MEMORANDUM

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11 YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED PUBLICATION
News from EIB-European Investment Bank, page 20

SUMMARY

BOTSWANA CIVILIANS URGED TO JOIN SADC STANDBY FORCE

Botswana's civilian experts were on Wednesday urged to join the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Standby Force civilian roster for peace support operations.

The call was made by Chief of Staff of the SADC Standby Force Planning Element (SADC SF PLANELM), Michael Mukokomani when addressing a group of civilian experts in Botswana during a SADC SF Civilian Component Awareness Raising Workshop in Gaborone.
He noted that it is common course that when most people think of peace support operations, "they think of the military and, at times, police personnel."
Mukokomani said while it is true that security personnel play an important role in most peace operations, and that security is a necessary part of peace operations, "it is equally important during peace support operations to also manage the political, social and economic aspects of a peace process."
The SADC Standby Force was established through a memorandum of understanding signed by the SADC Heads of States and Government in Lusaka, Zambia in 2007.
The force is a multi-dimensional entity, comprising the military, police and civilian components. (APA 19-07-2017)

VALE SEES RECORD COAL PRODUCTION IN MOZAMBIQUE IN THE 2ND QUARTER

Vale Mozambique saw record production of 3.0 million tonnes of coal in the second quarter of 2017, consisting of 2.0 million tonnes of coking or metallurgical coal and practically 1 million tonnes of thermal coal, Brazilian group Vale reported.

The mining group, in its production report for the second quarter of 2017, reported that production at its Mozambican subsidiary rose 24.8% compared to the first quarter (2.4 million tonnes) and 142.7% compared to the same quarter of 2016 (1.2 million tonnes).

Overall, the Brazilian group produced 91.8 million tonnes of iron ore (with a year-on-year increase of 5.8%), 12.2 million tonnes of pellets (+21.5%), 507,000 tonnes of manganese (-8.2%), 65,900 tonnes of nickel (-16.1%), 102,700 tonnes of copper (-4.4%) and 1.4 million tonnes of cobalt (+7.7%).

The Vale group also produced 105,000 ounces of gold, down 11.0% from a year earlier. (24-07-2017)

MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT INCREASES DOMESTIC PUBLIC DEBT

Mozambique's domestic public debt stood at 95.87 billion meticais (US$1.546 billion), according to figures from the periodical "Economic Environment and Inflation Prospects" bulletin published by the Bank of Mozambique last week.

Domestic public debt can be split into 47.322 billion meticais obtained from the Bank of Mozambique, 15.206 billion meticais in Treasury Bills (short-term debt securities) and 33.342 billion meticais in Treasury Bonds.

The central bank said the government continued to use Treasury Bills to finance the budget deficit, having issued 621 million meticais in April and May.

Direct financing of the Bank of Mozambique reached 12.164 billion meticais by the end of the first quarter.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) drew attention to the fact that growth of domestic public debt put pressure on credit institutions and led to a decrease in the availability of resources to lend to the private sector.

Government debt issues have filled the external financing gap since April last year, when donors suspended their support following the discovery of debts hidden by the previous government. (24-07-2017)

CABO VERDE BANKING SYSTEM CONSIDERS STRICTER CRITERIA FOR BANK OPERATIONS

The Bank of Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) and the commercial banks operating in the country are considering introducing “stricter criteria” in bank transactions to strengthen the confidence of correspondent banks abroad, the governor of the central bank said in Praia.

Governor João Serra, referring to the meeting held in the capital between the banking supervisor and representatives of commercial banks, noted that banks need to have correspondents abroad to carry out transfers and said there were “many difficulties, particularly now with all the problems of terrorist financing and money laundering.”

João Serra also said that the way to overcome this issue is “by introducing even stricter control criteria for opening accounts, making deposits, capital movements, to give all the necessary comfort to the banks outside the country to become correspondents of national banks.”

The meeting also analysed financing of the newly approved Deposit Guarantee Fund, proposed by the Bank of Cabo Verde and approved by the government and parliament, and the respective regulation has yet to be approved.

The governor admitted that defining the financing method of the fund is a “complex situation” and that “it requires some care” because of the situation of the Cape Verdean banking sector which, he said, is not very good, and “a solution adjusted to the national reality,” now needs to be found.

Banco Comercial do Atlântico (BCA), owned by Portuguese state-owned bank Caixa Geral de Depósitos (CGD) and Caixa Económica de Cabo Verde are the two largest banks operating in the country, including Banco Interatlântico (CGD) and Banco Angolano de Investimentos. (24-07-2017)

ROBERT MUGABE GIVES $60,000 BIRTHDAY PRESENT TO HIS SISTER-IN-LAW

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe lavished his sister-in-law with $60,000 on her birthday, state-owned media reported Monday, at a time when the country is running critically short of cash.

The Herald newspaper said Mugabe and his wife, Grace Mugabe, gave Junior Gumbochuma the money at her birthday celebrations, while the couple’s children gave her $10,000.

"The gift was to thank Mrs. Gumbochuma, a pastor, for the pivotal role she played in raising the first family’s children," the newspaper said.

Gumbochuma, who is Grace Mugabe’s elder sister, celebrated her 60th birthday on Sunday as Mugabe celebrated her 52nd at one of the Mugabes’ farms in Shamva, northeast of Harare.

Zimbabwe’s economy has been on a downturn for more than a decade, with many banks running out of cash, forcing people to queue for hours to make withdrawals often limited to only $20 a day.

Zimbabwe’s public salary wage bill uses up 91% of total revenue and the economy has halved in size since 2000. (AFP 24-07-2017)

ETHIOPIA $5.25BN SUBSIDY TO REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

The government of Ethiopia on Wednesday announced a $5.25 billion subsidy to regional governments during the country's fiscal year.

