration Compact n'est rien d'autre qu'un copié-collé de l'accord passé avec la Turquie, avec de nouveaux pays comme la Jordanie, le Liban, la Libye, la Tunisie et les pays d'Afrique subsaharienne. Cette approche pas si nouvelle est très simple. Nous leur disons 'on vous donne de l'argent, si vous gardez vos réfugiés' », a pour sa part déclaré Guy Verhofstadt, chef de file du groupe ALDE au Parlement européen. « C'est vrai, cela résoudrait nos problèmes, mais pas ceux des réfugiés, comme le montrent bon nombre d'ONG. Ils se retrouvent dans des conditions de vie horribles, ils sont parfois ramenés dans des zones de guerre, coincés entre Daech et la frontière turque, ou fusillés à la frontière. »

Effondrement de l'accord UE-Turquie ?

Pendant ce temps, deux migrants ont porté plainte auprès de la Cour de justice de l'EU contre l'accord controversé entre l'UE et la Turquie, ont déclaré des sources proches du dossier le 7 juin.

L'Union européenne a signé un accord avec Ankara en mars dernier pour que la Turquie reprenne tous les migrants arrivant depuis ses côtes sur les îles grecques, dont les Syriens fuyant la guerre qui fait rage dans leur pays.

Des groupes de défense des droits de l'Homme reprochent toutefois à l'accord de ne pas protéger les réfugiés. (EC 07-06-2016)

KENYA HIT BY FIVE-HOUR NATIONAL POWER OUTAGE

Most parts of Kenya were plunged into darkness on Tuesday following a power-generation hitch at the country's biggest hydro-electricity station.

Traders were left counting loses following the five-hour power blackout which was caused by a mishap at the Gitaru power station in Tana River.

In a statement, Kenya Power said that the fault at the power station affected other sources of electricity resulting into a national blackout.

The power outage lasted from 11:30 a.m to 3:00 p.m.

"Power has now been restored in most areas including Coast Region, West Kenya, North and South Rift and Nairobi South," Kenya Power said.

Last year, following a similar blackout, traders suffered massive losses resulting from additional costs of using standby generators running on fuel. (APA 07-06-2016)

B/FASO: SAMENDENI DAM STARTS OPERATIONS IN JUNE 2017

The Samandeni dam, the third largest in Burkina Faso behind those of Kompienga and Bagre, will start operation in June 2017, the project managers disclosed on Tuesday.

Work on the Samandeni dam, located in the west of the country was launched in January 2008 with an estimated cost of CFA182 billion.

With 1.5 billion m3 of irrigation, energy and industrial production areas, animal husbandry, fisheries, fish farming, access tracks and management of biodiversity components, the dam will contribute 2 percent of GDP and 3 percent of national cereal production.

In October 2014, the Burkinabe government invested CFA14.4 billion in the development of 1,500

hectares of irrigated areas.

Among the major donors to the project, are the West African Development Bank (BOAD), the investment bank for development in ECOWAS countries (EBID), the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA).

Other donors also include the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, OPEC Fund, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and the Saudi Fund for Development .(APA 07-06-2016)

MOROCCO URGES BRUSSELS TO END FARM PACT DEADLOCK

Morocco's Minister of Agriculture, Aziz Akhannouch, called on the EU to unblock a stalled farm trade agreement in order to help the country implement its sole national development strategy. EurActiv.com reports from Morocco.

In December 2015, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) invalidated a crucial farm trade deal between the EU and Morocco, claiming that it should exclude the disputed territory of Western Sahara.

The EU-Morocco agreement on agricultural, processed agricultural, and fisheries products entered into force on 1 November 2012.

The ECJ ruling came as a response to a suit by the separatist Polisario Front, a movement that has been struggling for the independence of the Moroccan-controlled territory (See background).

The move triggered strong reactions in Rabat, which suspended its ties with the EU in response.

In an effort to avoid a diplomatic escalation of the case, a few days later, the Council of the European Union filed an appeal against the bloc's top court decision. A ruling is expected by the end of 2016.

A more "constructive mindset"

Akhannouch told EurActiv.com that ahead of the ECJ's next ruling, Morocco and the EU were working "hand in hand" to better address the situation.

