MEMORANDUM

N°196/2016 | 05/10/2016

The Memorandum is issued daily, with the sole purpose to provide updated basic business and economic information on Africa, to more than 4,000 European Companies, as well as their business parties in Africa.
More than 1,556 Memoranda issued from 2006 to end of 2015. More than 18,350 pages of Business Clips issued covering all African, European Institutions and African Union, as well as the Breton Woods Institutions. The subscription is free of charge, and sponsored by various Development Organisations and Corporations.
Should a reader require a copy of the Memoranda, please address the request to fernando.matos.rosa@sapo or fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be.

2006 – 2015, 9 Years devoted to reinforce Europe – Africa Business and Development

A selection of press clips, with breaking African news

SUMMARY

‘NO’ TO ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA’S REQUEST TO SELL OFF STOCKPILED IVORY ABROAD

The global conference that governs wildlife trade voted on Monday against proposals by Namibia and Zimbabwe to be allowed to sell their ivory internationally, in a move welcomed by many conservationists.

Namibia and Zimbabwe — which boast healthy elephant populations — had lobbied for the right to sell off stockpiles accrued from natural deaths to fund projects in communities that live close to elephants.

"(The meeting) votes in committee against proposals of Namibia and Zimbabwe to allow international commercial trade in their elephants," the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) said in statement at its conference in Johannesburg.

International trade in ivory has been banned since 1989, but legal domestic markets have continued in some countries around the world, and Cites has twice allowed sales of African ivory stockpiles to Japan and China, in 1999 and 2008.

In the two secret ballots, the proposals by Namibia and Zimbabwe were heavily defeated.

"African elephants are in steep decline across much of the continent due to poaching for their ivory, and opening up any legal trade in ivory would complicate efforts to conserve them," said Ginette Hemley, head of the World Wildlife Fund delegation at Cites.

"It could offer criminal syndicates new avenues to launder poached ivory, undermining law enforcement, and would undercut efforts to reduce the consumer demand that is driving the mass poaching." She welcomed the votes, and urged nations to concentrate on closing domestic ivory markets and combating the illegal international trade. (AFP 03-10-2016)

BOTSWANA IMPORTS MORE FROM SACU

The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) is the major source of imports into Botswana, accounting for 76.0 percent of total imports during July 2016, a release from Statistics Botswana said Tuesday.

Within the SACU region, South Africa was the dominant source, with a contribution of 63.3 percent to total imports during July 2016, followed by Namibia with 12.6 percent.

SACU members are Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.

The major commodities imported from both South Africa and Namibia were non-industrial diamonds unworked or simply sawn.

This type of diamonds contributed12.3 percent of total imports from South Africa while the same commodity accounted for 94.2 percent of total imports from Namibia.

Other notable source of imports was Mozambique, with a contribution of 1.5 percent to total imports during the month under review. The major commodity imported was distillate fuel, accounting for 98.4 percent of total imports from that country.

Imports from Asia represented 14.9 percent of total imports during July 2016. India alone supplied 8.6 percent of total imports during the month under review.

The European Union accounted for 5.3 percent of total imports during the month under review. The main supplier of imports from this region was Belgium, with 2.9 percent of total imports during the same period.(APA 04-10-2016)

EGYPT'S EXPORTS TO ITALY HIT $743MN IN 6 MONTHS

Egyptian exports to the Italian market declined by 6.9 percent to 6.6 billion Egyptian pounds (US$743 million) in January-June 2016 from 7.1 billion pounds a year earlier.

In June 2016, Egyptian exports to Italy decreased to 1.02 billion pounds compared to 1.04 billion in June 2015, dropping by 2 percent, the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) stated in its bulletin on Tuesday.

The bulletin showed that Egyptian exports of aluminum and its products fell to 899.4 million pounds during the first six months of 2016 versus 1.02 billion pounds at the same period of 2015, marking a 12.2 percent decline.

Meanwhile, Egyptian exports of iron and steel to Italy increased by 23.3 percent to 107 million pounds during the first half of 2016 from 86.8 million pounds a year earlier.

Egyptian cotton exports to Italy jumped to 469.8 million pounds in January-June 2016 from 458.4 million pounds during the same period of 2015, registering a 2.5 percent rise. (APA 04-10-2016)

US, EU’S LACK OF SUPPORT FOR ELEPHANT TRADE BAN CATCHES BOTSWANA OFF GUARD

Botswana Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism Tshekedi Khama said he was surprised that the US and EU decided on Monday not to support a proposal to list all African elephants on a commercial trade ban list.

