

# MEMORANDUM

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## SUMMARY

South Africa :Vodacom wins government deal worth up to R5bn	Page 2
Swaziland: School re-opening in limbo due to water shortage	Page 2
Half of Swaziland's population vulnerable to starvation	Page 3
Economic forum on Africa opens in French capital	Page 3
Official obstacles stymie Nigeria's Zuckerbergs	Page 3
Government of Mozambique wants to make better use of silo system to improve national food reserves	Page 4
Ecobank Nigeria Launches new digital mastercard	Page 5
Tanzania-focused miner Kibo to work with GE on coal-to-power project	Page 5
Bank of Mozambique denies restrictions on foreign currency	Page 6
Swaziland soon to know its fate in AGOA	Page 6
Migration and refugees: EU publishes series of factsheets	Page 6
Mozambique's "Northern Corridor" expected to handle 22 million tonnes of coal from 2018	Page 7
Botswana moves to cut public service expenditure	Page 7
Human rights and democracy: EU annual report 2015 adopted	Page 8
Chinese company to build access roads to the new airport in Luanda, Angola	Page 8
Egypt, UK ministers discuss resumption of British flights to Sharm El Sheikh	Page 8
Mimica: Europe's new plan for Africa 'could reach €88 billion'	Page 9
CAR hosts cross-border meeting to deal with cholera outbreak	Page 11

## **SOUTH AFRICA :VODACOM WINS GOVERNMENT DEAL WORTH UP TO R5BN**



VODACOM, Africa's largest cellphone company by market value, has won an estimated R5bn government contract as Treasury seeks to cut costs, according to three people familiar with the matter. The tender is to supply as many as 1.3-million government employees for four years, starting on September 15, said the people, who asked not to be identified as details of the deal had not yet been made public.

If 400,000 government employees take up the service, the contract will be worth up to R5bn over the duration of the deal, one of the people said.

"Vodacom is honoured by the National Treasury's decision to appoint us as a partner to government to deliver on the all-important task of enabling government to connect and communicate efficiently," CEO Shameel Joosub said in e-mailed comments on Wednesday, without providing detail of the contract.

"Our substantial investment in infrastructure and innovative capability will now be at the disposal of the state."

The decision is intended to save Treasury money and have a reliable telecommunications supplier, according to one of the people.

Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan said in his budget speech in February that the reduction of government costs was a priority. The state could save R25bn a year through "belt tightening", he said, including R500m from changing cellphone policies.

For Vodacom, the deal will help increase its number of customers who pay for voice and data on a monthly basis, rather than pay-as-you go deals.

The Johannesburg-based company had 35.1-million SA subscribers at the end of June, of which 30.1-million were lower-spending, prepaying customers.

Vodacom is 65% owned by UK group Vodafone plc.

Its shares gained 1.2% by the close in Johannesburg on Wednesday, valuing it at R232bn. (Bloomberg 15-09-2016)

## **SWAZILAND: SCHOOL RE-OPENING IN LIMBO DUE TO WATER SHORTAGE**

As schools are due to re-open for the third term on Tuesday in Swaziland, teachers are not sure whether to accept pupils as there is no clean water available in most schools, APA reports on Monday.

The government had promised to erect boreholes in most schools around the capital Mbabane to counter the dry taps, but this has not been the case as there is not enough money to put up the boreholes.

Teachers, through their association, have expressed fear at allowing pupils into schools because there is likelihood of disease transmission due to poor hygiene.

Early in September, hospitals situated in Mbabane detected cases of an outbreak of bilharzia, which some people attributed to the ongoing shortage of water in the area.

There are about 20 schools around Mbabane, which essentially means that over 12, 000 pupils could be affected if teachers decided not to open schools.(APA 12-09-2016)

## HALF OF SWAZILAND'S POPULATION VULNERABLE TO STARVATION

The number of starving Swazis will grow from 300, 000 to 500, 000 in the next three months, says the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA).