"Now we are working on a much more constructive mindset and we are still waiting the very important next decision of the ECJ," he said.

The minister stressed that despite opening up to other international markets, Rabat still considers the EU as a first market for its agricultural products. "The EU is a paramount partner," he said, adding that one should not forget that the EU and the North African country have a strong partnership in security, particularly on immigration.

However, he stressed that Rabat was "a kind of astonished" with the decision, and since then he admitted that the bilateral relations "have been witnessing some turmoil and difficult moments".

"Agriculture associations were very upset, and this can have a major impact on the future trade relations," Akhannouch noted, adding that until the ultimate decision, the EU-Morocco relations would be inevitably challenged.

Agriculture and immigration

Referring to the Council's appeal, he pointed out that several EU countries had supported Rabat, such as France, Germany, Spain, and Portugal.

"This is a major backup for us. We consider that the agriculture sector in all the regions, including Southern Morocco, is a major development factor we need in order to safeguard and preserve the standards of living of this population [...] We have one single national development strategy for the whole country," the Moroccan official said.

"By promoting that, we will be able to solve a lot of problems, including the illegal immigration one [...] Syria is far away and we had drawbacks in Germany. We are 14 kilometers away from Europe. You can imagine how hard Morocco is striving to secure its borders."

Focus on Mediterranean countries

Agriculture is a backbone for Morocco's economy. The rural population is estimated at 16 million, 80% of which make a living as farmers.

The agricultural sector also represents 35% of employment and 10% of Morocco's overall exports. Akhannouch continued, saying that Morocco has excellent relations with Spain and France, with plenty of trade and joint development projects.

"I believe that the Mediterranean countries maybe should start having a different look at the relations with Morocco and Northern Africa."

The Green Plan and water scarcity

A recent [UN Report](#) warned over serious water shortages within 15 years, and Morocco will be severely affected. Access to water for domestic and productive uses (agriculture, industry, and other economic activities) is the first Millennium Development Goal of the United Nations.

"We have been focusing for a long time on the so-called 'damn policy' to preserve a maximum volume of water and resources, and the irrigated perimeter that we have safeguarded and promoted is 1.6 million hectares," the minister said, emphasizing the role of the so-called "Green Plan".

Launched in 2008, [Morocco's Green Plan](#) is a national strategy whose main objective is to improve the agricultural environment for farmers.

"[Via the Green Plan] we launched the localized irrigation system and hopefully by 2020, we wish to reach approximately 550.000 hectares of irrigated areas. And this allows not only water saving but also the enhancement and improvement of the overall production," the official noted, adding that farmers were trained on the irrigation sector.

In addition, the Green Plan helped the ministry target approximately 700,000 small farmers.

"Between 2008 and 2015, the average growth rate of the agriculture GDP was 6.5% [...] this how we witness a 84% booming of olives production and citrus fruits have reached 2 million tonnes, representing a 65% increase."

Investments and the "King's land"

Asked about private investors' concerns over the fact that Morocco's King Mohammed VI holds a significant amount of agricultural land, he said that it was "quite fake information".

"Initially, it's a longstanding tradition and even the late father Hassan II was quite interested in agriculture."

"He paved the way and he was a role model for the farmers. Moroccan farmers take great pride in seeing his majesty so interested in the agriculture sector. He is not only providing assistance to farmers but also showing the way," Akhannouch insisted, pointing out that an increasing number of foreign investors from France, Spain, Italy, as well as Middle East have put money into Morocco's agriculture sector.

Surviving in the desert

Smara is a city in Western Sahara with a population estimated at 42,056, which is faced with a number of natural obstacles.

The cattle sector takes a centre stage. There are currently 15,000 camels, 70,000 cows, and 65,000 goats.

The main difficulty is the irrigation as the underground water is quite rare.

Morocco has heavily invested in infrastructure of irrigation mainly through the construction of artificial underground source of water, to ensure that all animals can have water especially in drought seasons. Morocco's agriculture ministry has tried to strengthen sectorial cooperation and support cooperatives, associations, NGOs and the local community.

Associations for camels and goats have already been established, and their objective is the central management of livestock and to allow access to water points.