A co-proposal by 13 counties to list the elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe to Appendix I failed to get a two-third majority at the 17th Conference of the Parties to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Cites). All other elephants in Africa are listed on Appendix I.

The move was fiercely opposed by SA, Namibia and Zimbabwe for not meeting the scientific requirements of Cites but Botswana came out in support of the proposal, to applause of delegates. Botswana hosts the world’s largest population of elephants.

Currently the elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, SA and Zimbabwe are all listed on Appendix II of Cites, which allows certain countries to trade elephants and the commercial products of the animal such as the hide, hair and as trophies, depending on the laws of each country. Trade of ivory is banned under Cites, with only few controlled exceptions.

The proposal to list the elephant on Appendix I was made by Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Uganda.

Khama said that the Great Elephant Census, a Botswana-led survey, showed that in 15 countries the savanna elephant population declined by 30% within seven years, which is about 144,000 elephants.

He said that in 10 years, poaching could wipe out 50% of Africa's elephant population and the current situation needed to be brought under control. Khama said that there was a need to stem the demand of ivory internationally, protect the remaining herds and secure habitats, and for that reason Botswana supported the proposal.

Khama said the decline was in such free-fall that if something was not done and countries waited too long, they might be unable to stop it.

Khama said there could not be two different listings for African elephants when the animals crossed borders between countries so frequently.

"When an elephant crosses a border does its Appendix situation change? That can't be right, we have to be consistent," said Khama.

In a media briefing, Khama questioned the motivation of countries that voted against the proposal, in particular the US and EU. He said their interest in hunting wildlife could have played a role in them supporting the rejection of the proposal. Khama said if the US and EU wanted to turn down the proposal they needed to offer support to countries that were battling poaching.

During the debate on the proposal, the EU said the proposal failed to meet the scientific requirement need to be passed and the population of elephants in those countries were strong.

Khama said that Botswana's aim was to change from a consumptive reliance on elephants to no consumptive reliance, where communities were more reliant on the animal being alive, such as in tourism, than what they could get from it being dead.

Khama said that they would try again — Botswana could make a proposal on October 5, the last day of the conference to have the decision revisited.

On Monday, Cites rejected two other elephant listing proposals. Namibia and Zimbabwe proposed to open international trade in their ivory.

World Wildlife Fund head of delegation to Cites Ginette Hemley said that decisions closed all potential avenues to a resumption in international ivory trade, paving the way for the world to unite behind efforts to crack down on the illegal ivory trade.

He said rather than vote to resume trade, countries at Cites rightly chose to reinforce the existing global ban on ivory trade by calling for the closure of domestic ivory markets and the strengthening of national ivory action plan processes.

"These are critical actions for securing the future of Africa's elephants. None of these proposals would have offered elephant populations any greater protection from the poachers. Indeed, the proposal to uplist four southern African populations to Appendix I could well have opened a back door to legal international trade," Hemley said.

Namibia stated during the debate on moving its elephant population to Appendix I that it would have no option but to enter a reservation if the proposal had been accepted. This would have exempted it from Cites regulations regarding elephants and allowed it to legally trade ivory without any Cites oversight.
(BD 04-10-2016)

IMF MAY RESUME SUPPORT FOR GUINEA-BISSAU IN DECEMBER

The resumption of International Monetary Fund (IMF) support which Guinea-Bissau hopes to obtain this December will give the country some "breathing space", Economy and Finance Minister Henrique Horta said in Bissau.

Horta made his comments on Monday at the end of the last meeting with an IMF mission in Guinea-Bissau. The resumption of support is very important because it should also motivate partners' renewed faith in the country along with the much-needed international assistance, he stated.

Mission head Felix Fischer said the talks would continue so that the IMF board can make a decision at its early December meeting, adding that if financial aid is approved it will be released within a few days, reports Lusa news agency.

The IMF decided in 2015 to deliver 22 million euros to Guinea-Bissau on a gradual basis over three years. But there has been no transfer this year, due among other reasons to disagreement regarding a bailout of commercial banks implemented by the previous government.