The subsidy has shown a 17 percent increase from the previous year and will be used to facilitate the ongoing economic transformation and ensure the continuity of the rapid economic growth, Ethiopia's Finance and Economic Cooperation Minister, Dr. Abraham Tekeste said.
The budget has been boosted so as to enhance and strengthen the decentralized federal system across the country, the minister said.
The budget allotted to regional governments represents 39 percent of the national $13 billion approved by the House of People's Representative last month.
He stated that $300 million of the money will be allotted for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
The Minister explained that the allotment of the budget shows that due emphasis is given to scale up infrastructure and human development, which he said are vital to speed up the ongoing economic transformation. (APA 19-07-2017)

ITALY, UNIDO SIGN €2.5M PROJECT TO CURB MIGRATION

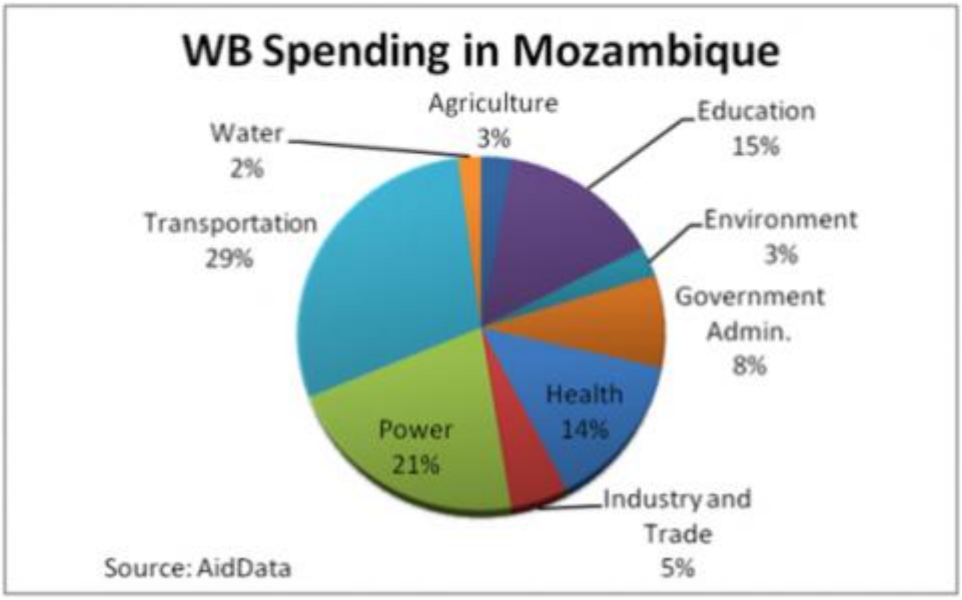
Italy and UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on Tuesday signed a €2.5 million project aimed at creating job opportunities for youth and women in the textile sector in migration prone areas of Ethiopia.

The agreement was signed by Italian Ambassador to Ethiopia, Giuseppe Mistretta, and UNIDO Regional Office Representative, Gustavo Aishemberg.
The project, which runs for three years, will be implemented in Tigray state and in Addis Ababa.
The project will seek to promote private-public partnership as well as building the capacities of entrepreneurs and workers of the textile sector and strengthen the Ministry of Industry, it was learned.
At the signing ceremony, Ambassador Mistretta said "creating job opportunities in migration prone areas is a fundamental to step to tackle the root causes of irregular migration."
The project indirectly helps the youth to engage in alternative activities by keeping them out of life-threatening and challenging situation which might derive from illegal migration, trafficking and smuggling, the Ambassador noted.
He stated that it will also create job opportunity for vulnerable youth and women in textile sector at their home.

UNIDO Representative Gustavo Aishemberg said the project is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and will support Ethiopia in the creation of decent and productive job opportunities for youth and women.
This program initiative is the first initiative approved in the framework of the Fund for Africa (Fondo per l'Africa) created last February by Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. (APA 19-07-2017)

MOZAMBIQUE GETS $131M WORLD BANK FUNDING FOR SOCIAL PROJECTS, STATISTICS

The Mozambican government and the World Bank have signed three grants amounting to $131 million for the implementation of social projects in the southern African nation.



A media statement from Mozambique's Ministry of Economy and Finance seen by APA on Tuesday said the money is intended to finance the implementation of social protection projects, supporting the education sector, national statistics and development data, budgeted at $10 million, $59 million and $62 million respectively.
"The social protection project aims to support the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (MGCAS) in institutional strengthening and consolidation of the National Strategy for Basic Social Security and updating poverty maps and vulnerability of existing social services and programmes of assistance at the district and municipal level," read the statement.
In turn, the project to support the education sector will ensure greater access and quality of education, train primary teachers, support the production of textbooks and curriculum reform.
Meanwhile, according to the World Bank, the draft national statistics and development data will improve the production and dissemination of timely and timely statistics, strengthen monitoring of macroeconomic and fiscal management in Mozambique, and increase the quality of production and dissemination of statistics.
The media release added that these projects are also intended to strengthen cooperation between Mozambique and the Bretton Woods institutions. (APA 18-07-2017)

EAST AFRICA: AGOA AT RISK IN EAST AFRICAN WAR OVER USED CLOTHES

Among optimists, the proposal by East African Community (EAC) member states to ban the importation of used clothes by 2019 is great because it could spark the growth of a local textile industry in the bloc.

But pessimists say the move will complicate the region's trade arrangements with leading partners including the U.S. which is also a large exporter of used clothes to the region. It could also increase the cost of clothes in countries where the majority of the population is poor and lead to the import of new cheap clothes to out-compete the very industries the regional governments seek to protect.

Jessica Kiyingi, a vendor at Kampala's popular market, Owino, selling second-hand clothes.

Faced with these options, some business analysts are proposing a middle-ground that reflects the status quo. They say the region is better off allowing entry of used clothes as it also develops its own textile industry.

"As a region, there's need to allow entry of any products provided there are no illegalities in the sale of those items on our markets while at the same time boosting their production locally," said Charles Ocici, the executive director at Enterprise Uganda, a USAID-sponsored agency for equipping skills to small and medium firms.

He suggests a co-existence of used and new clothes in the regional markets and the use of taxes to ensure fair competition between them.

That way, Ocici says, the burden of the ban will not only be felt by the poor but by all clothing consumers, who will, in turn, buy the locally made clothes.

He added that the co-existence will also make EAC avoid unnecessarily frictions with the powers where used clothes originate.

Isaac Shinyekwa, the head of Trade and Regional Integration Department at the Makerere University-based Economic Policy and Research Centre (EPRC) told The Independent in an interview that banning used clothes will leave the population naked.

"We indeed need to stop second clothes coming in because they are affecting the growth of our textile industries. But we cannot just wake up one day and say we are stopping it. What is in place to ensure that that gap is filled?" he asked.