Fisheries

Laayoune is the largest city in the disputed territory of Western Sahara. Its main trade activity is fishing. For Akhannouch, sustainability is a fundamental concern for the region's fisheries. "Any fishing policy cannot be viable if it does not integrate sustainable resource management", he told EurActiv.

In 2009, Morocco launched a fisheries development strategy named Halieutis.

Halieutis set management plans for small pelagic species, large crustaceans, hake, shrimp, bluefin tuna and swordfish. "All those plans helped us cover 93% of the catches of the species in 2015," the minister stressed.

Currently, 31 processing plants are settled in Laayoune. There are also 883 small boats fishing in the region, which shows the importance of the fisheries sector for “small players”.

Background

The Western Sahara is a disputed territory in the Maghreb region of North Africa, bordered by Morocco to the north, Algeria to the extreme northeast, Mauritania to the east and south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. Its surface area amounts to 266,000 square kilometres.

It is one of the most sparsely populated territories in the world, mainly consisting of desert flatlands. The population is estimated at just over 500,000.

Occupied by Spain in the late 19th century, the Western Sahara has been on the United Nations list of non-self-governing territories since 1963 after a Moroccan demand.

In 1965, the UN General Assembly adopted its first resolution on Western Sahara, asking Spain to decolonise the territory. One year later, a new resolution was passed by the General Assembly requesting that a referendum be held by Spain on self-determination.

In 1975, Spain relinquished the administrative control of the territory to a joint administration by Morocco (which had formally claimed the territory since 1957) and Mauritania.

A war erupted between those countries and the Sahrawi national liberation movement, the Polisario Front, which proclaimed the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) with a government-in-exile in Algeria. Mauritania withdrew in 1979, and Morocco eventually secured effective control of most of the territory, including all the major cities and natural resources.

Since a UN-sponsored ceasefire agreement in 1991, two thirds of the territory of Western Sahara has been controlled by Morocco and the remainder by the SADR, strongly backed by Algeria.

Internationally, countries such as the United States and Russia have taken a generally ambiguous and neutral position on each side's claims, and have pressed both parties to agree on a peaceful resolution. Both Morocco and Polisario have sought to boost their claims by accumulating formal recognition, essentially from African, Asian, and Latin American states in the developing world.(EurActiv 07-06-2016)

S/LEONE URGED TO CAPITALIZE ON \$60BN CHINESE LOAN TO AFRICA

Sierra Leone should take advantage of a huge Chinese loan to Africa to build its new airport, a diplomat from Beijing said in Freetown.

Shen Xiaokai, Economic and Commercial Councilor at the Chinese embassy in Freetown said in a statement published on Tuesday that the Beijing had earmarked three key projects for Sierra Leone – a road construction project, a water facility, and the much debated new airport in Mamamah in the Sierra Leonean capital.

But the successes of all of this depend on whether Sierra Leone applies for the grant, said Shen.

The Chinese government during the last China-Africa Summit in South Africa pledged \$60bn in loans to the continent.

Mr. Shen said China understood the importance of the new airport to the Sierra Leone government and that that's why it included it as part of the \$60bn budget.

The whole project is estimated to cost over \$300M.

Phase one of the project has been billed to cost \$200M.

The West African country will have to re-apply for additional funding to complete phase two which will take the airport to world class, added Mr Shen.

“It is advisable that Sierra Leone grasp this funding opportunity so as to let the new airport be kicked off as soon as possible,” he said.

The airport project was conceived as part of efforts to resolve a major difficulty faced by travelers between the current airport in Lungi and mainland Freetown.

The shortest route between the two is through a river transport.

But recurrent failures of ferry engines mean that route has become dangerous and unreliable.

Both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are opposed to the project. (APA 07-06-2016)

BOTSWANA UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATED AT 20 PERCENT

The Central Bank in Botswana has estimated that unemployment is at 20 percent of the active labour force.

In a report launched in Gaborone on Tuesday, the bank said employment is in the form of low income informal/subsistence and often part-time activities.

Bank of Botswana said that looking ahead, providing enough jobs will become more challenging in the context of modest rates of economic growth compared to the past.

“Like many countries in Africa, the increase in the number of younger, better-educated generations has the potential to become a “demographic dividend”; however, on current trends, this threatens to be a “demographic time bomb” if chronic youth unemployment is not addressed,” said the bank.

