

MEMORANDUM

N° 193/2015 | 19/11/2015

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UFM FULLY SUPPORTS FINAL DECLARATION OF EU-AFRICA MIGRATION SUMMIT

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) has expressed its strong support to the focus given by the final declaration of the EU-Africa Summit on Migration, held in Malta, on 11-12 November, to the root causes of migration and the need to address them in a comprehensive approach through development, job creation and investment opportunities.

Through its activities, the UfM directly contributes to the objectives set by the Valletta Summit in its final conclusions. It supports 33 regional projects worth a total of €5 billion focused on youth employability, inclusive growth, women's empowerment, sustainable development and infrastructures.

The UfM Secretary General Fathallah Sijilmassi, who was invited as observer to the Summit, welcomed the agreement on creating the "EU Emergency Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa". *"[This] demonstrates a strong will to invest in the development of concrete actions and to foster the synergies between different institutions. The UfM will continue to contribute actively to these objectives,"* he said. (EU Neighbourhood 13-11-2015)
EU-Africa Summit on Migration - [Action plan](#)

SHELL'S SUBSIDIARY SEALS DEAL ON CLEANER, SAFER ENERGY IN NIGERIA

Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company (SNEPCO) says it has signed an agreement with Project Gaia Prospects Limited (PGPL) for the conduct of a pilot study on the use of ethanol cook stoves in Nigeria, said to be a cleaner and safer way of cooking.

A statement by SNEPCO on Sunday said that it would provide 2,500 clean cook stoves and 15,000 canisters for distribution to households in Lagos, while PGPL would ensure the supply of ethanol fuel blended with methanol during the one year study.

According to the statement, the ethanol clean cook stoves project is aimed at reducing the mortality associated with indoor air pollution by providing cleaner and healthier cooking alternative to kerosene, firewood and charcoal.

It added that the Global Alliance for Clean Cook Stoves estimates that household air pollution contributes to 70,000 premature deaths every year and affects 127 million people in Nigeria.

Speaking at signing ceremony, the SNEPCo Managing Director, Mr. Bayo Ojulari, said: "We're pleased to promote a safer cooking system in Nigeria as part of efforts to encourage access to a better source of energy.

"There is a compelling case for action on a better and cleaner cooking method. I'll be taking a personal interest to ensure the agreement we've just signed delivers on all promises and opens the door to safer cooking in Nigerian households."

In his remarks, the Director of Project Gaia International, Harry Stokes, said: "We started this journey with Shell International in 2001 and executed the first project three years later in Brazil and Haiti, with support from the Shell Foundation.

"We then went to Ethiopia where the government has supported the use of ethanol clean cook stoves in all refugee camps, because of the inherent health benefits.

"We're happy that the project is now in Nigeria with the active support of SNEPCo." (APA 09-11-2015)

CANADIAN DELEGATION IN LESOTHO TO DISCUSS TRADE ISSUES

Lesotho's ministries of Small Business Development and Trade and Industry are hosting a Canadian delegation from the Trade Facilitation Office (FTO) for a four day visit in the country, APA learns here Monday.

Amandine Gakima of the FTO from Canada said they have already inspected Basotho products and handicrafts from the Federation of Lesotho Women Entrepreneurs (FLWE) to see whether they meet the standards to be sold on the Canadian market or not.

Gakima revealed to APA that they are working with developing African countries to help them sell their products on the Canadian market and that they also help small and medium businesses by providing them with information on how to meet international market standards by giving them ideas about what the international market expects to see in their products, especially in Canada.

She continued that the Canadian market needs original products which do not contain impurities.

Gakima pointed out that they also expect different designs from the Canadians saying she was impressed with the products she had seen; "they just needed some adjustments."(APA 09-11-2015)

BOTSWANA: SADC MINISTERS TO DISCUSS REGIONAL INDUSTRIALIZATION

Botswana will this week host the 27th meeting of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Committee of Ministers of Trade (CMT) in Gaborone to discuss the Implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap, APA learns here Wednesday.