Swaziland has a population of 1.1 million people, a third of which has been severely affected by drought El Nino, which has been described as the worst drought in 35 years.

NDMA has since launched a response plan with six areas of focus being education, health, nutrition, food security, agriculture and social protection.

"The plan takes a sustainable approach towards disaster risk reduction, outlining immediate actions and recommending long-term interventions," reads the report in part.

About 78, 000 people have already received relief through food distribution by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). (APA 12-09-2016)

## ECONOMIC FORUM ON AFRICA OPENS IN FRENCH CAPITAL

Over a thousand of government ministers, business leaders, and economic players from Europe, Africa and Asia are taking part in "Les Rencontres Africa 2016," which opened Thursday in Paris.

Considered as the largest economic event on Africa to be held in France, this meeting aims to "demonstrate and promote the vital role of France as a hub to Africa," the organizers said in a statement.

This two-day international meeting is also "a regular event, fundamentally useful for French and African companies, especially small and medium enterprises," the statement said.

Over 3,000 B2B meetings are scheduled during this event which will also be marked by a series of plenary sessions and a dozen workshops.(APA 22-09-2016)

## OFFICIAL OBSTACLES STYMIE NIGERIA'S ZUCKERBERGS



TWO events in the indefatigable city of Lagos have given young entrepreneurs cause to swing between celebration and despair in a matter of days.

The jubilation came with Mark Zuckerberg's surprise appearance in the city during his inaugural visit to Africa. The Facebook CE delivered an endorsement of Nigeria's prospects as a centre of innovation on the continent.

He praised the talent and energy of the millennial coders, software developers and tech incubator founders whom he met in Yaba, Lagos's boisterous tech hub. This, he said, "is where a lot of the future is going to be built".

After meeting President Muhammadu Buhari, Zuckerberg said he saw people in Nigeria doing what he did when he started Facebook: "Pushing through challenges, building things that you want to see in the world."

Some of them are trying to solve problems that successive governments have identified but failed to fix, from waste management to maternal mortality.

By contrast with this vote of confidence, a second event illustrated the scale of the challenges. Worse, it gave young business people reason to believe their biggest obstacle, as the economy sinks into recession, is often the government, and its inability to implement laws transparently.

One morning just after Zuckerberg left, local authorities arrived at a row of six new businesses that opened in 2016 in the district of Ikoyi. Officials informed staff that the entire strip would be demolished immediately.

By that afternoon, bulldozers had levelled stores including a bakery, a pharmacy, a dance studio and a juice bar. Photos on Instagram show the owners, all women, standing in front of the rubble having scrambled to haul their furniture and appliances out before demolition began.

"I was dumbfounded to see this place I have put so much investment in gone before my eyes in the space of a few minutes," says Ada Osakwe, founder of The Nuli Juice Company, who opened her flagship store just two months ago.

The owners of these businesses later learnt from the authorities that their landlord had been served with notices stating that the properties violated zoning laws.

Osakwe said she had obtained permits from the state government to serve food at her juice bar and café before opening her doors in June, and was not informed when she did so of any zoning problem with the property, on which she had paid a year's rent in advance.

Two days later, the state government announced it was removing "unplanned commercial centres" and "roadside restaurants" that have "distorted" government planning. "This is an ... ongoing operation to sanitise the environment," it said.

The failure to serve notice to the tenants themselves led to fury on social media and a wave of support for the afflicted businesses. Uber Lagos added an option to its app to allow its customers to order juice deliveries direct from Osakwe. Up to 30 staff face an uncertain future as their employers grapple with the costs of starting anew.

Amid its worst economic crisis in generations, Nigeria can ill-afford to squander jobs. Statistics released in August found that in the second quarter of 2016 49.5% of the youth workforce was "unemployed or underemployed".

Osakwe says she employed eight young people who earned 2.5 times the minimum wage.