It said unemployment imposes a variety of costs on society as a major cause of poverty, crime, ill health and social unrest.

Conversely, the bank said, reducing unemployment through creating sustainable job opportunities supports inclusive growth, rising living standards and social stability.

As a result of persistent unemployment, poverty and inequality remain widespread at levels unacceptable for a country in Botswana’s position, with aspirations to become a high-income economy, the bank said.

“There is, therefore, a need to rethink the development of economic growth widely. Unemployment is the result of varied and complex sources. Slow progress in diversifying Botswana’s economy potentially limits the availability of job opportunities, and this can be aggravated by lower rates of growth,” the bank said.

It however, warned that persistent unemployment at such high levels that compare unfavourably with most countries suggests that structural factors are also involved.

Notably, skill gaps can result in low productivity, with a negative impact on business viability or even failure to take up available opportunities. (APA 07-06-2016)

MAURITANIA FISHERIES DEAL RECEIVES MIXED RESPONSE

The European Union has renewed a four year fishing agreement with Mauritania that will allow over 100 EU vessels into Mauritania’s waters in return for funding that will support local fishing communities. But the deal has its critics.

The agreement, which was greenlit by the European Parliament, is an avenue for the member states to bolster a burgeoning domestic demand for fish that the bloc is unable to satisfy. Since 2009, EU imports

of fish stock for local consumption have risen by 6% each year. In 2014 alone, the bloc imported €21 billion, quadruple that of meat imports.

The agreement, which dates back to 1987, is considered crucial because it is the most comprehensive the EU has had with any African country and belongs to the sustainable fisheries partnership agreements (SFPAs) that gives EU vessels access to third countries fishing waters.

The new deal will come under the umbrella of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy, which has committed the bloc to more sustainable fishing, in stark contrast to the overfishing of the African coast that was undertaken in the past.

The agreement now allows EU vessels to fish shrimp, tuna, demersal fish and pelagic fish totalling up to 281,500 tonnes each year. On its end the EU will pay for the catches, and commit €59.125 million every year to the partnership with €4.125 million going into supporting activities of the fishing communities in the West African country including environmental sustainability, job creation and tackling illegal and unregulated fishing.

The bilateral agreement is also unique because unlike others that are predominantly hinged on fishing tuna, it covers a wide range of stocks. The EU vessels covered under this arrangement come from Italy, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Germany, Ireland, France, Latvia and Ireland.

According to the Parliament, the agreement with Mauritania should serve as a model of transparency and enforcement.

Mauritania has in place a Fisheries and Transparency Initiative (FiTI) which is anchored on transparency and participation therefore ending secretive fishing contracts that aids overfishing. It has sought to enlist the support of businesses and civil society in embracing responsible fisheries management. Such an initiative has been hailed by the industry as a major milestone in taming overfishing which costs West African countries up to €1.1 billion in depleted stocks every year.

But the fishing deal has received growing criticism from researchers and environmentalists who have accused the EU of exporting its problem of over exploitation of its own fish stocks to African waters.

While the bloc has tried to save face by, for example, introducing the Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) which seeks to abolish purely commercial deals and instead introduce new mechanisms that encompass fishing communities in decision making, little has changed according to its critics.

The argument is that although Mauritania has received over €1 billion in return for EU fishing rights for the last 25 years, there is little or nothing to show as to how the money is benefiting local fishing communities or improving the country's fishing sector. Trawlers for example are almost obsolete and even the marked growth in traditional fishing techniques has been without government participation.

Greenpeace says the EU's presence is unsustainable and a hindrance to Africa in developing its own robust fishing sector. "The impact on local communities is huge. With less and less fish local fishermen are forced to make dangerous journeys further away, some simply give up and move away. Trawlers trash traditional fishing gears, which the locals can't afford to replace. Whilst nominal deals may have been done with governments, it is local communities and Africa's seas that pay the price," said the organisation in a [new report](#).

The report further detailed how depleted fish stocks have seen local fishermen forced to move further out to sea in search of more stocks. "When fishing represents the main source of protein, and a major source of livelihoods, it really matters how much we are stealing from Africa's waters. And with increased danger from collisions with trawlers, some West African fishermen end up paying with their lives," it warned.