The situation of political instability in Guinea-Bissau during the last year, with four successive governments, has also hindered outside support. (27-09-2016)

UGANDA TO INTRODUCE TEACHING OF CHINESE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Following the approval of the inclusion of Chinese in Uganda's education curriculum, the government of Uganda has entered a partnership with China to bring Chinese tutors from China.

The tutors are to teach the Chinese language to Ugandan teachers who will in turn teach the language in Ugandan secondary schools.

Speaking in an interview Monday morning, the foreign affairs languages curriculum specialist in Uganda's National Curriculum Development Centre Mr. Henry Adramunguni confirmed the development, saying the Chinese tutors will train more than 100 Ugandan teachers.

Adramunguni said the training of trainers is scheduled to begin in February 2017 and end in November 2017 ahead of the rollout of the Chinese language teaching in 20 selected schools set for 2018.

According to Adramunguni, the Chinese tutors are to be paid for by the Chinese government, which is estimated to cost 10 million US dollars.

With the growing partnership between Uganda and China, it is believed that the Chinese language will help bridge the communication gap between Ugandans seeking jobs in Chinese-funded projects and companies.(APA 26-09-2016)

EGYPT: EU PROVIDES EUR 50 MILLION ASSISTANCE PACKAGE TO STIMULATE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTE WOMEN RIGHTS

The EU has adopted a EUR 50 million assistance package for development projects in Egypt, aimed to support socio-economic development and civil society in order to improve the lives of the population; targeting in particular women rights and water resources management. This funding is the first part of the 2016 bilateral assistance package foreseen for Egypt.

The newly adopted assistance package consists of the following two programmes:

- **Advancing Women's Rights in Egypt** (EUR 10 million): this programme will support efforts towards abandoning female genital mutilation and to promote women's access to justice and legal empowerment through the expansion of legal aid offices in Family Courts and women support offices in Primary Courts.

- **National Drainage programme** (EUR 40 million): this programme will contribute to increasing Egypt's agricultural production by providing adequate drainage infrastructure and enhancing the capacities of different stakeholders to rehabilitate and extend underground drainage networks. It will also contribute to foster a sustainable and integrated water resources management approach within the Government of Egypt.(EEAS 20-09-2016)

CABO VERDE AND EUROPEAN UNION TO SIGN DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Cabo Verde and the European Union (EU) will sign on 17 October in Brussels the agreement on budget support for the island country from the 11th European Development Fund, the EU's ambassador in Cabo Verde announced on Monday in Praia.

Portuguese diplomat José Manuel Pinto Teixeira specified that the agreement will be signed by Cabo Verdean Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva after a meeting with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker during the EU/Cabo Verde summit meeting in the second week of October.

The next European financing fund, to be made available to Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) in the form of budget support for the next five years, will favour support for the special partnership and improving competitiveness of the country's economy, said Pinto Teixeira, cited by the local press.

The 10th European Development Fund, signed in 2008 and now in the final implementation stage, counted a financial envelope of 51 million euros. (27-09-2016)

AFDB GRANTS CFA30BN FRANCS TO DEVELOP FIBRE OPTIC IN CEMAC REGION

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has agreed to grant a loan of CFA30 billion francs to countries in the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) as part of the Central African Backbone (CAB) project, APA learns Monday at the end of the 4th ordinary session of the structure.

This funding is part of the 2016-2019 three-year program, whose launching took place a few months ago.

The chair of that committee, who is also Cameroon's Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Minette Libom Li Likeng, called on "various project stakeholders for a greater involvement in the implementation of activities in order to accelerate the development of this digital economy in the sub-region".

According to her, this will enable countries in the CEMAC region have access to submarine cables from the landing points along the Cameroonian coast.

The CAB project was born from the will of CEMAC heads of state who, at the CEMAC Summit held in Ndjamena, Chad in May 2007, adopted a joint statement calling for the implementation of a broad band telecommunication infrastructure, consistent with the regional integration strategy.

According to sources close to the matter, the "Backbone" enabled the effective interconnection of the Cameroon fiber optic network with that of Chad, and Equatorial Guinea through the submarine cable NCSCS (Nigeria and Cameroon Sub-marine Cable System), as Gabon and Congo are also to be connected soon. (APA 26-09-2016)

UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN COMMITS TO FIGHT STRUCTURAL UNEMPLOYMENT

The member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) reaffirmed their commitment to work together to address the challenges relating to employment, employability and decent work in the

Mediterranean region, particularly for young people and women, at the third Ministerial Conference on Employment and Labour held on Tuesday 27 September in Jordan.