In Abuja, the government is carrying out a similar campaign. Last week, it spray-painted 24-hour demolition notices on several businesses. Muna Okam, owner of Chloe's Cupcake Heaven, wrote on Instagram: "We've been in this building doing business for five years and you give us 24 hours notice at almost the close of business for demolition ... how much more are entrepreneurs supposed to take?"

The idea that the government is one of the hurdles that ambitious young people must clear would no doubt be an affront to Buhari's administration, which convened a "demo day" to promote entrepreneurs that coincided with the Zuckerberg visit.

Entrepreneurs confronted with the rubble of their demolished businesses will need more reassurance.(FT 19-09-2016)

## **GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE WANTS TO MAKE BETTER USE OF SILO SYSTEM TO IMPROVE NATIONAL FOOD RESERVES**

The Mozambican government announced it wants to boost the use of the grain silos system built in the country in order to create a food reserve that can provide grains to the neediest areas.

Mozambique currently has six silo complexes spread across the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Niassa, Nampula (north), Zambezia, Tete and Sofala (centre), with a storage capacity of around 70,000 tonnes of various crops.

The Minister of Industry and Trade, Max Tonela said the silos were used to less than 50% capacity.

Tonela also said there were great challenges in the distribution and sales process meaning that larger sales areas have bigger logistical challenges as there is often surplus production that is exported and in areas of greater consumption, such as Maputo, supply is ensured through exports from the Americas.

The minister also revealed that the Mozambican Grains Institute (ICM) would be reinstated this year taking into account the need for a new approach to the issue. (12-09-2016)

## ECOBANK NIGERIA LAUNCHES NEW DIGITAL MASTERCARD

Ecobank Nigeria has launched Ecobank MasterPass QR, which is a MasterCard global digital system that allows customers to pay for goods and services using mobile phones.

According to a statement by the bank on Sunday in Lagos, the innovative platform would also enable Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Nigeria to receive digital payments from millions of customers.

It added that the MasterPass QR makes electronic payments safe, simple and smart and improves customer experience with a clean front-end design and a built-in sophisticated and secure supporting technology.

It explained that payments are made by customers scanning a Quick Response code displayed at checkouts on their smartphones, or by entering a merchant identifier into their phones.

The statement quoted the Managing Director of Ecobank Nigeria, Mr. Charles Kie, as saying that the Ecobank Masterpass QR solution leverages smart technology that transforms mobile phones into safe and simple payment tools, and delivers services that will benefit all stakeholders in the payments ecosystem.

According to Kie, the new digital platform supports the Central Bank of Nigeria's cashless Nigeria and financial inclusion goals and that Ecobank MasterPass QR will help vital Medium and Small Enterprises sector connect more efficiently to the national and global economy.

Ecobank is the first to issue MasterPass in Nigeria, which reaffirms our undisputed pioneer position in bringing convenient international digital payment products to delight our customers as we were also the first to issue international MasterCard payment cards in Nigeria, the Group Executive, Consumer Banking, Ecobank Nigeria, Mr. Patrick Akinwuntan, said. (APA 12-09-2016)

## TANZANIA-FOCUSED MINER KIBO TO WORK WITH GE ON COAL-TO-POWER PROJECT



Mining exploration and development company Kibo is to work with multinational group General Electric on developing the Mbeya coal to power project in Tanzania.

Kibo is listed on the secondary exchanges in London (AIM) and Johannesburg (AltX), but operates in Tanzania, where it has gold, nickel, uranium and coal assets.

The Mbeya project, a thermal coal deposit at Rukwa, is its main focus.

A coal mining definitive feasibility study and a power pre-feasibility study are under way for the project, and an integrated bankable feasibility study report is expected soon.

Under the memorandum of understanding signed with GE, which Kibo announced on Sens on Friday, GE and its affiliates will supply equipment, technology and services to the power plant.

The companies are in talks to reach a binding agreement on their collaboration.

