

# MEMORANDUM

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## KEY FINDINGS OF THE EC'S 2016 REPORT ON TURKEY

This year's report on Turkey is issued in the specific context of a military coup attempt which occurred on the night of 15 July, leaving 241 casualties and 2 196 people wounded. The Turkish government with the support of the entire Turkish political spectrum and society, succeeded in overcoming the coup attempt. The EU strongly and immediately condemned the attempted coup, which represented a direct attack on democracy in Turkey as such, and reiterated its full support to the democratic institutions of the country. On 20 July a state of emergency was declared across Turkey for three months, further extended for another three months on 3 October. Significant legislative amendments were introduced by decree. Turkey notified the Council of Europe of a derogation from its obligation to secure a number of fundamental rights protected by the European Convention on Human Rights. Given the subsequent scale and collective nature of measures taken since the coup attempt, the EU called on the authorities to observe the highest standards in respecting the rule of law and fundamental rights, in line with Turkey's international commitments and status as a candidate country.

Following the coup attempt, very extensive suspensions, dismissals, arrests and detentions took place over alleged links to the Gülen movement and involvement in the attempted coup. The measures affected the whole spectrum of society with particular impact on the judiciary, police, gendarmerie, military, civil service, local authorities, academia, teachers, lawyers, the media and the business community. Multiple institutions and private companies were shut down, their assets seized or transferred to public institutions.

While a relationship of trust and loyalty should exist between civil servants and the state and measures can be taken to ensure that, any allegation of wrongdoing should be established via transparent procedures in all individual cases. Individual criminal liability can only be established with full respect for the separation of powers, the full independence of the judiciary and the right of every individual to a fair trial, including through effective access to a lawyer. Turkey should ensure that any measure is taken only to the extent strictly required to the exigencies of the situation and in all cases stands the test of necessity and proportionality.

EU-Turkey relations face the same long term opportunities and challenges as before 15 July. Indeed, the past year had started off by deepening our relations in key areas of joint interest, as agreed at the EU-Turkey Summit of 29 November 2015. High level political dialogues and high level dialogues on energy and the economy took place. Turkey continued to make outstanding efforts to provide shelter to over 2.7 million refugees from Syria and Iraq.

### Political criteria

Prior to the coup attempt the Parliament engaged in a heavy **legislative agenda** in order to implement the ambitious government reform action plan for 2016 and the legislative requirements of the visa liberalisation roadmap. However, several key pieces of legislation adopted regarding the rule of law and fundamental rights were not in line with European standards, such as the law on data protection. Political confrontation continued to beset the work of the legislative. The adoption of a law allowing the immunity of a large number of deputies to be lifted and the ensuing detentions and arrests of several HDP members of Parliament, including the two Co-Chairs, in November, are a matter of grave concern.

The **situation in the south-east** remained one of the most critical challenges for the country. Turkey saw a continued very serious deterioration in the security situation, leading to heavy casualties following the collapse of the Kurdish settlement process in July 2015 and was struck by several large-scale deadly terrorist attacks by PKK and Da'esh. The authorities pursued their extensive anti-terror military and security campaign against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which remains on the EU list of terrorist organisations. Serious allegations of human rights violations and disproportionate use of force by the security forces in the south-east were increasingly reported. Many elected representatives and municipal executives in the south-east were suspended, removed from their duties, or arrested under terrorism-related charges, some of them on the basis of decrees under the state of emergency following the coup attempt. However, anti-terror measures need to be proportionate and must respect human rights. The settlement of the Kurdish issue through a political process is the only way forward; reconciliation and reconstruction are also becoming key issues for the authorities to address.

**Civil society** sought to remain active and involved in public life. Independent civil society organisations are rarely involved in law- and policy-making processes. Some of their representatives, including human rights defenders, have been detained and there were credible claims of intimidation. A large number of organisations were closed as part of the post-coup measures taken by the government for alleged links to the Gülen movement.

Turkey is moderately prepared in the area of **public administration reform** with a strong commitment to an open, responsive administration. However, there has been backsliding in the area of public service and human resources management in particular in the aftermath of the coup attempt. The structural impact on the functioning of the civil service of the measures taken after the coup attempt remains to be assessed.