"Decent jobs and good opportunities in life are among the best measures to invest in our future. Therefore, it is time to give a new impetus to our UfM cooperation. We need inclusive labour markets which provide equal chances to all: women and men, the young and the old, university graduate and school dropouts," said Marianne Thyssen, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility.

UfM Secretary General Fathallah Sijilmassi stressed: *"We need to place youth employability at the core of our regional cooperation initiatives to make our young people active players of the region's socio-economic future"*

Ministers asserted the value of a common approach to address the issue of unemployment, particularly of young people and women, as a means to consolidate stability in the region. They underlined the importance of tripartite and bipartite social dialogue and welcomed the plan to organise a UfM Social Dialogue Forum in 2017/2018 and the financial support of EUR 3 million provided by the EU to the regional 'Pilot project for the Promotion of Social Dialogue in the Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood'.

The ministers strongly supported an integrated two-track approach, which addresses both the demand-side and the supply-side of the labour market. They also encouraged national authorities to actively support transition from informal to formal employment, in line with existing ILO efforts.

In conclusion, the UfM Secretariat emphasised that it stands ready to support the outcomes of the Conference and make sure that political decisions translate in concrete projects to benefit young people. (UfM 28-09-2016)

GEMFIELDS INCREASES RUBY PRODUCTION IN MOZAMBIQUE

The British company Gemfields has increased production and reduced the cost of operating a ruby mine at Montepuez in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province, indicates the annual report and accounts for the financial year that ended on 30 June 2016.

The report specifies that ruby and corundum production during that financial year amounted to 10.3 million carats, compared to 8.4 million carats produced in the previous financial year.

Production recorded during the financial year that ended on 30 June 2016 led to income of US$73.1 million, at an average price of US$45.50 per carat.

Production costs fell very slightly from US$2.57 to US$2.54 per carat.

Gemfields also reported in the document that the Montepuez mine has probable reserves of 432 million carats and an operational life of 21 years.

Gemfields controls 75 percent of the share capital of Montepuez Ruby Mining Ltd. The remaining 25 percent is held by the Mozambican company Mwiriti.

The British company is involved in other Mozambican projects via Eastern Ruby Mining Limitada, Mozambique, and Megaruma Mining Limitada, Mozambique, ruby mining companies in which it also holds a 75 percent stake. (27-09-2016)

TANZANIA TO START TEACHING CHINESE IN UNIVERSITY

The Confucius Institute (CI) at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) is awaiting approval of Tanzania Commission for Universities (TUC) to introduce diploma and degree courses in Kiswahili and Chinese languages that aims to prepare local Chinese and Swahili people to learn and teach.

Director of CI Zhang Xiozhen said this in Dar es Salaam on Monday, when opening a one-day workshop on Chinese students learning Kiswahili language at UDSM.

Xiozhen said that the two courses will be executed jointly by the UDSM and China University.

“We are only awaiting approval before the two courses kick off,” said Xiozhen.

According to Xiozhen, the courses will enable both Tanzanians and Chinese taking the courses to work and teach in either of the two countries.

A total of 600 Tanzanians have been taught Chinese language that enables them to acquire jobs in China and further plans are underway to introduce Chinese language in secondary schools based on the long history of Tanzania-China friendship. (APA 26-09-2016)

EIP: NEW INSTRUMENT TO BOOST INVESTMENT IN EU NEIGHBOURHOOD AND AFRICA

On the occasion of President Juncker's 2016 State of the Union address, the European Commission has set out how it plans to further boost investment to support jobs and sustainable growth, both in Europe and globally. Among the proposals, it was agreed to set up a new **European External Investment Plan** (EIP) to encourage investment in Africa and the EU Neighbourhood, to strengthen our partnerships and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The new instrument will make it possible to boost investments in Africa and EU Neighbourhood countries, in particular to support social and economic infrastructure and SMEs, by addressing obstacles to private investment. With an input of EUR 3.35 billion from the EU budget and the European Development Fund, the EIP will support innovative guarantees and similar instruments in support of private investment, enabling the EIP to mobilise up to EUR 44 billion of investments. If Member States and other partners match the EU's contribution, the total amount could reach EUR 88 billion.