Kibo has an agreement with electric power construction company Sepco III of China, which will fund 50% of the development costs incurred to date, in exchange for the right to become the sole bidder to build the project's power plant. The first \$1.8m was received on September 5. (BD 16-09-2016)

## BANK OF MOZAMBIQUE DENIES RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN CURRENCY

The Bank of Mozambique (BM) denied in Maputo there were orders to restrict transactions in foreign currency, but noted that citizens can only withdraw foreign currency if it was available at retail banks.

A press release issued by the Central Bank gave assurances that there had been no changes to the 2009 foreign exchange law or the set of regulations that accompany it. The 2009 law liberalises transactions in foreign currency and allows whoever is residing in Mozambique or abroad, to open an account in foreign currency in commercial banks.

The circulation of banknotes and foreign currency is limited to their availability by commercial banks, whose import involves high costs in foreign currencies (transport and insurance), which Mozambique requires to deal with other priorities and urgent needs.

The central bank's statement also noted that mass use of cash in foreign currency in the country is not recommended as part of measures to combat money laundering and the financing of international terrorism, in line with international best practices.

The Bank of Mozambique also noted that the payment of salaries in foreign currency had no constraints of any kind, since the employer must order the transfer of funds to the its employees' accounts, within the domestic banking system (12-09-2016)

## SWAZILAND SOON TO KNOW ITS FATE IN AGOA

Swaziland has two weeks to know if it has regained its Africa Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) status for 2017 as US President Barak Obama is expected to announce during the 15th Annual US Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum on September 26, 2016 which countries in Sub-Saharan Africa will be eligible to benefit from the Act and which will be suspended for 2017.

Local newspapers have been running a statement from the AGOA Implementation Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee where it said the United States of America (USA) would host the 15th Annual US Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum on September 26, 2016.

The Theme of the forum is 'Maximizing AGOA now while preparing for the future beyond AGOA'.

"The AGOA legislation mandates the annual AGOA Forum to foster close economic ties between the United States and its partners in sub-Saharan Africa," reads the Times of Swaziland on Monday.

Other events that will take place along the forum will incorporate other stakeholders from the private sector, civil society, and the African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP).(APA 12-09-2016)

## MIGRATION AND REFUGEES: EU PUBLISHES SERIES OF FACTSHEETS



The European Union has published a series of factsheets related to its response to migration challenges, including a general factsheet on [EU migration policy](#) and one on its [Operations in the Mediterranean Sea](#).

The package also includes country specific factsheets such as '[Syria and the EU](#)', '[EU support to Jordan](#)', '[EU support to Lebanon](#)' and '[Tunisia and the EU](#)'. Other documents focusing on [EU support for](#)

[refugees in Turkey](#) and [EU emergency trust fund for Africa](#) are also part of the series. (EEAS 19-09-2016))

### **MOZAMBIQUE'S "NORTHERN CORRIDOR" EXPECTED TO HANDLE 22 MILLION TONNES OF COAL FROM 2018**

Starting in 2018 coal handling in Northern corridor in Mozambique will increase from 8 million to 22 million tonnes per year as a result of three addenda to contracts of the Northern Logistic Corridor (NLC) and the Northern Development Corridor (NDC).

The addenda were signed by the government of Mozambique, represented by the Transport and Communications Minister, Carlos Mesquita, mining company Vale Moçambique and port and rail manager Portos e Caminhos de Ferro de Moçambique to improve the transport capacity of the Northern Corridor and ensure the viability of investments of over US\$3 billion already made by concession-holders.

Under the agreements Brazil's Vale will have exclusive access to financing to ensure that the operations on the railway line between the Moatize coal mines in Tete province and the port of Nacala-a-Velha, in Nampula, "are more efficient and make the goods that use the route internationally competitive."

At the signing of addenda Mesquita said "the agreement even exceeds national logistical concerns and creates conditions for all these logistics to have a regional impact. In particular for Malawi which, in a way, has a strategic working relationship in this project."