He said leaders of the EAC should have developed a plan to make sure that the local textile industries can stand on their own prior to starting to implement the ban.

Already, the office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) is said to be reviewing trade benefits to Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) after a complaint by U.S. interests about an East African ban on imports of used clothing.

USTR said recently that the review was in response to a petition filed by the Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association (SMART), which complained that the ban "imposed significant hardship" on the US used-clothing industry and violated AGOA rules.

AGOA, which was extended last year, allows exporters from African countries that meet given terms, to export their goods into the U.S. without the usual tough restrictions. In turn, America also gets some preferential treatment of their products.

In March last year, the head of states in the EAC, which comprises of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan agreed to ban import of used clothes in the region in three years as part of the EAC Vision 2050 and the Industrialization Policy to enhance manufacturing sector that currently contributes 8.7% to the regional Gross Domestic Product to 25% by 2032. The move, however, could also harm a multi-billion shilling group of importers.

As such, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania have raised taxes for used clothes and offered incentives to manufactures to invest in their local textile sectors starting this financial year 2017/18.

Uganda has increased the environmental levy imposed on used clothes from 15 % to 20 % of the cost and freight insurance (CIF) value in some taxes during the post-election budget.

Rwanda has increased taxes on import of used clothes for the second consecutive year from $0.2 to $2.5 in the last financial year to US$4 per kg this financial year arguing that it intends to protect the market for new clothes made locally. In the financial year 18/19, Rwanda plans to charge $5 per kg on import of used clothes.

However, Kenya has bowed out of the plan, supposedly to save its U.S. market for new clothes produced locally in the Economic Processing Zones. Last year, Kenya is estimated to have exported US$ 394million worth of textiles and apparel to the USA under AGOA.

But Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania say they will not back away from their plans due to pressure from local and foreign business firms at the expense of their local textile industries.

Matia Kasaija, Uganda's minister for Finance, Planning and Economic Development told The Independent that the government took a decisive position to protect its local textile industries and thus will not bow to pressure locally or internationally to remove the imposed taxes on used clothes.

"We are not going to back away from our plans to ban used clothes in this country because few business people in the US or Uganda are interested in the business," he said.

"Why should our people continue wearing 'dead people's clothes' when we grow cotton and have got our on factories? Is it fair? It is not. We can trade in many other things but not in used clothes."

He said any business person interested in selling clothes in Uganda and the region, should instead focus on importing new garments.

He added that the new clothes are expensive but the governments in the region are interested in promoting cotton growing in the bloc and increase household incomes of the citizens who will eventually afford new clothes.

Recently, Rwanda's President Paul Kagame stated that his country will proceed with the ban on used clothes despite of threats by the US to review trade benefits to the three EAC countries.

"This is the choice we find that we have to make. As far as I am concerned, making the choice is simple, we might suffer consequences. Even when confronted with difficult choices, there is always a way," he said after officially applying to run for a third term in office, whose election is slated next month.

"Rwanda and other countries in the region that are part of AGOA, have to do other things, we have to grow and establish our industries," Kagame added.

Tanzania's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Susan Kolimba told a local daily that the future of the community is bright.

"Differing is common in any group. The good thing about our community is that we have a room for discuss issues, which we have differed from, until we reach a consensus," she told The Citizen.

Tanzania Private Sector Foundation's (TPSF) Executive Director Godfrey Simbeye said any decision taken by the US will have a little effect on the country's economy since there are few industries i that are taking advantage of the market.

US AGOA imports from Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda totaled $43 million in 2016, up from $33 million in 2015, according to the USTR.

On the other hand, US exports to Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda were $281 million in 2016, up from $257 million the year before, most of which consists of used clothes.

A research carried out by a trade law and policy analyst, Esther Katende-Magezi, dubbed 'The impact of second hand clothes and shoes in East Africa' published by the Geneva based CUTS International this year, shows that cotton produced in the EAC is spun and woven in Asia, converted into apparels and shipped to USA and EU to be worn for 2-3 years and shipped back to Africa (EAC) as used clothing, to clothe up to 70% of African population.

In Africa, the EAC is one of the biggest importers of second hand clothes from US, UK and China. In 2013, the EAC total percentage of global used clothes trade amounted to 8%, with 3 % for Kenya, 1.9% for Uganda, 1.9 % for Tanzania, 0.6 % t for Rwanda and 0.2 % for Burundi.

This is the main reason that spinners have consistently expressed concern that there is low demand for fabric because the EAC fabric market is choked with imported second hand clothes which has also led to the closure of several textiles mills that were, for example, performing well in Kenya and Uganda such as Raymond, KIKOM, Mulco, African Textile Mills, Rayon Textiles, and Lira Spinning Mill leading to loss of millions of jobs.

Magezi notes that while the decision could boost the cotton, apparel, textile and leather sectors and ultimately enhance employment a rising from industrialization, the governments could also experience significant losses in tax revenue.

For example, Kenya collected $54 million in tariff revenue on 100,000 tons of imported used clothing in 2013. In 2016, Rwanda nearly tripled its import duty on imported clothing from 35 % to 100 % to encourage purchases from the country's limited textile mills.

Also, the banning used clothes imports could lead to smuggling of the banned clothing into the EAC countries, especially in the short run due to shortage and the limited ability to afford brand new garments.

"Smuggling would not only promote illicit trade and deny the governments' tax revenue but also put a higher burden on governments to address smuggling. Further, enforcement of the ban could be at a cost to the governments that would have to put in place measures to implement the ban in the different states," she said.

How other countries are handling the issue of secondhand clothes

In South Africa, importation of used clothes has been banned. Outside the continent, countries such as India have embraced their cultural attire which is manufactured/ designed locally and therefore reduces demand for second hand cloth imports.

However, using this strategy in EAC would be a challenge given the absence of widely accepted cultural attire and the popularity of Western fashion in the Partner States.

On the other hand, developed countries have focused on improving the competitiveness of their local textile industries and the incomes of their citizens to discourage importation of second hand clothes.

"And they have done this, not overnight, but the industry has been built and developed over the years and in some cases, through family generations, where it is now paying off highly," she says.