By unlocking investments in partner countries, the EIP will contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Agenda on Financing for Development. It will also provide a key contribution to addressing the root causes of migration, reinforcing our partnerships and looking at the long term drivers behind the large movements of population.

The EIP consists of three complementary pillars:

- Mobilising investment by combining existing investment facilities with a new guarantee within the new European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD).The EFSD will be composed of two regional investment platforms for Africa and the Neighbourhood.
- Stepping up technical assistance for a broader policy environment to support public authorities and companies in partner countries. The aim is to help them to better prepare and promote projects and attract more investment.
- Improving the general business environment by fostering good governance, fighting corruption, and removing barriers to investment and market distortions.

In addition, the European Investment Bank (EIB)'s lending operations form an integral part of the EIP. For this purpose, the Commission will expand the EU budget guarantee under the EIB External Lending

Mandate by a total of EUR 5.3 billion. In total, the EIB will thus lend up to EUR 32.3 billion under the EU guarantee between 2014 and 2020.

The EIP offers an integrated framework enabling full cooperation among the EU, Member States, partner countries, international financial institutions, donors and the private sector. It will improve the way in which scarce public funds are used and the way public authorities and private investors work together on investment projects.

Through the EIP, the EU will take a further step in contributing to the global architecture for development and management of migration, two themes that will be at the centre of the discussion during the upcoming UN General Assembly.

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, Federica **Mogherini,** said: "*If we look at the Middle East and Africa, we see regions with a huge potential that is being held back by war, poverty, the lack of infrastructure, and weak governance. Our European Union is already the first donor worldwide: we invest more in development cooperation than the rest of the world combined. But we also know that public resources cannot be sufficient if we want to untap this huge potential and achieve the sustainable development goals. European firms are already creating jobs and growth in our entire neighbourhood and in Africa, for the benefit of our partners and of the European citizens. While creating the conditions for Europeans to expand their business and move into new countries, the new External Investment Plan will support our partners' economies and societies, as well as our strategic foreign policy goals, from security to global development."* (EEAS 15-09-2016)

ANOTHER LARGE DIAMOND DISCOVERED IN ANGOLA

Australia's Lucapa Diamond Company has discovered at the Lulo concession in Angola yet another very large diamond, weighing 172.67 carats (35.534 grams), the company announced in a statement released on Monday.

The company specified that it is the fifth stone over 100 carats discovered at that concession in Angola and that it is nearly colourless and almost entirely without impurities.

Last February the Lucapa Diamond Company announced the discovery of the largest diamond ever found in Angola, weighing 404.2 carats or about 80 grams. It was later sold for US$16 million.

Early this September the company discovered a 38.6 carat pink diamond, the largest coloured gemstone found at the concession located 630 km east of Luanda.

The company's partners at the concession are the state-held Empresa Nacional de Diamantes de Angola (Endiama) and the private company Rosas & Pétalas. (27-09-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE EYES $770M STEEL FACTORY

United Kingdom based firm, a Mozambican subsidiary of London-listed Baobab Resources says it plans to invest $770 million in the construction of a steel factory in Mozambique's resource-rich western province of Tete, APA learns here on Monday.

Private daily newspaper O Pais says the facility will be built in recently created Revobue Industrial Free Zone, on the border between Moatize and Chiuta districts close to where Brazilian miner Vale is exploring a coal mine.

The Maputo based publication quotes the provincial governor of Tete Paulo Auade as saying the new factory, with an annual capacity to produce 500,000 tonnes of steel bars will occupy an area of about 4,484 hectares, and production is scheduled to begin in January 2020.

“One of the gains of setting up the Revobue Industrial Free zone is the implantation of a steel factory, and attracting around it a series of service industries”, ”, said Auade

He believed that the steel plant would lead to other activities such as the production of cement, rolling stock, railway sleepers, reinforced concrete and metallic cables.

According to the official, above all, the new industry would create new jobs.

Capitol is the local representative of the British-based Baobab Resources and the Tete Iron and Steel Project is owned 87 per cent by Baobab and 13 per cent by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the member of the World Bank group, which invests in the private sector in developing countries. (APA 26-09-2016)

L’UE REMPORTE SON BRAS DE FER COMMERCIAL FACE A L’AFRIQUE

Les six pays africains menacés de perdre leur accès au marché unique européen se sont finalement résolus à signer les accords de partenariat économique avec l’UE. Au détriment de l’intégration commerciale de leur région.