Local fishermen, with their medieval boats, are forced to compete with the EU's industrial trawlers for catches. A European trawler can capture up to 250 tonnes of fish a day which would take 56 traditional African boats a year to net.

The report further added that the presence of the trawlers in the West African country has killed approximately 1,500 endangered turtles and over 60,000 sharks. (EurActiv)

BURKINA FASO NEEDS 500BN FCFA TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT CLEAN WATER

Burkina Faso needs 500 billion CFA to ensure inclusive access to drinking water by 2020, APA learns on Tuesday from the Ministry of water and sanitation.

Ambroise Ouédraogo Niouga, Minister in charge of water and sanitation, acknowledged that access to water for all Burkinabe is a basic right.

Niouga regretted that Burkina Faso is a water stressed country and that the quantity of water on the subsoil as well as on the floor mobilized on average per year, is not enough to cover the needs of the population.

In its political platform, the Head of State, Roch Marc Christian Kabore was committed to ensuring zero chores for drinking water.

This ambition will be achieved through the “construction of sufficient water storages, allowing people easy accessibility to water, and an effective provision of daily water supply for all”.

Pending the mobilization of the stated amount, the Government has set up emergency water and sanitation program valued at 8.7 billion CFA francs, which aims to cover the entire national territory. (APA 07-06-2016)

CAMEROON OIL PRODUCTION UP BY 19.42 PERCENT

Cameroon oil production estimated at 12.3 million barrels as of April 30, 2016 recorded a noticeable increase of 19.42 percent compared to the same period last year, according to figures published on Wednesday by the Société Nationale des Hydrocarbures (SNH).

Despite a decrease in crude oil prices on the world market with a barrel below \$30 a barrel, oil production is expected to rise in the coming months with the commissioning of new oilfields.

Gas production for its part amounted to 4.286 cubic feet, down by 5.77 percent compared to last year.

This is due “to the falling demand from the Kribi power station,” said the NHC.

Oil and gas sales generated CFA82, 44 billion during the same period.

Oil revenues are one of the biggest in the country, after tax and customs duties. (APA 08-06-2016)

8TH ACP SUMMIT REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The 8th Summit of Heads of State of Government of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group concluded today with a renewed commitment to rally together to contribute more effectively to the global development agenda, and bring about concrete action on the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this vein, leaders made pronouncements in the [Port Moresby Declaration](#) on the areas of peace and stability, culture, gender equity, sustainable economic development, trade, and climate change. Issues of development finance and global governance were also cited.

Peace & security, migration

ACP leaders in the [Port Moresby Declaration](#) stated their concern by the escalation of terrorist attacks in some member states, and underscored the central role of regional integration organisations and the importance of intra-ACP cooperation in promoting architectures of regional **peace and security**. They urged more systematic implementation of the Framework and General Principles for enhanced Intra-ACP Political Dialogue in this regard.

ACP leaders condemned all acts of terrorism, piracy and transnational crime, including human trafficking and smuggling of migrants and pledged to cooperate against such threats and taking coercive measures against the perpetrators of such acts.

Leaders also highlighted the link between **migration and development**, and underlined the vital contribution of the **ACP-EU Dialogue on Migration and Development** to the global discourse.

Culture, women, youth

The Summit recognised the value of ACP countries' rich cultural heritage and underlined the need to place **culture** at the heart of development policies and strategies, given that cultural industries are not only sources of employment and innovation, but also vectors of peace, social cohesion and sustainable human development.

The Summit committed to progressively reducing social and wealth inequalities by strengthening national **social protection systems** and supporting families to have access to enough food, invest in productive activities, and overcome financial and social barriers to health and education. On **health**, the Summit called for universal health coverage and accessible health systems, while committing to tackling communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Leaders highlighted **women's advancement** and called for a strong collaboration with all stakeholders to jointly address gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as the need to help women's organisations in ACP countries to boost organisational and operational capacities.

They reaffirmed their commitment to harnessing the potential of **youth** through empowerment, quality education, health and decent work. Leaders committed to continue prioritising funds for youth entrepreneurship programmes, vocations skills training, research, science and technology, and ICTs.