Way forward

The Magezi notes that since the proposed ban will affect both well to do middle class and the poor, it should put the same tax measures on the new clothing so that the pricing of new clothing is as high as that of the used clothes.

She also suggests that banning import of used clothes should be done in a phased approach to soften the impact of the ban on the domestic consumers as well as the source countries.

This, she, says would also make implementation of the ban easier, by putting in place relevant standards that support only the importation of high grade clothes.

She also says that EAC need revise the policy on economic processing zones for domestic supply to increase the percentage of products that can be sold into the EAC market specifically for the cotton, apparel, textile and leather sectors.

"(However), the factors that are affecting industrial production in Africa are not mainly used clothes but the unfavorable conditions for industrial growth and development in some of the partner states. If these conditions such as high electricity tariffs, absence of real tax incentives among others are not addressed, the ban will not achieve its intended goal of boosting progress in the region," she added.

Moses Ogwal, director Policy Advocacy and Trade at the Private Sector Foundation Uganda told The Independent that while used clothes pose a risk to the textile industry, it will only occur when local production has increased.

He suggests the need to have a mix of used clothes that competes favourably with the newer ones on the market as local industries improves production to meet consumer needs.

Global share of used clothes import in 2015

Countries % of imports

Pakisatn 10.2

Malasyia 7.1

Russian Federation 5.8

India 5.5

Tunisia 4.6

Guetemala 4.3

Netherlands 3.4

Germany 3.4

Hungary 3.3

Uganda 3.2

Poland 3.1

Mozambique 3.1

Chile 3.1

Tanzania 3.0

Canada 3.0

Others 33.9

(Independant 19-07-2017)

ETHIOPIA TO SET UP PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIAL PARK

With an aim to transform the Ethiopian health sector, a pharmaceutical industrial park is under construction in Addis Ababa area by the Chinese contractor Tiesiju Civil Engineering (CTCE) group, expecting to be completed in eight months

The park is expected to modernise the health management system in Ethiopia and secure healthy pharmaceutical supply chain in the country.

The plan for the industrial park comes in line with Ethiopia's pharmaceutical manufacturing development strategy.

In a statement to the The Ethiopian Herald, Getahun Agegnehu, project contractor representative, said that the part will be build with all modern infrastructural facilities including the waste treatment plant.

“The park will be well serviced pharmaceutical investment hub,” he reinforced.

Adinna Berie, pharmaceutical fund and supply agency public relations head, convicted that the park, after completion, would cut the growing national expenditure for medicine import from the neighbouring countries. She said, “The park will prove the market potential for investors that could join it and attract foreign currency to the country.”

In addition, the park would play a key role in availing the basic and essential medicines at local market, which is expected to attract the investors to join the park when it comes to completion.

Berie explained that the agency has been distributing essential medicine and medical equipment worth US$25.78mn per year, noting that the expansion of health centres spiked the demand to US$950mn. In the last nine months of the fiscal year 2016-2017, the Agency purchased and distributed drugs and medical equipments worth US$430mn.

She further added that the agency opened 17 branches nationwide to ensure the supply of medicines and medical equipment to the public.

The new pharmaceutical plant is expected to meet the country demand for a continuous supply of required medicines for the citizens with adding value to the goal of a sustainable health reform for Ethiopia. (AR 19-07-2017)

ZIMBABWE FARMERS UNION WARNS SOUTH AFRICA TO SHARE LAND OR GO THE WAY OF THEIR COUNTRY

A Zimbabwean farmers' union leader warned white South African farmers they should agree on a deal to share land with the black majority before they suffer the same fate as neighbours in Zimbabwe, who were violently removed from their properties.

Land redistribution is a burning political issue in SA and has divided the ANC ahead of the December conference where President Jacob Zuma's successor as party leader will be chosen.

Many Zuma supporters are demanding land expropriation from whites without compensation, while the radical EFF has told South Africans to occupy unused land illegally.

Although Zuma has said any land reform will be done sensibly and within the law, there are concerns that the populism in South African politics could lead to the scenes witnessed in Zimbabwe in the early-2000s.

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe permitted violent land seizures from white farmers, beginning in 2000, that prompted the international community to cut off ties and sent a once-promising economy into a tailspin.

"We were arrogant. We thought they would never take the land because we were too important for the economy," Peter Steyl, president of Zimbabwe's Commercial Farmers Union, the nation's biggest commercial farming union, said.

"You never think it will happen until people turn up at your door armed with machetes, off their heads. It gets pretty real. They are facing the same situation in SA. I would tell them it's better to give a little bit now than lose everything when things go too far."

'Blind stupidity'

SA's government says only 8-million hectares of arable land have been transferred to black people since the end of apartheid in 1994, less than 10% of the 82-million hectares available and a third of the ANC's 30% target.

The ANC is under pressure to win back many poor, black voters who have switched allegiance to Julius Malema's EFF.

Malema, a former protege of Zuma who has become a thorn in his side, is due to appear in court on charges of inciting violence due to his comments on land grabs.

Steyl said taking land without compensation would be disastrous and would prompt investors and foreign institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to turn their back on Africa's most developed economy.

"That would be blind stupidity. It's possible you will never recover," Steyl said. "I know there are huge problems with unemployment in SA. Everyone needs to come to the table to negotiate." Agriculture employs 850,000 people in SA — 6% of the workforce, and the country of 56-million is a major food exporter.

Jannie de Villiers, CEO of commercial farming group Grain SA, said he was confident there would be no repeat of the chaos in Zimbabwe because SA's constitution did not allow land expropriation without compensation.

He also said South African white farmers were committed to working with the government on land reform.

"We realise there is a lot more we can do to allow land reform to happen. We think the percentage chance of going down the Zimbabwe route is very small," De Villiers said.

ANC leadership vote

How to address the inequality that still exists 23 years after the end of white-minority rule will be the central debate at the ANC leadership vote, in December.

Former African Union Commission chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Jacob Zuma's former wife, is expected to run on a campaign to radically transfer wealth from the white minority to the black majority, including land reform.

Her main opponent is expected to be Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, who has also called for wealth redistribution but has made tackling government corruption and winning back investor confidence priorities.

Steyl warned against politics driving land reform, as happened in Zimbabwe when Mugabe allowed land grabs to secure the loyalty of the military.