Turkey's **judicial system** is at an early stage/has some level of preparation. There has been backsliding in the past year, in particular with regard to the independence of the judiciary. The extensive changes to the structures and composition of high courts are of serious concern and are not in line with European standards. Judges and prosecutors continued to be removed from their profession and in some cases were arrested, on allegations of conspiring with the Gülen movement. This situation worsened further after the July coup attempt, following which one fifth of the judges and prosecutors were dismissed and saw their assets frozen. The judiciary must work in an environment allowing it to perform its duties in an independent and impartial manner, with the executive and legislature fully respecting the separation of powers. Under the state of emergency, Turkey has further extended for certain offences the pre-trial detention to 30 days without access to a judge against European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) case law and an important part of the judiciary is subject to these measures.

The country has some level of preparation for the **fight against corruption**. Corruption remains prevalent in many areas and continues to be a serious problem. The adoption of a new strategy and anti-corruption action plan is a step forward even if it remains rather limited in scope. The legal framework continues to suffer from important gaps and the executive's influence on the investigation and prosecution of high-profile corruption cases remains a major source of concern. Corruption perception remains high.

Turkey has achieved some level of preparation in the **fight against organised crime**. Institutional capacity was increased and new strategies and action plans were adopted. However, statistics on the number of final convictions and other important indicators are not available. Financial investigations remain underused. Precautionary freezing of assets is rarely applied and the level of assets confiscated is low. In the fight against terrorism, a comprehensive legal framework on terrorism financing is in place. The anti-terror law is not in line with the *acquis* with regard to its scope and definitions and its application raises serious fundamental rights concerns. Both the criminal and anti-terror legislation should be aligned with ECtHR case-law, without reducing the capacity of Turkey to fight terrorism. The proportionality principle must be observed in practice.

The Turkish legal framework includes general guarantees of respect for **human and fundamental rights**, which need to be further improved. The enforcement of rights stemming from the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights is not yet ensured. Many allegations of serious violations of the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment and of procedural rights were reported in the immediate aftermath of the coup attempt. Yet, all measures taken must be in line with the principles of proportionality and respect for human rights. The new Law on the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey is a step in the right direction. It contains provisions on prohibiting discrimination on a large number of grounds, but does not explicitly cover sexual orientation. There is still a need to adopt a fully comprehensive dedicated law on combating discrimination. A legal vacuum exists on human rights cases as the new National Human Rights and Equality institution has not yet been established. The rights of the most vulnerable groups and of persons belonging to minorities should be sufficiently protected. Gender-based violence, discrimination, hate speech against minorities, hate crime and violations of human rights of LGBTI persons continue to be a source of a serious concern. Regarding the renewed considerations to introduce a bill in parliament to reinstate the death penalty, the EU recalls that the unequivocal rejection of the death penalty is an essential element of the EU *acquis* and a central international obligation to which Turkey has committed

There has been serious backsliding in the past year in the area of **freedom of expression**. Selective and arbitrary application of the law, especially of the provisions on national security and the fight against terrorism, is having a negative impact on freedom of expression. Ongoing and new criminal cases against journalists, writers or social media users, withdrawal of accreditations, high numbers of arrests of journalists as well as closure of numerous media outlets in the aftermath of the July attempted coup are of serious concern. Freedom of assembly continues to be overly restricted, in law and practice.

Turkey continued to express support for the talks on the **Cyprus settlement** between the leaders of the two communities, and for the efforts of the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser. Turkey's commitment and contribution in concrete terms to this comprehensive settlement remains crucial. However, Turkey has still not fulfilled its obligation to ensure full and non-discriminatory implementation

of the Additional Protocol to the Association Agreement and has not removed all obstacles to the free movement of goods, including restrictions on direct transport links with Cyprus. There was no progress on normalising bilateral relations with the Republic of Cyprus. The conclusions on Turkey that were adopted by the Council (General Affairs and External Relations) on 11 December 2006 and endorsed by the European Council in December 2006 remain in force. They stipulate that negotiations will not be opened on eight chapters<sup>[1]</sup> relating to Turkey's restrictions regarding the Republic of Cyprus and no chapter will be provisionally closed until the Commission confirms that Turkey has fully implemented the Additional Protocol to the Association Agreement.