Energy, environment

The Summit also deliberated on environmental challenges to ACP member states, particularly the adverse impacts of **climate change** and lack of **access to energy**. Leaders called for the removal of barriers as well as technology transfer, developing the capacity of ACP entrepreneurs in the energy sector, and facilitating access to finance, and investment in renewable energy in ACP countries.

The Summit underlined the **green economy** and **blue economy** as crucial tools for attaining sustainable development in ACP countries, including the importance of sustainable fisheries management. Leaders welcomed the established of a special forum for Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) within the ACP Group, recognised the specific challenges faced by SIDS, including climate change.

The Summit noted with concern the **territorial and maritime border disputes** faced by Guyana, Belize as well as Mauritius, and called on all nations to negotiate in good faith when defining maritime boundaries, and to ensure that Small Island States are granted the sovereign rights in line with international law.

Trade, development finance and global governance

The Summit welcomed the important contribution of the European Development Fund towards development programmes in ACP states and regions, and encouraged further cooperation with the EU in identifying other sources for financing the SDGs.

Leaders called for a conference to be organised, with the support of the European Commission along with the United Nations and other international financial institutions, on strategies for **development financing**, in particular financing multiannual development programmes for ACP countries, and the intensification of **South-South and Triangular Cooperation** to build productive capacities of ACP countries. At the same time, the Summit also called on developed countries that have not yet done so to honour their developed aid commitments.

The Summit deplored **illicit financial flows** and the haemorrhage of financial resources from ACP member states through all forms of capital flight, in particular, tax evasion schemes of multinational enterprises. At the same time ACP leaders deplored the European Commission on its Communication on a "Fair and Efficient Tax System in the European Union", unjustifiably listing 15 ACP states as non-cooperative tax jurisdictions, causing severe damage to the financial sectors of these states.

The Summit called on the EU to immediately withdraw the list and refrain from issuing such publications in the future.

On **trade**, the Summit reaffirmed full commitment to conclude the Doha Development Agenda of the World Trade Organisation. ACP leaders expressed their deep concern at the negative consequences of trade pacts outside the WTO system being negotiated by the EU and other partners, while also urging more intra-ACP trade as a way to address preference erosion for ACP trade.

Finally, the ACP Summit reaffirmed its confidence in multilateralism as a major instrument in **global political, economic and financial governance**. Leaders support continued democratisation of the institutional architecture of multilateralism, including the UN bodies and Bretton Woods institutions. The

ACP Group is actively seeking observer status for the President of the Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government and the ACP Secretary General in major international fora of strategic interest to the ACP.

The Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government is the highest political organ of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, which brings together 79 member states under the common pursuit of poverty eradication and sustainable development.(ACP 01-06-2016)

SADC AND EU CLOSE TO PARTNERSHIP DEAL

Six Southern African Development Community (SADC) member countries will sign an Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union (EU) on 10 June 2016 in Kasane town in northern Botswana, a statement from the regional block said Wednesday.

They are Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.

The statement said all the SADC and EPA member states will be represented by their respective ministers of Trade.

The EU will be represented by the European Union Trade Commissioner, Cecilia Malmstrom and Marisa Gerlands, Ambassador of the Netherlands to South Africa.

The statement said the EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement provides amongst others, for implementation of guaranteed duty-free, quota-free market access to the EU for goods from Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Swaziland.

South Africa will also have improved preferential treatment for their products over and above what is already covered by the EU-South Africa Trade and Development Cooperation Agreement into the EU market.

The EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement is a development-oriented agreement with the objective of supporting sustainable economic growth, diversification and expansion of the industrial base of the region through regional and global value chains, investment and opportunities. (APA 08-06-2016)

\$12.5 MILLION TO BE INJECTED IN BURKINA GOLD MINE

The mining company West African Resources will inject \$12.5 million into the development of its gold mine in Tanlouka, its officials told APA.

The raised funds will finance an aggressive drilling program in a high-grade mineralization zone, recently discovered in the prospect Mankarga-1 of the Tanlouka project.

To raise funds, the company has placed 70.2 million common shares worth \$0.125 per share to national and international investors.