The knock-on effects were disastrous. Zimbabwe tumbled into recession, inflation peaked at 500-billion per cent. Unemployment is now above 90%.

"Don't allow it to happen to you," Steyl said. "You have to engage. You have to be sensible. You mustn't allow desperation to win the day." (Reuters 21-07-2017)

WHITE ZIMBABWEAN FARMERS DISPUTE $134M COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

White Zimbabwean commercial farmers who were driven off their land during President Robert Mugabe's controversial land seizures are disputing claims by the finance minister that they got $134m in compensation last year.

Zimbabwe grabbed world headlines in 2000 when supporters of the now 93-year-old Mugabe invaded white-owned farms and evicted their owners, often violently. Mugabe defended the seizures as necessary to redress colonial exploitation.

Finance minister Patrick Chinamasa told parliament on Thursday that his government had paid $134m in unbudgeted money in compensation last year, but did not give details and his official statement did not include the figure.

Ben Gilpin, acting director at Commercial Farmers Union of Zimbabwe (CFUZ), a group with less than 200 members, down from 4,500 at the start of the land seizures, said on Thursday that he was not aware of anybody who had been compensated. "We haven't seen or heard of those payments from people we have been in contact with. We would need to check where those payments have gone," he told Reuters.

Another farmer, who did not want to be named for fear of retribution, who lost his property and monitors issues of compensation, also disputed Chinamasa's assertion. "This is most definitely not the case," he said. "Where he is coming from I have no idea."

Last year, Chinamasa said Harare could issue treasury bills and impose a land levy to raise money to pay evicted farmers, but he admitted the process would take a long time.

Another CFUZ official who declined to be named said the last time the government paid a substantial amount of compensation was to a citrus company, Interfresh, which lost some of its farms in Mazowe, north of Harare.

"We got to hear that Interfresh was paid in the region of $44m, but that was a while ago," the official said. "We have done some quick checks and it does not seem to be true that such an amount [$134m] was paid last year."

Mugabe has previously said the land seizures have ended, but at political rallies this year, he has repeated threats against the remaining white farmers, saying they should be completely driven out.

(Reuters 21-07-2017)

KENYA'S NEWLY CONSTRUCTED ISIOLO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT READY FOR USE

Upgrading works on the Isiolo International Airport has completed and operation is expected to commence fully in the next four weeks.

The US$16.4m project was launched by the Retired President, His Excellency Mwai Kibaki in 2013. The project has 1.4km runway for Code C air crafts.

According to Johnny Andersen, Kenya Airport Authority (KAA) Managing Director, the facility is an important link to the new transport corridor which the government is developing under the Lamu Port–South Sudan–Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSSET) corridor project.

Furthermore, the refurbished world-class airport took five years to complete and becomes the fifth largest airport in Kenya. The airport has been built to the standard of other international airports namely Moi International Airport (Mombasa), Kisumu International Airport, Eldoret International Airport and Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

Briefing the media during a tour of the airport, Andersen noted that, the airport occupies 800-acre land and consists of a modern passenger terminal that can handle more than 125,000 passengers annually, including parking facilities that accommodate over 200 vehicles.

KAA Managing Director, further, expressed confidence towards the project saying that the airport will play a more significant role in providing employment to the people of the neighboring counties, transport tourist and cargo in addition to linking up the neighboring counties in this region to the rest of the country.

"This facility will play a key role in facilitating transport within the Horn of Africa region due to its strategic location," said Johnny Andersen. "This region has huge untapped potential that require projects such as this one to be unlocked," he added.

Additionally, farmers will be able to export meat products to the Middle East and other parts of the country faster thus relieving farmers of high transport cost. The airport will also be of significant help to khat (miraa) farmers in regards to transportation. The business is projected to grow by 35% in the county.

As part of KAA mandate to administer, control and manage Kenya's aerodromes, the upgrading of Isiolo Airport is just one of several major projects that KAA has implemented across the country.

Nonetheless, KAA has embarked on a plan to improve existing airports and airstrips as well as build new ones to stimulate growth in key sectors of the economy such as tourism, horticulture, and trade.

"Presently, the authority has several ongoing expansion projects of our main airports and designated airstrips in Nairobi, Kisumu, Isiolo, Embu, Nyeri, and Mombasa and the recently completed Manda Airport in Malindi," said Andersen.

Besides the authority working toward attaining Vision 2030, which is a long-term national development blueprint, KAA's expansion projects are guided by the urgent need to deploy world-class infrastructure facilities and services in Kenya. To achieve this, the country requires modern infrastructure facilities such as the Isiolo International Airport.

Isiolo County, is however, expected to occupy a significant position as a precursor to the envisaged status. The airport will connect Isiolo to the rest of the world and play the important role of being a micro-enabler in the growth of the economy of the county, the country and the region at large.

Isiolo airport has so far received several requests from a number of airlines including Fly 540 Air Kenya and Fly Sax to operate at the new airport though the number is expected to go up with time.(CRO 20-07-2017)

CONSTRUCTION OF US$ 6.3M NTCHEU STADIUM IN MALAWI TO BEGIN

Construction of Ntcheu stadium in Malawi is projected to start by August 15 this year; this is after the tripartite official contract signing ceremony between Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ntcheu District Council and Plem Construction Company.

Principal Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Kinswell Dakamau, after signing the contract agreement, congratulated Ntcheu District Council for working hard for the project to be materialized.

“The council went through a laborious exercise which among other things included planning and procurement of designers and a contractor,” said Dakamau.

He further said that the construction of the stadium is a milestone achievement in the development of the district and the country as a whole. It will cost US$ 6.3m for it to be complete and will have a capacity of 20,000 seats, meaning that, it will be bigger than Balaka and Dedza stadiums.

Managing Director for Plem Construction Company, Fleming Kapunda, assured Ntcheu District Council of the company’s commitment by abiding to the contract agreement.

“It is a prestige for Plem Construction Company to have been awarded this contract, we will do good work to portray the company’s good image whilst ensuring timeliness and quality and sticking to the agreement which we just signed,” said Kapunda.

Plem Construction Ltd. is a Civil Engineering company located in Lilongwe, Central Region, Malawi.(CRO 17-07-2017)

OPEC MEMBER NIGERIA’S DAYS OF UNCAPPED OIL OUTPUT ARE NUMBERED, AFTER PRODUCER MEETING

Oil producer club Opec moved on Monday to cap Nigerian oil output and called on several members to boost compliance with production cuts to help clear excessive global stocks and support flagging prices.