Trade and Industry Minister Vincent Seretse is expected to chair the meeting scheduled for Friday as Botswana is the current chair of SADC.

According to the permanent secretary in the ministry Peggy Serame, the meeting would also discuss the implementation of the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) which prioritises industrialization; as well as the implementation and consolidation of the SADC Free Trade Area; and monitoring, reporting and evaluation system for the Protocol on Trade and SADC Trade in Services Negotiations framework.

The meeting would also provide the ministers with an opportunity to further reflect on developments regarding preparations for the 10th World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference scheduled to take place in Nairobi, Kenya in December. (APA 18-11-2015)

ANGOLAN BANK TO SET UP BRANCH IN NAMIBIA

The Bank of Namibia said it has permitted the Angolan bank, Banco Privado Atlantico Namibia to set up branches in the country effective as from 1 November 2015, reports said on Wednesday.

The central bank it has granted the foreign bank a Certificate of Authorization to the bank, becoming the first bank from Angola to open a branch in Namibia.

Bank of Namibia said this development will pave the way for better business transactions between the two southern African neighbours.

Headquartered in capital Luanda, the Banco Privado Atlantico's was established in 2006 and has also branches in Lisbon, Portugal.

The Angolan bank and Botswana based Letshego Holdings were issued provisional banking licenses to operate in Namibia in 2014.

The central bank recently announced that another unnamed bank has also expressed interest in the Namibian commercial banking sector. (APA 18-11-2015)

L'UNION EUROPÉENNE APPROUVE LE VERSEMENT À LA TUNISIE D'UNE ASSISTANCE MACROFINANCIÈRE D'UN MONTANT DE €100 MILLIONS

La Commission européenne a approuvé, au nom de l'Union européenne, le versement à la Tunisie de €100 millions supplémentaires sous la forme de prêts. Il s'agit de la deuxième tranche du programme d'assistance macrofinancière (AMF) de €300 millions en faveur de la Tunisie, approuvé par l'UE en mai 2014. La première tranche, également d'un montant de €100 millions, a été versée le [7 mai 2015](#). Le Commissaire **Pierre Moscovici**, a déclaré: *"L'Union européenne continue de soutenir la Tunisie en ces temps difficiles. L'économie tunisienne a démontré sa résilience face à un climat économique extérieur difficile et aux répercussions des tragiques attentats terroristes. Nous nous tenons aux côtés des Tunisiens et savons qu'ils nous soutiennent aussi. La Tunisie poursuit un ambitieux programme de réformes pour parvenir à un modèle de croissance plus durable et plus inclusive. L'Union européenne reste déterminée à soutenir le pays dans cette voie."* Le [programme d'assistance macrofinancière](#) s'inscrit dans le cadre des efforts plus larges déployés par l'UE et d'autres bailleurs de fonds internationaux pour aider la Tunisie à surmonter ses difficultés économiques. La Tunisie est confrontée à la morosité de la conjoncture économique extérieure, à l'instabilité régionale et à des menaces pesant sur sa sécurité intérieure. L'AMF contribue à la réalisation du programme d'ajustement et de réformes économiques convenu entre la Tunisie et le Fonds monétaire international (FMI) (dans le cadre de l'accord de confirmation) en juin 2013. Son versement est subordonné à la mise en œuvre d'un certain nombre de mesures de politique économique prévues dans un protocole d'accord. Cette assistance vient s'ajouter à [d'autres formes de soutien](#) accordées par l'UE à la Tunisie, dont plus de €800 millions versés sous la forme de subventions depuis la révolution de 2011, ainsi que des prêts importants octroyés par la Banque européenne d'investissement. (EC)

ANGOLA'S COMMERCIAL BANKING SECTOR SEES WAVE OF MERGERS

The merger between Banco Privado Atlântico (BPA) and Millennium Angola is expected to start a wave of mergers in the commercial banking sector in Angola, with the aim of overcoming adversity such as lower profitability of the business, according to international analysts.