The Northern Corridor project, led by Brazilian multinational Vale and by Caminhos de Ferro de Moçambique, connects Moatize, in Tete province and the port of Nacala-a-Velha, in Nampula, crossing through Malawi, over a distance of around 1,000 kilometres of new railway built by the consortium. (18-09-2016)

### **BOTSWANA MOVES TO CUT PUBLIC SERVICE EXPENDITURE**

Permanent secretary to the President, Carter Morupisi has urged Botswana's public service employees to trim down excess spending on activities that do not add value to government delivery machinery, the state-run DailyNews reported on Monday.

The paper reported that when addressing deputy permanent secretaries and directors of departments in the capital Gaborone recently Morupisi said that it was critical for them to be able to utilise the available resources and maximise the benefits in terms of the delivery machinery of government.

He reportedly said they should appreciate that government had not been able to meet budget provisions for past few years, hence they should avoid wastage.

Morupisi is quoted as saying that the revenues generated by government were not enough because there has been a bad patch in terms of the biggest revenue earner; being the minerals, which had significantly affected that which was at the disposal of government to run the affairs of the country.

He reportedly called on them to consider finding some new technologies that would assist in doing things better and quicker in service delivery.(APA 12-09-2016)

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY: EU ANNUAL REPORT 2015 ADOPTED



The European Union Council adopted the "country and regional issues" part of the EU annual report on human rights and democracy in the world in 2015 which complements the thematic part of the report published on 20 June 2016.

The 2015 annual report sets out the efforts of the EU, through the High Representative Federica Mogherini, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, Stavros Lambrinidis and the EU global network of delegations, to promote the universality of human rights across the world.

The "country and regional issues" section of the report provides a short overview of the human rights situation and covers EU policy support on the ground on a country by country basis. ( Council 21-09-2016)

[Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world in 2015: country and regional issues part](#)

[Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world in 2015: thematic part](#)

[Protection and promotion of human rights](#)

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## CHINESE COMPANY TO BUILD ACCESS ROADS TO THE NEW AIRPORT IN LUANDA, ANGOLA

The Ministry of Transport of Angola and Chinese company Tiesiju Engineering Group Co, Ltd signed a contract worth US\$695 million to build the network of access roads to the new Luanda International Airport.

Most of the funding, about US\$638 million, is intended for construction of the connection to the airport and the rest will be used to rebuild and expand the A4-Via Express section.

The new Luanda International Airport, which will have capacity to receive 13 million passengers per year, is located 40 kilometres southeast of the centre of the capital, in the municipality of Icolo e Bengo. The first phase of construction was completed in 2012 and the airport is scheduled to open at the end of 2017. (12-09-2016)

## EGYPT, UK MINISTERS DISCUSS RESUMPTION OF BRITISH FLIGHTS TO SHARM EL SHEIKH

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry on Tuesday made a telephone call to his British counterpart, Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson.

According to the spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry Ahmed Abu Zaid, the call was meant to address numerous issues, on top of them being the resumption of British flights to Sharm El-Sheikh, where Shoukry referred to the letter which he sent recently to his British counterpart, which dealt with the numerous technical visits carried out by British experts to Egyptian airports, and Egypt's keenness to ensure the implementation of all the comments made by the British side, for which Egypt expects a

prompt decision from the British side to resume flights so that British tourism to Egypt could return to normal.

The Foreign Ministry spokesperson added that the call covered the coordination of positions regarding a number of topics on the agenda of the UN Security Council and the General Assembly during its next session, in addition to the situation in Libya and efforts to narrow the differences in the positions of Libyan parties, in addition to the full implementation of the Sukhirat agreement. (APA 13-09-2016)

## MIMICA: EUROPE'S NEW PLAN FOR AFRICA 'COULD REACH €88 BILLION'



One of the keynote announcements of Jean-Claude Juncker's [State of the Union](#) address last week was the European External Investment Plan. EU development aid chief Neven Mimica gives the details in an interview with EurActiv.com

*Neven Mimica is EU Commissioner for International Development and Cooperation.*

*Mimica was interviewed by EurActiv.com's Matthew Tempest about how the new investment scheme will work.*