The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries has agreed with several non-Opec producers, led by Russia, to cut oil output by a combined 1.8-million barrels a day from January 2017 until the end of March 2018.

Opec states Libya and Nigeria were exempted from the limits to help their oil industries recover from years of unrest.

The deal to curb output propelled crude prices above $58 a barrel in January but they have since slipped back to a $45-$50 range as the effort to drain global inventories has taken longer than expected.

Rising output from US shale producers has offset the impact of the output curbs, as has climbing production from Libya and Nigeria.

A ministerial committee of Opec and non-Opec states that monitors the global oil pact said it had agreed Nigeria would join the deal by capping or even cutting its output from 1.8-million barrels a day, once it stabilises at that level from 1.7-million barrels a day recently.

The monitoring committee, known as JMMC and which met in the Russian city of St Petersburg, did not give the time frame for when this would happen, saying it would track Nigerian production patterns in the next weeks.

The committee did not back capping Libyan output as it said its production was unlikely to exceed 1-million barrels a day in the near future compared to its capacity of 1.4 million-1.6 million barrels a day, before unrest erupted in 2011 and plunged the nation into chaos.

Brent oil prices rose about 1% to about $48.50, helped by news of a cap on Nigeria and by comments from Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih that the kingdom’s exports would fall to 6.6-million barrels a day in August as demand at home was rising, effectively representing a cut of 1-million barrels a day from a year earlier.

He said global stocks had fallen by 90-million barrels, but were still about 250-million barrels above the five-year average for industrialised nations, which is the level Opec and non-Opec states are targeting with their output curbs.

Bearish sentiment

Russia and Saudi Arabia face mounting pressure to prop up oil prices.

Russia, heavily reliant on oil revenue, holds a presidential election next year.

Saudi Arabia needs higher prices to balance its budget and support next year’s planned listing of state oil firm Saudi Aramco.

"We must acknowledge that the market has turned bearish with several key factors driving these sentiments," energy minister Falih told the meeting of the monitoring committee.

Falih said weaker compliance with cuts by some Opec states and a rise in Opec exports had led to the softer crude price.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have cut more than they pledged but others, such as the United Arab Emirates and Iraq, have shown relatively weak adherence to the limits.
"Some countries continue to lag which is a concern we must address head on," Falih said. "Exports have now become the key matrix to financial markets and we need to find a way to reconcile credible exports data with production data."
He said the committee had spoken to those who were lagging, without naming them, and said they pledged to boost compliance.
The Saudi minister said global oil demand was expected to grow by about 1.4-million to 1.6-million barrels a day next year, similar to 2017, and so should more than offset rising US output.
The JMMC chair, Kuwait, said Opec could call an extraordinary meeting to include Nigeria and could extend existing production curbs beyond March 2018 if markets failed to rebalance.
Alongside Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the committee includes Russia, Venezuela, Algeria and Oman.
*(*Reuters 24-07-2017)

ECO ATLANTIC TO FOCUS ON OIL PROSPECTS IN NAMIBIA

Eco Atlantic Oil CEO Gil Holzman is upbeat about the prospects for oil exploration and production in Namibia, praising the country as one of the best places in Africa in which to do business

Gil Holzman is upbeat about Namibia's oil prospects.

In Namibia, Eco Atlantic holds a 32.5 per cent stake in license PEL0037, located offshore in the Walvis Basin and is the operator. Tullow Oil has farmed out 30 per cent of its 65 per cent operated interest the license to India's ONGC. Eco Atlantic's interests across four offshore petroleum licenses total approximately 25,000 sq km with more than 2.3bn barrels of prospective P50 resources in the Walvis and Lüderitz basins. These four licenses, Cooper, Guy, Sharon and Tamar, are being developed with partners, including Tullow Oil, AziNam and NAMCOR.
Speaking to *Oil Review Africa*, Mr Holzman said Eco Atlantic is focused on oil rather than gas in Namibia.
"With 2tcf of gas, it's more of a burden without proper infrastructure [and] it's too small for LNG," he said. Instead, Eco Atlantic has been making investments, particularly in seismic data, while prices have been low during the downturn, as well as partners, such as AziNam helping to fund seismic activity. He said it has been a good time to invest, while the oil and service prices have remained low.
Now the oil price is stabilised at around US$50, now the industry is better suited to go into the second exploration cycle of Namibia," Mr Holzman told Oil Review Africa. "With offshore gas in Namibia, it is possible to break even at around US$30-US$35 oil. The royalties [to the Namibian government] are five per cent, the fiscal terms are really favourable. "
He praised the Namibian government for creating a fiscal and regulatory environment that makes it an easy country in which to do business.
"The Namibian government understands that it's a competitive market and they must compete with other governments - the minister and the head of NAMCO understand this perfectly," Mr Holzman said. "They really are a partner to the industry, the give extensions if they are required ... they share a lot of information."

"This is a new era for oil exploration in Namibia," he said, adding that it is a sign of confidence in the country's prospects that large companies such as ONGC and Tullow are investing. With Tullow on a March 2018 deadline to drill its first well, Mr Holzman expects increased activity for (ORA 23-07-2017)

ROUTE MIGRATOIRE EN MEDITERRANEE CENTRALE: DECLARATION DE TUNIS

Les Ministres de l'Intérieur de l'Algérie, Allemagne, Autriche, France, Italie, Libye, Mali, Malte, Niger, Slovénie, Suisse, Tchad, Tunisie, le Commissaire européen chargé de la migration, des affaires intérieures et de la citoyenneté, ainsi que le Ministre de l'Intérieur de l'Estonie assurant la Présidence du Conseil de l'Union Européenne, réunis, à Tunis, le 24 juillet 2017, à 1'invitation de la République Tunisienne, dans le cadre de la deuxième réunion ministérielle du groupe de contact sur la route migratoire en Méditerranée centrale:

Partant du principe que la migration constitue un phénomène planétaire, dont la gouvernance exige un engagement global dans un esprit de responsabilité équitablement partagée, de partenariat et de solidarité;