The BPA/Millennium Angola merger, which will create the fifth largest Angolan bank by assets, was announced in October in order to ensure growth in an adverse climate and respond to changes in European supervision, which penalised Portuguese banks exposed to Angola, and this is expected to be the first of many mergers.

The Economist Intelligence Unit points out in its latest report on Angola that this was the first time that two Angolan banks merged and recalled that Banco Privado Atlântico had been negotiating a similar transaction with the subsidiary of Russian bank VTB.

"With profitability retreating and other challenges that Angolan banks face, the sector's consolidation is likely through mergers," said the EIU.

The 2015 Banking under Analysis report published in October by Deloitte, revealed an increase in assets of Angolan banks, but a decline in profits of 50 percent, penalised by the adverse economic climate facing the country since oil prices began to decline.

Despite the adversities in banking, including an increase in bad debt, Angolan banks continued to expand internally and regionally, two new banks have started operating in the country and there were significant increases in the use of electronic payments and the issuance of debit and credit cards.

The BIC bank, controlled by Angolan billionaire Isabel dos Santos, recently started operating in Namibia and also opened an office in South Africa.

Analysts have long warned of the imminent consolidation of operations in Angola's banking sector, and the next is expected to start the BFA, controlled by Portugal's BPI, in which Isabel dos Santos has almost 20 percent.

The businesswoman's initial plans, according to the Africa Monitor Intelligence newsletter, included taking control of BFA, in which she has owned 49 percent since late 2008, and merge it with BIC, creating the stand out largest commercial bank in Angola and with a regional dimension.

The implementation of European rules to the exposure it has to Banco de Fomento Angola led BPI to announce in December a decrease in its capital ratio, which has an impact on all its financial activity.

The penalty stems from the European Commission's decision to exclude Angola from the list of countries with regulation and supervision equivalent to the European Union.

AA recent report by the Eaglestone consultancy said having 29 banks in the Angolan market was "unsustainable" and predicted "several short to medium term consolidation movements."

The drivers of consolidation, it said, would be foreign players, as well as the need for banks to increase in size or to meet new and more stringent capital requirements and change the current shareholding structure of Angolan banks.

In banks such as BIC, Banco de Negócios Internacional, Banco Comercial do Huambo and Banco Valor, managers are still major shareholders, and their is room to find an international partner or even to sell a stake directly. (16-11-2015)

CHINESE LEADER DUE IN ZIMBABWE IN DECEMBER

Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to visit Zimbabwe in December on a mission to strengthen bilateral ties between Harare and Beijing, President Robert Mugabe said Tuesday.

Mugabe is quoted by the state-run Herald as saying that Xi was due in Harare on a two-day state visit ahead of the Forum for China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit scheduled for neighbouring South Africa in early December.

We actually await the visit with great interest, and when he visits us we shall be discussing some of the projects and programmes we would want China to assist us in undertaking, Mugabe is quoted as telling journalists on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Turkey.

This will be the second state visit to Zimbabwe by a Chinese president since Jiang Zemin in 1996.

African and Chinese leaders will meet for the Second FOCAC Summit in Johannesburg from 4-5 December, to be held under the theme: "Africa-China Progressing Together: Win-Win Cooperation for Common Development". (APA 16-11-2015)

UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN: MINISTERS COME TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN REGIONAL COOPERATION IN MARITIME ECONOMY

EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Karmenu **Vella** is participating in the first Ministerial Conference of the [Union for the Mediterranean](#), today in Brussels. Ministers in charge of Maritime Affairs from the 43 countries comprising the Union for the Mediterranean, are committing to closer cooperation to promote growth, jobs and investments deriving from the marine and maritime sectors. A [joint declaration](#) to be signed by Ministers will give the political mandate for an effective and result-oriented cooperation on blue economy and maritime governance in the Mediterranean.

Commissioner **Vella** welcomed the initiative: *"Constructive cooperation can help bring stability to the region. Our joint commitment, under the agenda for blue growth, jobs and innovation, can at least contribute to a more secure and prosperous future for the people of the Mediterranean"*. (EC)

ANGOLA AND HONG KONG ARE LIKELY TO HAVE DIRECT AIR LINK

In future there may be a direct air link between Hong Kong and Angola given the increase in tourist flows and business seen recently, said the Consul General of Angola in Hong Kong.