### **EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker announced a new “European External Investment Plan” in his State of the Union speech. What is it – and how will it work?**

The European External Investment Plan (EEIP) is an innovative approach to boost investments in Africa and EU Neighbourhood countries. These investments shall contribute to creating sustainable growth and inclusive jobs, particularly in socio-economic sectors such as sustainable energy or social infrastructure and support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

The EEIP consists of three complementary pillars: The first provides improved access to finance. At its heart lies a new European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD) which combines existing investment facilities with a new guarantee. This guarantee will be passed on to intermediary financing institutions, which in turn will lend support – via loans, guarantees, equity or similar products – to final beneficiaries, such as private companies.

The second pillar focusses on technical assistance in order to help develop financially attractive and mature projects. The third includes actions to improve the general business environment, e.g. by addressing good governance, fighting corruption, removing barriers to investment and market distortions.

With an input of €3.35 billion from the EU budget and the European Development Fund (EDF), the EEIP will support innovative guarantees and similar instruments in support of private investment, enabling it to mobilise up to €44 billion of investments. If member states and other partners match the EU's contribution, the total amount could reach €88 billion.

### **Is this separate from, or complementary to, the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, announced last year at the Valletta summit on migration?**

The EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa and the EU External Investment Plan are two separate instruments, whose objectives are complementary, but not identical to each other.

The EU Emergency Trust Fund was established at the Valletta Summit on 12 November 2015 with the aim of supporting all aspects of stability and to contribute to better migration management as well as addressing the root causes of destabilisation, forced displacement and irregular migration.

This will be done through programmes promoting resilience, economic and equal opportunities, security and development and addressing human rights' abuses. The Trust Fund is meant to complement existing EU instruments, national and regional frameworks, and bilateral programs of EU member states

by providing a swift and flexible answer to migration-related challenges, as reflected in its character as an emergency instrument.

The External Investment Plan instead pursues a mid- to long-term perspective. Its primary objective is the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty and addressing the economic root causes of irregular migration. It will also contribute to other long-term objectives such as fostering sustainable and inclusive economic, social and environmental development ; or consolidating and supporting democracy, the rule of law, good governance, human rights, gender equality.

**Have you had any indication – or even a commitment – from the EU member states that they will step up to the plate and match the EU’s contributions?**

Addressing the root causes of irregular migration in our partner countries is and must be a common endeavour of the EU and our member states, in close cooperation with other partners.

We have a keen interest to closely cooperate with the member states in designing and implementing the new External Investment Plan and trigger very substantial additional investments in our partner countries.

We have thus, of course, consulted closely with member states even before presenting the proposal. It fully involves member states in the governing structure of the new European Fund for Sustainable Development, irrespective of whether or not they contribute financially. But of course, our ambition is to attract significant contributions from their side.

The proposal, therefore, sets out important incentives for such contributions: Member states can contribute in cash, but also in guarantees.

They would take only the second-loss risk, whereas the first-loss risk would be shouldered by the EU. And they could earmark their contribution both thematically and geographically.

Based on these proposals and the discussions we had so far with member states, I am very confident will make significant contributions.

**‘Blending’ is a very fashionable buzzword in the aid and development sector. But how do you answer the charge that it is the EU (and thus EU taxpayers) insuring or subsidising Western corporations against losses, while they make profits from some of the poorest countries on earth?**

Some of the main challenges for developing countries remain achieving inclusive and sustainable growth and creating jobs in all countries. As regards foreign direct investment (FDI) going to developing countries, only 6% goes to fragile countries, pushing down the investment per capita to a level almost five times lower than in other developing countries.

Similarly, the cost to start a business is almost three times higher in fragile countries than in non-fragile countries. Growth in Africa has slowed to the weakest levels since 2009, notwithstanding continued demographic growth.