Réagissant à la crise humanitaire se déroulant dans la Méditerranée centrale, caractérisée par le trafic, organisé par des réseaux criminels, de dizaines de milliers de migrants, leur soumission à la traite ainsi qu'à des traitements inhumains de gravité exceptionnelle ainsi que par le décès de milliers d'entre eux en mer et dans le désert;

Rappelant les conclusions et les recommandations de la première réunion ministérielle du groupe de contact, tenue les 19 et 20 mars 2017 à Rome, portant sur la gestion concertée, globale, et cohérente des flux migratoires;

Tenant compte des différents processus et fora de dialogues régionaux et sous régionaux tels que la déclaration conjointe Afrique-UE sur la migration et la mobilité de 2014, les déclarations des conférences ministérielles des processus de Rabat et de Khartoum et du Sommet de La Valette sur la migration, tenu les 11 et 12 novembre 2015;

Conscients des opportunités et des enjeux sécuritaires, socio-économiques et humains liés à la migration, ainsi que de l'intérêt régional et global d'une approche cohérente intégrée, concertée et multidimensionnelle de gestion de tous les aspects de la migration, impliquantles pays d'origine, de transit et de destination;

Considérant l'importance de la sécurité et de la stabilité en Méditerranée ;

Convenant de la nécessité de renforcer la coopération en matière de gestion des frontières, de prévenir et de lutter contre la migration irrégulière, le trafic des migrants et la traite des êtres humains, et plus particulièrement de démanteler les réseaux criminels et prévenir l'utilisation des embarcations à cet effet;

Mettant l'accent sur l'importance de traiter les causes profondes de la migration irrégulière, de promouvoir les voies de migration et de mobilité régulières, et d'intégrer la dimension développement solidaire dans la gestion de la migration;

Saluant la mise en place, à l'occasion du Sommet de la Valette sur la migration en 2015, du Fonds fiduciaire d'urgence de l'UE pour l'Afrique, destiné au financement d'actions de développement en Afrique et pour s'attaquer aux causes profondes de 1a migration irrégulière;

Saluant les mesures déjà prises par l'Union Européenne et ses Etats membreset les Etats associés pour aider les pays d'origine et de transit en Afrique à faire face au défi migratoire etles efforts déployés pour sauver et fournir assistance et protection aux migrants en Méditerranée et sur les routes s'y dirigeant;

Rappelant les mesures prises par l'Union Européenne et les pays membres et associés pour promouvoir la stabilisation de la Libye, assister les migrants irréguliers se trouvant dans les centres d'accueil et pour renforcer les capacités des autorités libyennes sur les frontières terrestres et maritimes.

Se félicitant des efforts que la Libye est en train de réaliser par le biais de ses Gardes Côtes pour lutter contre les trafiquants et pour sauver les migrants en mer, ainsi que de l'appui déjà assuré par l'Italie et l'Union Européenne pour le développement de leurs capacités opérationnelles;

Rappelant les nouvelles mesures proposées par la Commission Européenne le 4 Juillet pour renforcer l'action de l'UE et de ses Etats Membres en faveur de la Lybie, accroitre la solidarité et réduire la pression migratoire le long de la route de la Méditerranée Centrale;

Ont convenu de renforcer davantage la coordination en matière de gestion de la migration en Méditerranée centrale à travers une approche cohérente, globale et concrète basée sur l'interdépendance entre la prévention et la lutte contre la migration irrégulière et lesdéfis y afférents et la gestion de la migration légale et ses opportunités connexes.

A cette fin, les Ministres ont convenu de l'approche à suivre ensemble qui englobe les actions listées ci-dessous:

1/ Traitement des causes profondes des migrationsirrégulières

Contribuer au traitement des causes profondes de la migration irrégulière en favorisant le développement intégré et inclusif dans les pays d'origine et de transit, particulièrement dans les régions à fort potentiel migratoire;

Répondre aux enjeux migratoires aux travers des politiques européennesd'aide publique au développement, en privilégiant le développement intégré des régions défavorisées dans les pays d'origine et de transit, et en promouvant en particulier les initiatives permettant les opportunités d'emploi au niveau local, notamment par le financement des micro-entreprises, la formation et le renforcement des capacités des jeunes et des femmes et en rappelant à cet égard le pacte entre le Gouvernement et les municipalités d'Italie et de Lybie pour lutter contre les trafiquants d'êtres humains et promouvoir le développement local;

En reconnaissant la nécessité d'efforts financiers additionnels, mobiliser des financements pour des projets et des actions dans le cadre du fonds fiduciaire de l'UE pour l'Afrique lancé lors du Sommet de La Valette sur la migration en 2015 et des programmes régionaux thématiques et bilatéraux existants, en vue de mettre en œuvre les actions prévues au titre des cinq piliers du Plan d'Action agréé lors du Sommet;

Réserver une attention particulière dans le cadre du «Plan Européen pour l'investissement Extérieur» annoncé par le Commission Européenne, à la lutte contre la migration irrégulière en Méditerranée Centrale et ce, à travers notamment le soutien aux initiatives privées et le renforcement des opportunités d'emplois.

Associer la dimension développement à la gestion de tous les aspects de la migration en favorisant des transferts de fonds plus fiables et moins onéreux, le transfert du savoir-faire, la création d'emplois et la formation;

Communiquer plus largement sur les voies de la mobilité légale et examiner les possibilités d'assouplissement des procédures de délivrance des visas, notamment au profit des entrepreneurs, travailleurs, chercheurs, étudiants, stagiaires, etc.

Renforcer la coopération avec le Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les Réfugiés.

2/ Renforcement de l'action et de la coopération contre le trafic et la traite des migrants

Renforcer les mécanismes de coordination opérationnelle de lutte contre la migration irrégulière à travers l'assistance technique, la formation et le renforcement des capacités, et l'échange d'informations et d'expertises.