Cupertino Gourgel told English-language newspaper China Daily, which published a few pages dedicated to the 40th anniversary of Angola's independence, that in the last five years young Angolans had been visiting Hong Kong in unprecedented numbers.

The Consul General mentioned that, while some of these young people have been receiving higher education in Hong Kong universities, the Angolan designer Alex Kangala participated in Hong Kong Fashion Week and dance group Batoto Yeto has performed in the territory on two occasions.

Gourgel also mentioned the important role that Hong Kong has played in the relationship between Angola and China, "facilitating and contributing to yet another chapter of China-Angola partnership that looks very promising".

The Consul General recalled that the Angola Sovereign Fund planned to diversify its portfolio with investments in industrial sectors and in various assets and with this in mind "Hong Kong capital markets offer immense versatility, as well as access into the Chinese market".

"With investors from the Chinese mainland, the Fund is exploring projects both in Angola and the rest of Africa," he told China Daily.

Gourgel, Consul General of Angola in Hong Kong for the last four years, stressed that the strategic importance of the city in the Sino-Angolan relationship cannot be underestimated.

"China is a strategic partner for the development of Angola, with well-defined policy between both countries. Naturally, the Hong Kong SAR has a pivotal role in this accord," Gourgel said.

Bilateral trade between Hong Kong – where some of the largest Chinese companies doing business in Angola are headquartered – has grown significantly in the last three to five years, which Gourgel said was due to the consulate's efficiency and the increased number of tourists and business travellers between Angola and Hong Kong. (17-11-2015)

EGYPT: NEGOTIATIONS OVER ETHIOPIA'S DAM TECHNICAL STUDIES A SUCCESS

Negotiations in Cairo with Sudan and Ethiopia over a dispute regarding the technical studies related to Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance Dam have been a success, according to Egypt's Water Resources and Irrigation Minister Hossam Moghazi.

Moghazi said Monday that a ninth round of negotiations between the three countries, which concluded Sunday night, successfully addressed disagreements over the two French and Dutch consultancy firms they assigned to assess consequences of the dam which Egypt and Sudan fear could affect their share of the Nile water.

Disagreements between the two technical offices understandably prompted both to offer to conduct separate studies, a proposal rejected by Egypt which insists on a joint study agreed upon in an August resolution.

A meeting by the ministers of irrigation and foreign affairs from the three countries is now scheduled to take place in Sudan between November 21 and 23, said Moghazi, adding that the meeting will host representatives from both technical offices to resolve the disagreement.

During the meetings, Moghazi expressed Egypt's concern over Ethiopia's fast pace in the dam's construction while talks about the technical studies are still ongoing. Ethiopia however stressed that current negotiations would not mean a halt to construction.

An agreement signed in March by Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan, which seeks to ensure no harm is caused to any country's water security, is seen by some observers as an official Egyptian-Sudanese recognition of the Ethiopian dam. (APA 09-11-2015)

UFM LAUNCHES NEW 'BLUE ECONOMY' COOPERATION INITIATIVE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Ministers in charge of maritime affairs from the 43 countries of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) have committed to closer cooperation on blue economy and maritime governance two weeks before the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 21 in Paris.

The launch of this new Blue Economy initiative falls within the framework of the global UfM sustainable development strategy, which entails activities in the fields of energy, climate change, urban development and water and environment.

Gathered in Brussels on the occasion of the first UfM Ministerial Conference on Blue Economy, participants stressed the need for the Mediterranean region to make the best use of the potential of the blue economy to promote growth, jobs and investments and reduce poverty. They noted that clean and healthy seas are drivers and enablers for national and regional economies and advocated building a clear vision for the sustainable and integrated development of marine and maritime sectors at national and sea basin levels. (EU Neighbourhood 17-11-2015)

SADC DELEGATION ARRIVES IN LESOTHO TO ASSESS SECURITY SITUATION

A five-member Southern African Development Community (SADC) delegation is in Lesotho to assess the state of security in the country before the release of the report of the SADC Commission of Inquiry that was established to investigate circumstances leading to the death of Lieutenant General Maaparankoe Mahao, APA learns here Wednesday.