Combined with significant security issues, this trend exacerbates poverty. To achieve sustainable and inclusive development, the active involvement of the private sector is vital, as was confirmed by the world’s leaders in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development in 2015.

It is essential to highlight that the EFSD Guarantee against losses will only be provided if investments would not happen otherwise. Before supporting a project, the Commission will verify that its participation will add value to the operation, by addressing market gaps or market failures that may exist in a partner country or a market. In order to be eligible, the investment proposals will have to fulfil certain criteria, such as contributing to economic and social development.

A particular focus will lie, amongst others, on sustainability and job creation, particularly for youth and women, and dealing with addressing the root causes of irregular migration. Socio-economic sectors will be targeted in particular, for example, infrastructure including energy, water, transport, ICT, environment, social infrastructure or finance in favour of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

**What are the criteria for deciding if the EEIP is a success? How will you measure it?**

The EEIP will be a success if it delivers the envisaged additional investments and if these investments translate into sustainable growth and jobs in the partner countries. It will be a success if it helps us making sure that migration in the future becomes a choice, rather than being a necessity.

The precise criteria and indicators will be defined through the governance structure of the new EFSD for the different investment areas and projects.

The results will be reported annually to the European Parliament and the Council. We will also publish an annual activity report providing an overview of the financed projects. In addition, for each operation, a

communication plan will be prepared by the selected eligible financiers to present the projects and results.

As from the first projects, we want to see and analyse in a fully transparent way, whether the EEIP delivers.

**In the Council proposal, the budget for 2017 for global Europe is dropping by 10%. How is the Commission going to finance this new initiative on development (and the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa) with such a tight budget?**

The funding which will be used to finance and attract investments from other sources will come from the EU budget and other sources, including the European Development Fund. It will consist of EU funds totalling €3.35 billion until 2020. Additional funds could come from the member states and other partners. If member states match the EU contribution to the guarantee, this would bring the total investment volume to €62 billion.

If they also match the EU contribution to the Blending, it would generate total investments of up to €88 billion.

**Member states have made insignificant contributions to the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa so far, less than €90 million euros in total. Do you expect more contribution in the future?**

I would not agree that the contributions from member states to the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa received so far are insignificant. 25 Member States have confirmed their participation, as well as two non-EU donors (Norway and Switzerland). Netherlands is contributing €15 million, Belgium and Italy €10 million, and Denmark €6 million. These are significant amounts.

But indeed the contributions are very far away from matching the contribution at EU level. We are in close discussions with member states on the advantages of the Trust Fund which pools together resources from different sources and ensures a strategic, comprehensive and at the same time flexible approach with rapid project implementation.

I hope that this will convince member states about the merits of providing additional contributions.

**The Emergency Trust Fund for Africa is also open for participation to the private sector. Did you receive significant contributions?**

Private entities can contribute to the EU Trust Fund for Africa (through donations), according to its Constitutive Agreement. For the time being, no donations from the private sector have been received. (EurActiv 21-09-2016)

## **CAR HOSTS CROSS-BORDER MEETING TO DEAL WITH CHOLERA OUTBREAK**

The representation of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the Central African Republic on Tuesday in Bangui gathered CAR and Congolese health authorities to develop a common roadmap to fight the cholera epidemic raging along the Oubangui River on the border of the two countries.

According to the WHO representative in CAR, Michel Yao, the epidemic is growing on the other side of the river in the DR Congo.

This has a negative impact on the fight against this epidemic in CAR because of the movement of the population.

“The cholera came into the country from the DRC,” Yao noted.

The meeting is an important opportunity for joint efforts to deal with the epidemic.

Among the measures adopted to fight against cholera in these countries there is increased awareness on hygiene and sanitation which proved effective in the regression of the disease in CAR.

The cholera outbreak was declared in CAR in August 2016.

According to the disease situation in CAR, 249 cases were reported with 19 deaths. The epidemic has affected many people living along the Oubangui River. (APA 13-09-2016)

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 African Business Council, SwissCham-Africa and other organisations.

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