Le parlement du Kenya a ratifié le 21 septembre l’accord de partenariat économique avec l’Union européenne. Une ratification qui signe la fin d’un bras de fer engagé entre plusieurs pays africains et la Commission européenne sur l’avenir de leur relation commerciale.

En juillet, Bruxelles avait en effet mis la pression sur 6 gouvernements africains trainant des pieds dans les négociations commerciales, en prévoyant de suspendre leur accès au marché unique au 1er octobre en cas d’absence de ratification.

Droits de douane

Face à la possibilité de voir leurs exportations vers l’UE taxées, le Ghana, la Côte d’Ivoire, le Botswana, la Namibie, le Swaziland et enfin le Kenya ont accepté de ratifier les accords de partenariat économique (APE), dont les négociations trainent en longueur.

Ces accords sont les successeurs des préférences commerciales non réciproques accordées par l’UE à ces pays dans le cadre de l’accord de Cotonou de juin 2000. L’objectif affiché étant de maintenir l’accès préférentiel au marché européen pour les pays d’Afrique, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique (ACP), en contrepartie de droits de douane réduits appliqués aux exportations européennes.

Mais l’équilibre de ces accords a été largement critiqué par certains pays africains et par la société civile, qui les juge trop favorable à l’UE. La perte des recettes douanières ainsi que la concurrence des produits européens arrivant sur des marchés encore en développement sont notamment pointées du doigt.

Intégration de l’Afrique de l’Est

A l’issue de la ratification au parlement kenyan, le secrétaire d’État au Commerce et à l’Industrie, Adan Mohamed, avait rappelé qu’en cas de dépassement de la date limite fixée par l’UE, le 1er octobre 2016, les « produits [kenyan] seraient devenus non-compétitifs sur le marché européen puisqu'ils auraient été taxés jusqu'à 22% ».

Intégré à la région de l'Afrique de l'Est, le Kenya aurait de plus été le seul pays de la zone commerciale à subir un rétablissement des droits de douane avec l'UE en cas de refus de l'accord. En effet, Le Kenya est le seul pays à ne pas bénéficier du régime « tout sauf les armes ». Réservé aux pays les plus pauvres, ce régime commercial est le plus avantageux et offre un accès sans aucun droit de douane au marché européen.

Les autres membres de la communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est (Tanzanie, Ouganda, Burundi, Rwanda) bénéficient de cet accès, et n'ont donc jamais été menacés de se voir retirer leur accès préférentiel au marché unique.

Tanzanie et Brexit

« Concernant la Tanzanie, la date butoir n'a jamais été un sujet, puisque le pays fait partie des pays les moins avancés (PMA), et bénéficie donc d'un accès gratuit au marché européen sous les régimes « Tout sauf les armes » confirme un porte-parole de la Commission européenne.

Avec un accès garanti au marché unique, le pays n'a que peu d'intérêt à signer l'accord, qui lui impose l'ouverture progressive de son marché. « La Tanzanie ne peut pas être obligée à signer puisqu'elle bénéficie du statut de PMA, tandis que pour le Kenya, l'effet aurait été immédiat » explique Marc Maes chargé des politiques commerciales européennes au sein de la coalition du mouvement Nord-Sud en Flandre.

Le pays refuse pour l'instant de ratifier l'accord, ce qui risque de remettre en cause l'intégration économique de la région, puisque chaque pays d'Afrique de l'Est serait contraint de développer son propre accord avec l'UE, en lieu et place de l'APE régional.

Autre frein évoqué par la Tanzanie, le Brexit. « 75% des exportations de ce pays se font vers le Royaume-Uni, le Brexit remet donc en cause l'intérêt de l'accord » détaille Marc Maes.

Contexte

En 2000, l'Union européenne et les UE et les pays d'Afrique, Caraïbes, Pacifique (ACP) ont signé les accords de Cotonou prévoyant entre autres la négociation d'accords de partenariat économique (APE) comprenant un libre-échange réciproque à partir de 2008.