The press secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Motumi Ralejoe said the delegation members come from Mozambique and Botswana.

Ralejoe said the President of Mozambique Filipe Nyusi in his capacity as the chairman of the SADC organ of Politics and Security has sent the delegation which is expected to accomplish its mandate by Saturday.

He said the delegation is expected to meet Lesotho's ministers of Police, Security, Foreign Affairs as well as the Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organisations. (APA 11-11-2015)

REVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY (ENP): STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS FOR A STRONGER NEIGHBOURHOOD

The European Commission and the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy have unveiled today the main lines of the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), spelling out the Union's renewed approach to its eastern and southern neighbours. The review follows broad consultations with Member States, partner countries, international organisations, social partners, civil society and academia.

"A stronger partnership with our neighbours is key for the European Union, while we face many challenges within our borders and beyond. The terrorist attacks in Paris on Friday, but also recent attacks in Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey and Iraq, show once more that we are confronted with threats that are global and have to be tackled by the international community united. We have to build together a safer environment, try to solve the many crises of our common region, support the development and the growth of the poorest areas, and address the root causes of migration. This is precisely the purpose of the current review of the ENP which will promote our common values and interests, and will also engage partners in increased cooperation in security matters. The measures set out today seek to find ways to strengthen together the resilience of our and our partners' societies, and our ability to effectively work together on our common purposes," said High Representative/Vice President **Federica Mogherini**.

"Our most pressing challenge is the stabilisation of our neighbourhood. Conflicts, terrorism and radicalisation threaten us all. But poverty, corruption and poor governance are also sources of insecurity. That is why we will refocus relations with our partners where necessary on our genuinely shared common interests. In particular economic development, with a major focus on youth employment and skills will be key," added Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, **Johannes Hahn**.

Stabilisation, differentiation and ownership

The ENP will take stabilisation as its main political priority in this mandate. Differentiation and greater mutual ownership will be further key elements of the new ENP, recognising that not all partners aspire to comply with EU rules and standards, and reflecting the wishes of each country concerning the nature and scope of its partnership with the EU. The EU will uphold and continue to promote universal values through the ENP, seeking more effective ways to promote democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms and rule of law.

Key sectors

The new ENP will mobilise efforts to support inclusive economic and social development; creating job opportunities for youth will be among key measures of economic stabilisation. There will be a new focus on stepping up work with partners countries in the security sector, mainly in the areas of conflict-prevention, counter-terrorism and anti-radicalisation policies. Safe and legal mobility on the one hand and tackling irregular migration, human trafficking and smuggling on the other are further priorities. Finally, greater attention will be paid to working with partners on energy security and climate action.

More flexibility, effectiveness and a new partnership approach

The EU is offering to refocus relations with its neighbours in order to address the political priorities regarded by both sides as the basis of the partnership. This option will be discussed with partners, and is key to increasing their sense of ownership. The aim is also to involve Member states more intensively in the definition and implementation of policy in neighbourhood countries.

The new ENP will introduce some new working methods, including the abolition of the traditional annual package of country reports. Reporting will now be more tailor-made to the nature and working calendar of each relationship.

The new ENP will seek to deploy the available financial resources in a more flexible manner, so that the EU can react more swiftly to new challenges in the neighbourhood. Stronger engagement with civil society, social partners and with youth, is foreseen.

On a regional level, the Eastern Partnership will be further strengthened in line with commitments at the Riga Summit in 2015. The Union for the Mediterranean can play an enhanced role in supporting cooperation between southern neighbours. The new ENP will also seek to involve other regional actors, beyond the neighbourhood, where appropriate, in addressing regional challenges.