Meanwhile the company will undertake the completion of the ultimate feasibility study of the Tanlouka gold project based on a large-scale development scenario.

Enthusiasm among investors is probably due to the quality of the West African Resources projects in Burkina Faso, primarily recent discoveries with excellent prospects within the Tanlouka project.

The West African Resources Ltd holds 100 percent stake in the Tanlouka mine, which also contains the Mankarga-5 prospect, and is included in the Boulsa large project supporting 25 contiguous permits

covering a total of 6,370 km².(APA 08-06-2016)

SOUTH AFRICA DODGES DEBT DOWNGRADE TO ‘JUNK’

Rating agency Standard and Poor’s (S&P) on Friday affirmed SA’s credit rating.

It kept SA’s long- and short-term foreign and local currency bond ratings at BBB-/A-3 and BBB+/A-2 respectively.

The foreign currency bond rating remains one notch above sub-investment grade whereas the domestic currency bond rating remains three notches above subinvestment grade.

The Treasury said in a statement that government had noted and welcomed S&P’s decision.

“The benefit of this decision is that SA is given more time to demonstrate further concrete implementation of reforms that are underway aimed at achieving higher levels of inclusive growth and place public finances on a sustainable path,” it said.

It said that the rating outcome demonstrated that South Africans could unite, especially during difficult times, to achieve a common mission.

S&P maintained the negative outlook on the rating, citing concern about economic growth and warned it could lower the rating by year-end or next year if policy measures did not turn the economy around. (BD 03-06-2016)

TOGOLESE LEADER OFF TO GERMANY

Togolese President Faure Gnassingbe has flown to Germany for an official visit which begins on Wednesday, the presidency in Lome confirmed.

While in Germany, the Togolese leader will hold a dinner with German entrepreneurs before meeting Germany’s federal President Joachim Gauck and Chancellor Angela Merkel on Thursday.

Gnassingbe will also hold talks with German Foreign Minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Cooperation Minister, Gerd Müller before meeting in the “Friends of Togo” parliamentary group in the Bundestag later on Thursday evening.

The Togolese leader will also visit German companies including BMW and will chat with that country’s football legend, Franz Beckenbauer.

Gnassingbe’s visit presents a challenge for Togo as it is a defining moment in the intensification of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

It will also present an opportunity for clinching a cooperation agreement between Togo and Germany.

Since resuming relations with Lomé, Berlin has granted more financial support to Togo.

According to an official source, the total volume of bilateral technical cooperation between Germany and Togo since 1959 is €554 million.(APA 08-06-2016)

MAURITANIA DISPATCHES RAMADAN PREACHERS TO AFRICAN, EUROPEAN NATIONS

The Mauritanian government has dispatched preachers tasked with convening conferences and discourses in some African and European nations around the sanctity of the holy month of Ramadan, reliable sources disclosed in Nouakchott.

The preaching mission which is made up of 50 religious experts has since been deployed to Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Niger, Congo, Spain and Germany.

According to the Mauritanian minister of Islamic Affairs and Religious Education, Ahmed Ould Daoud Ehl, the move aims to "popularize the culture of Islamic preaching through courses and religious guidance to the concerned communities."

In a farewell ceremony for members of the mission, Ould Daoud Ehl recalled "the time-honoured role played by the Mauritanian Ulema in preaching, teaching and disseminating the values of peace, which earned them everyone's respect."

According to him, Mauritania is determined to upgrade and consolidate her role in order to link its past to its future and maintain stability, well-being and knowledge.

Ould Daoud Ehl urged the religious gurus to show commitment and desire to appropriately represent their country which has always been a scientific and cultural center of influence and a haven of peace.(APA 08-06-2016)

The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, AHEAD-GLOBAL, Business Council for Africa, Corporate Council on Africa, ELO - Portuguese Association for Economic Development and Cooperation, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, HTTC - Hungarian Trade & Cultural Centre, NABA - Norwegian-African Business Association, NABC- Netherlands Africa Business Council, and other organisations.

The Memorandum is also made available by AHEAD-GLOBAL, BCA, Chamber of Tenerife (by posting it at the Africa Info Market), CCA - Corporate Council on Africa (USA), ELO,HTTC ,NABA,NABC (by posting selected news) to their Members.



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