Appuyer les autorités frontalières des pays d'origine et de transit en matière de prévention et de gestion de l'immigration irrégulière, de sécurité et de surveillance des frontières, ainsi que de lutte contre les réseaux criminels, à travers la formation, les dotations en équipements et le soutien à l'infrastructure, notamment en vue de renforcer la gestion des frontières terrestres de la Libye qui ont une valeur stratégique pour la Libye, l'Europe et l'Afrique ;

Assurer une coopération renforcée dans le domaine de la prévention et de la lutte contre le trafic de migrants en Méditerranée ;

Renforcer davantage la coopération des Etats Membres du Groupe de Contact dans les opérations de sauvetage dans la Méditerranée ;

Consolider les efforts communs en matière de lutte contre la traite des êtres humains et le trafic de migrants, à travers la coordination entre les services concernés des pays d'origine, de transit et d'accueil et les actions communes de prévention et de protection ;

Renforcer l'échange d'informations stratégiques et opérationnelles sur les réseaux criminels de traite des êtres humains et de trafic de migrants en vue de faciliter la prévention et la poursuite en justice de ces activités ;

Consolider la coopération sécuritaire et judiciaire par le biais de la ratification et de la mise en œuvre de la Convention des Nations Unies contre la criminalité transnationale organisée et les protocoles s'y rapportant, en coopérant également dans la prévention du commerce des biens facilitant le trafic et la traite des migrants, par exemple les bateaux gonflables, et dans l'identification et la confiscation des revenues illégales dérivant de ses activités.

3/ Cooperation en matière de retour

Continuer à mettre en place des campagnes d'information et de communication communes visant notamment à accroître la sensibilisation aux risques liés à la migration irrégulière et les possibilités de retour volontaire assisté ;

Renforcer la collaboration avec OIM et UNHCR pour mieux structurer la réponse aux besoins des migrants qui veulent retourner dans leur pays d'origine dans le respect des droits de l'homme et de la dignité de la personne humaine ;

Améliorer la coopération dans le domaine du retour et appuyer les programmes d'aide au retour volontaire et de réintégration économique et sociale des migrants à travers des programmes d'accompagnement spécifiques et adéquats, tenant compte des vulnérabilités spécifiques des migrants concernés et ce ; dans le respect des droits de l'homme et de la dignité de la personne humaine ;

Renforcer la coopération en matière de réadmission des migrants irréguliers vers leurs pays d'origine sur la base de leur identification et selon des procédures fixées d'un commun accord, en accélérant l'émission des documents de voyage nécessaires, et ce dans le respect des droits de l'homme et de la dignité de la personne humaine;

Les Ministres de l'Intérieur, le Commissaire Européen en charge de la Migration des Affaires Intérieures et de la Citoyenneté, la Haute Représentante /Vice Présidente ainsi que le Ministre de l'Intérieur de l'Estonie assurant la Présidence du Conseil de l'Union Européenne, chargent les Hauts Fonctionnaires de surveiller la mise en œuvre des dispositions de la présente déclaration.

Les Ministres saluent la tenue de la troisième réunion ministérielle du Groupe de Contact qui se tiendra en Suisse. (EC 24-07-2017)

AFDB GRANTS TANZANIA TO DEVELOP NGOZI GEOTHERMAL STEAM FIELD

The AfDB has granted US$21.7mn to develop Tanzania's Ngozi geothermal steam field to transform national economy by achieving a sustainable growth for the country's energy sector

Tanzania's energy sector is looking for transformation with the Ngozi geothermal steam field in southwestern region

Tanzania received the fund through the bank's Climate Investment Funds' (CIF) Scaling-up Renewable Energy Programme (SREP). Under the programme, the country will receive a US$5mn loan and US$16.73mn grant from the AfDB to mitigate the high-risk nature of geothermal prospection and field development.

Tanzania has achieved significant economic and social progress for the past 20 years to be classified as one of the leading economic performers in the sub-Saharan African region. According to the AfDB, the country has showed crucial progress in transforming its energy sector through a diversified usage of technologies in its renewable resources.

The bank further noted that the geothermal energy is a promising technology for the country's energy sector, noting that Tanzania has around 15 geothermal sites with an estimated production capacity of 650MW.

"Today, we are assisting in the first step in the transformation of Tanzania's energy sector, a transformation that is being built on a sustainable energy source," said Leandro Azevedo, senior climate finance officer and CIF coordinator of AfDB.

He further added, "Developing geothermal capacity in Tanzania is an essential part of that transformation and we hope that this project's success will lead downstream to the installation of a 100MW power plant and help create the conditions for the development of other geothermal sites in the country."

The Ngozi geothermal steam field project involves exploratory test drilling and installing the required steam gathering infrastructure at the project site. The targeted 100MW generation aims to add to the country's energy mix to increase 823 GWh per year to the grid.

After completion, the project is expected to improve power supply and increase energy security which will be beneficial for the local households and businesses, thereby reducing Tanzania's dependence on Uganda, Zambia and Kenya for electricity import.(AR 18-07-2017)

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THE EU BANK AT A GLANCE

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Find out more about the latest results

The Investment Plan for Europe is delivering concrete results and encouraging a sustainable increase in investment, which has been low across Europe since the financial crisis.

Investing in forestry: Helping cash flow, but also violins and poetry

Trees grow every year, despite what the economy is doing, and that's why they are such a great investment. The EIB has recently invested in an experienced forest investment manager, helping to realise the potential of the privately owned forest plantations.

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT FUND AT A GLANCE

First social finance transaction in Italy to provide EUR 50 million for social enterprises

This new guarantee agreement allows Banca Etica to provide a total of EUR 50 million to 330 social entrepreneurs over the next five years, to both Spanish and Italian businesses. Social enterprises can receive loans at a reduced interest rate, with lower collateral requirements.

Crowdlending: EIB Group and Lendix join to step up financing for French, Spanish and Italian businesses

A EUR 90 million transaction will be entirely dedicated to the financing and development of French, Spanish and Italian small and medium-sized enterprises, facilitating crowdlending for retail investors as well as business leaders and project promoters looking for finance.

Pioneering social impact bond scheme in Europe supports integration in Finland

The EIF will make an investment of EUR 10 million into a social impact bond scheme that will help 2 500 to 3 700 migrants and refugees integrate into the Finnish labour market by offering training and other help in finding jobs.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EIB JULY BOARD

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Recently approved EIB projects
List of EIB projects
List of projects backed by the Investment Plan for Europe

UPCOMING EVENTS

Investment and Investment Finance. The	Madrid	08 Sept

Spanish Case		
Boosting investments in the Mediterranean Region	Cairo	13 Sept
2017 Congress of Regions of France	Orléans	28 Sept

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