Next steps

In the coming months, the proposals unveiled today in the Joint Communication, will be discussed with Member States and partner countries, with a view to jointly determine new priorities and the shape of future relations.

Background:

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was launched in 2004, to help the EU support and foster stability, security and prosperity in the countries closest to its borders. The EU remains committed to these goals, but events of recent years have demonstrated the need for a new approach, a re-prioritisation and an introduction of new ways of working.

The review, proposed by President Juncker and requested by EU Member States, was subject to a public consultation which has brought over 250 contributions from Member States, partner governments, EU institutions, international organisations, social partners, civil society, business, think tanks, academia and other members of the public. This comprehensive response confirms the need for change in the ENP both in substance and in methodology.(EC 18-11-2015)

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY REVIEWED AND EXPLAINED

Why a review of the ENP policy?

Since its launch in 2004, the ENP has evolved considerably. Over time, our offer was stepped up significantly, to include visa free regimes, Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas offering massive access to the EU market, the possibility to participate in EU programmes and much more. But there have also been radical changes in a large number of the countries that surround the EU. We see conflicts and political tension in the region, which also affect the EU.

We have conducted this review in order to propose how the EU and its neighbours can build more effective partnerships in the Neighbourhood.

During the consultation, most interlocutors wished to see some form of a common policy framework for the eastern and southern neighbourhood. However there was a clear demand for change, with more tailor-made, more differentiated partnerships between the EU and each of its neighbouring partners to reflect different ambitions, abilities and interests.

What does the new focus on 'stabilisation' mean?

- The EU's own stability is built on democracy, human rights and the rule of law and the new ENP will take stabilisation as its main political priority in this mandate.
- When the ENP was launched, the primary goal was the promotion of political and economic reforms, jointly agreed with partner countries and supported by EU assistance. Today, a number of our partner countries are subject to threats that hinder reform and weaken state institutions.
- More effective ways will be sought to promote accountable and just governance. Economic development (and in particular the prospects for young people) will be prioritised and highlighted as a key to stabilising societies in the neighbourhood. A new component of security will be set up, given that during the consultations held before the summer break on the ongoing ENP review we heard strong calls from stakeholders asking the EU to do more on security.

What does 'differentiation' mean?

- Differentiation implies that we will move away from the 'one size fits all' approach and develop partnerships that are tailor made with each of our neighbourhood partners to reflect different ambitions and interests.

What are you doing on economic development?

- Economic and social development should be at the heart of the EU's contribution to stabilising the neighbourhood and building partnerships. This is key to developing the country's economic resilience. The reviewed ENP will focus on enhancing economic governance, and supporting structural reforms for improved competitiveness.
- The modernisation of the economy, fostering innovation, the creation of jobs and boosting skills and promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion are other key aspects.

What are you proposing on employment and education?

- We propose to focus on jobs and skills, particularly for young men and women.
- We will step up support for Erasmus +, including a higher level of funding.
- We will create new opportunities to support vocational education and training.
- We will also promote international skills migration ('brain circulation') through incentive schemes for people who have studied or acquired skills in Europe to return to their home country (new 'Startback Fund').

What are you going to do on the migration crisis?

- The strong interest of partners in greater mobility towards the EU is confirmed by the consultation, which took place at a moment of major flows of migrants and refugees often transiting neighbouring countries. The ENP will reflect an intensified cooperation on both regular and irregular migration.
- We will seek to:
 - Increase cooperation on root causes of migration;
 - Improve cooperation on returns;
 - Increase support for those receiving and assisting refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs);
 - Increase cooperation with partners beyond the neighbourhood.

What is the new security dimension about?