Depuis les années 2000 l'Union européenne négocie avec les pays ACP (Afrique, Caraïbes, Pacifique) ces Accords de Partenariat économique (APE) en substitution aux anciens accords de Lomé et de Cotonou. Dans ce cadre, les pays du Sud concernés seraient amenés à ouvrir leurs marchés à la plupart des produits en provenance de l'Union européenne. Seul un accord régional de ce type a été signé à ce jour, en raison des fortes réticences exprimées tant par les sociétés civiles que les États. (EurActiv)

LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT, GIGAWATT GLOBAL SIGN MOU FOR NEW 10 MW POWER PLANT

The Liberian Government and project developer, Gigawatt Global Cooperatief U.A. have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the financing and construction of a 10 megawatt solar photovoltaic power plant in Monrovia.

According to a dispatch from New York, Foreign Minister Marjon Kamara signed on behalf of the Liberian Government, while the New Projects Coordinator, Mr. Remy Reinstein, signed on behalf of Gigawatt Global Cooperatief U.A. at a brief ceremony held at Liberia's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York last Friday.

Speaking during the occasion, Foreign Minister Kamara said the Liberian Government was excited to be entering into this venture, indicating that energy was one of government's top priorities and informed of the Government's desire to bring electricity to many areas, including the rural communities of the country before the end of this administration.

The minister stressed that the signing of the MoU was also a groundbreaking event as Liberia was on the trajectory of strengthening relations with the State of Israel.

In remarks, Mr. Reinstein indicated that besides the 10 megawatts to be built in Monrovia initially, his company would like to install 30 additional megawatts in other parts of the country.

He assured that his company would abide by corporate social responsibility.

According to the MoU, Gigawatt Global Cooperatief U.A. will provide the government through the Liberia Electricity Company (LEC), the road map, which summarizes the main actions and steps necessary for the development and construction of a solar photovoltaic; conduct at its own expense a technical and financial feasibility.

It includes the analysis of financial cash flows and tariff structures and the average rate over the entire observation period of debt repayment and return on equity; provide all reports to the LEC within a period of eight months from the signing of this MoU as well as provide 100 percent financing, both debt and equity as allowed under Liberian law.

The Liberian Government, for its part, is to analyze reports and studies submitted by the developer for approval for the development and construction of solar power within 30 days of developer's submission; provide data upon request of the developer on the national electric grid, utility technical or financial information as requested in favour of the feasibility studies.

The government will also assist in securing optimal land sites for the power facility; consider the project as part of the National Electrification plan; and assist in facilitating an introduction between the project developer and the leading universities in closest proximity of the project site for the purpose of developing a corporate social responsibility programme, knowledge transfer and training for rural solar electrification.

Gigawatt Global Cooperatief U.A. is a multinational - American, Dutch and Israeli - renewable energy company focused on the development and management of utility-scale solar fields in emerging markets.

The company has a rich pipeline of solar electricity projects, mostly in Africa. They delivered the first utility-scale solar electricity interconnection under the White House Power Africa programme in Rwanda supplying six percent of its electricity needs.

Quite recently, the company signed a 135 megawatt project in northern Nigeria which will be the largest solar field in Africa. They first opened their first field in the U.S. in Georgia, in June 2016.(APA 26-09-2016)

NIGERIA PLEDGES SUPPORT TO ECOWAS BANK DESPITE ECONOMIC CRISIS

President Muhammadu Buhari has said that Nigeria will fulfill its obligations to the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) in spite of the economic downturn caused largely by fallen prices of oil in the international market. (APA 27-09-2016)

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

www.acp.int www.aheadglobal.hu www.bcafrica.co.uk

www.camaratenerife.com www.ccafrica.ca www.corporatecouncilonafrica.com

www.elo-online.org www.helafrican-chamber.gr www.htcc.org.hu

www.norwegianafrican.no www.nabc.nl www.swisscham-africa.ch

AFRICA WORKS! INNOVATION IN FINANCE

With just five weeks until, AfricaWorks! (10-11 November) it's high time for you to secure your place at the conference. The programme is packed to the brim with exciting keynote speakers, workshops and exhibitions. Maybe it will be the workshop hosted by AgriProFocus on smallholder investments that will inspire you, or perhaps it will be the panel with guest Amine Bouabid. There is so much to experience, you wouldn't want to miss it. Register now.

Fernando Matos Rosa

fernando.matos.rosa@sapo.pt
fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be