- The ENP review is a major opportunity to significantly step up our security related cooperation with neighbouring partner countries – in order to better fulfil the objectives of the ENP, namely the support of stability, security, and prosperity in the neighbourhood.
- Today, a number of our partner countries are subject to threats that hinder reform and weaken state institutions. Today's conflicts present a risk of violence spreading in the neighbourhood and beyond.
- Given specific security challenges our partners are facing, we will focus on enhancing cooperation on security sector reform. An increasingly pressing priority will also be border security. Additionally, as set out in the European Agenda on Security, our efforts will prioritise tackling terrorism and preventing radicalisation; disrupting organised crime; and fighting cybercrime, in full compliance with international law, including international human rights law.
- Support to partner countries on the security dimension will be firmly grounded in key principles such as respect of fundamental freedoms and human rights, good governance, democratic principles and the rule of law.

Will the ENP Review deal with the threat of terrorism?

- The threat of terrorism and radicalisation is affecting both Europe and its neighbours. The new ENP will take stabilisation as its main political priority. In matters where the EU is competent, it will reach out to partner country authorities with a view to substantially increase cooperation on security matters.
- Anti-radicalisation strategies will be key in this context. We will engage more on policies for young people, in particular on education and employment. Involving civil society, especially youth organisations, will be crucial.
- The existing Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) and its recently established Centre of Excellence will be a crucial platform for exchange and cooperation. Tackling broader issues such as ineffective justice, gender inequality, hate speech, youth unemployment, and illiteracy will all also be part of a wider de-radicalisation effort.
- In addition, we propose to increase work with partner countries on counter-terrorism activities, including the fight against organised crime and the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons.
- We will seek to improve judicial and police cooperation with partner countries; work with Europol, Interpol, and Eurojust to build further law enforcement capacity in neighbourhood countries, better judicial cooperation, and facilitate information exchange.

What about the human rights agenda?

- The EU will engage with all partners in an inclusive dialogue on human rights and democracy issues, including gender, covering also areas where experiences may differ. Human rights and democracy will continue to be an agenda item in our political dialogue with all partners in mutually agreed formats.

Which funds are available for reviewed ENP?

- The EU has committed substantial resources to support the major stabilisation challenge in the neighbourhood, with over €15 billion being available through the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) over the period 2014-20.

Will there be any reporting?

- There will no longer be a single set of progress reports on all countries simultaneously. Instead the EU will seek to develop a new style of assessment, focusing specifically on meeting the goals agreed with partners.
- These reports will be timed to provide the basis for a political exchange of views in the relevant high-level meetings with partner countries, such as Association/Cooperation Councils.
- In addition, regular reports will track developments in the neighbourhood. These reports will contain information on fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, gender equality and human rights issues.

Is the ENP review changing EU's approach to the Eastern Partnership and the Union for the Mediterranean?

- No. The 2015 EaP Summit in Riga listed the strengthening of institutions and good governance, mobility and people-to-people contacts, market opportunities and interconnections as shared priorities which will be taken forward with partners, including in the multilateral framework of the EaP.
- Regional cooperation in the Southern neighbourhood has seen progress through the Union for the Mediterranean. The organisation has proved to be a valuable forum for political and economic discussion. The EU will give priority, wherever suitable, to the UfM in its regional cooperation efforts.(EC 18-11-2015)

NIGERIA: MASSIVE FRAUD IN MILITARY WORRIES BUHARI

President Muhammadu Buhari has criticized the Nigerian military hierarchy for being indifferent if not condoning a rash of fraud over the failed procurement of weapons and other combat gears to tackle the ongoing insurgency by the militant sect Boko Haram in the north-east of the country. According to a damning report whose details were leaked to the media on Wednesday, deals for the procurement of weapons involved \$5.3 billion which disappeared, allegedly siphoned off by senior officials in the Nigerian army which is reputed to have one of the biggest military budgets in Africa.

Speaking in Abuja late on Tuesday shortly after being handed the report his government had commissioned to a 13-member committee established to investigate corruption in the military over the past few years, Buhari said Nigerian troops have been taking to the battlefield against the insurgents literally unharmed thereby putting them and a multitude of other lives at risk.

He claimed that many Nigerian front-line soldiers had died fighting the insurgents who may have been alive if they were not denied the requisite weapons to tackle the militants thanks to a corruption network in the army that was steeped in fraud linked to the procurement of arms involving some 53 failed contracts.

513 contracts were forked out for the procurement of four Alpha jets, 12 helicopters, bombs, ammunition and other hardware.

It is disappointing that those entrusted with the security of this great nation were busy using proxies to siphon the national treasury, while innocent lives were wasted daily," Buhari lamented.

Buhari, a former military ruler of the early 1980s described the report's findings as extremely worrying happening at a period when government troops have been engaging Boko Haram fighters in the three

northeastern states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa without military equipment and ammunition.

The report comes following the sacking of Buhari's national security adviser Sambo Dasuki, whom it claimed had instructed the central bank to transfer \$132m and another ₦10m to some specific accounts in West Africa, Britain and the United States without contractual evidence or explanations.

According to the report whose details were leaked to the press, Dasuki's reasons were not ascertained and were expedited without documentary evidence of the bank transactions.

Dasuki, who is on trial for multiple fraud and had denied the charges was earlier this month cleared by a court to seek medical treatment abroad but is being prevented from leaving Nigeria on Buhari's instructions.

72-year old Buhari who earlier this year came to power on a slew of election promises, two of which are to crack down on endemic corruption and crush the six-year insurgency warned that those among the top echelons of the army who are found wanting by the report would feel the full wrath of the law without any hope of being spared. (APA 18-11-2015)

GAMBIA WARNS AGAINST SMUGGLED PLASTIC BAGS

The Gambia National Environment Agency (NEA) has warned against the trafficking of plastic bags into the country, saying it is against the laws of the country.

A statement issued on Wednesday in Banjul by the NEA noted that some people who engage in plastic bag business are still smuggling them into the country, despite the ban on the sale and use of the product for health and environmental reasons.

The NEA warned those found breaching this law would be subjected to the full force of the law and advised ice and cold water vendors to desist from using plastic bags.

The government in Banjul last July imposed a total ban on the sale and use of all forms of plastic bags in The Gambia.(APA 18-11-2015)

ACP GEARS UP FOR UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE COP21

An issues paper adopted by the ACP Group's Sub-committee on Sustainable Development will serve as the basis of a common ACP position at the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP21 in Paris this December.

The paper, deliberated upon by regional and international stakeholders on 28-29 October, covers key issues of convergence for the 79 member states spanning Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands.

Chaired by the Ambassador of Gabon, H.E Félicité Ongouori Ngoubili, the special meeting of the ACP Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development included presentations by European Commission's DG CLIMA & DG DEVCO, UNEP, UNDP, the South Centre. Regional organisations based in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands, as well as representatives of the Least Development Countries (LDCs), the Smalls Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) also made interventions.

The issues paper will be submitted for endorsement by the ACP Committee of Ambassadors and the ACP Council of Ministers, after which it may be used by member states' delegations during the COP21 climate negotiations.

Essentially, the document reaffirms the view that climate change is the single greatest challenge to the sustainable livelihoods, security and well-being of African, Caribbean and Pacific peoples, posing

immediate and long-term significant risks to sustainable development efforts. Climate change threatens the very survival of the 79 developing countries that make up the ACP Group.

The paper also highlights the importance of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) to develop a legally-binding instrument or outcome applicable to all Parties, which is central to the success of the Paris Climate Change Conference scheduled for 30 November – 11 December, 2015.

Other key concerns for ACP countries include adaptation to climate variability and adequate support for adaptation actions especially for LDCs and SIDS; loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change; mitigation and limits on global warming; climate financing; technology development/transfer and capacity building; and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

The ACP position, as adopted by the Sub-Committee, lends full support towards ensuring a robust and ambitious 2015 Paris Agreement that will contribute to the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), reduce the adverse impacts of climate change on all vulnerable communities in ACP Countries, and protect the planet for future generations.

The full issues paper will be publicly available after endorsement by the ACP Committee of Ambassadors. (ACP 31-10-2015)

The Memorandum is supported by the Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, ELO - Portuguese Association for Economic Development and Cooperation, NABA - Norwegian-African Business Association and other organisations.



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