Turkey needs to commit itself unequivocally to good neighbourly relations, international agreements, and to the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the United Nations Charter, having recourse, if necessary, to the International Court of Justice. In this context, the EU has expressed once again serious concern and urged Turkey to avoid any kind of threat or action directed against a Member State, or source of friction or actions that damages good neighbourly relations and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

### **Economic criteria**

The Turkish economy is well advanced and can be considered a **functioning market economy**. Still, the large external deficit makes the Turkish economy vulnerable to financial uncertainty, changes in global investors' sentiment and political risks. The central bank cut interest rates even though inflation remained well above the official target. The business environment continued to deteriorate due to targeted actions against critical media and business people and political opponents through the active use of the tax authority, the financial crimes unit and courts. The implementation of structural reforms to improve the functioning of the markets for goods, services and labour has stalled. Overall, there was backsliding.

Turkey has a good level of preparation in achieving the capacity to **cope with the competitive pressure and market forces within the EU**. Some progress was made in a number of areas, most notably through further liberalising the energy sector. Significant problems remain as regards the quality of education. There are also problems of access to education for girls. The lira's real appreciation has reduced the economy's price competitiveness.

### **EU legislation**

Regarding its **ability to assume the obligations of membership**, Turkey has continued to align with the *acquis*. With the positive exception of the visa liberalisation related work, efforts continued at a limited pace. Turkey is well advanced in the areas of company law, trans-European networks and science and research and it has achieved a good level of preparation in the areas of free movement of goods, intellectual property law, financial services, enterprise and industrial policy, consumer and health protection, customs union, external relations and financial control. Turkey is only moderately prepared on public procurement as important gaps remain in its alignment. Turkey is also moderately prepared in the area of statistics and transport policy where further significant efforts are needed across the board. Turkey has only reached some level of preparation in environment and climate change where more ambitious and better coordinated policies still need to be established and implemented. In all areas, more attention needs to be given to enforce legislation whilst many areas require further significant progress to achieve legislative alignment with the EU *acquis*.

### **Key dates**

September 1959: Turkey applies for associate membership of the European Economic Community (EEC)

September 1963: Signature of the Association Agreement, aiming at enhancing economic cooperation and achieving a Customs Union between Turkey and the EEC

April 1987: Turkey presents its formal application for membership of the European Economic Community

January 1995: Turkey - EU Agreement creating a customs union

December 1999: The European Council recognises Turkey as a candidate country

December 2004: The European Council agrees to start accession negotiations with Turkey

October 2005: Start of accession negotiations

December 2006: The Council decides that eight negotiating chapters cannot be opened and no chapter can be closed until Turkey meets its obligation of full, non-discriminatory implementation of the additional protocol to the Association Agreement

May 2012: European Commission and Turkey start the implementation of the Positive agenda for Turkey

November 2013: Chapter 22 on Regional Policy and coordination of structural instruments becomes the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter on which negotiations are opened

December 2013: The EU-Turkey readmission agreement is signed in parallel with the launching of the visa liberalisation dialogue

October 2014: The EU-Turkey readmission agreement enters into force

March 2015: The European Commission and Turkey launch a high level energy dialogue

May 2015: The European Commission and Turkey agree to modernise the 20-year-old Customs Union Agreement and to enhance EU-Turkey bilateral trade relations

November 2015: On the occasion of the EU-Turkey Leaders Meeting, both sides agree on the activation of a Joint Action Plan aiming at ending the irregular migration from Turkey to the EU, in full compliance with EU and international standards

December 2015: Chapter 17 on economic and monetary policy becomes the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter on which negotiations are opened

January 2016: The EU-Turkey high level energy dialogue takes place

March 2016: The EU and Turkey agree on a joint Statement on the basis of the Joint Action Plan of November 2015

April 2016: The first EU-Turkey high level economic dialogue takes place

May 2016: The third Report on progress by Turkey in fulfilling the requirements of its visa liberalisation roadmap is published

June 2016: Chapter 33 on financial and budgetary provisions becomes the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter on which negotiations are opened

September 2016: The third Report on the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March 2016 is published (EC 09-11-2016)

## ANGOLA INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP WITH THE SUPPORT OF CHINA



The Angolan Minister of Economy restated Angola's desire to have the capital and intellectual, management and technological resources from China to promote the country's development, while speaking at the closing session of the Angola-China Investment Forum.

This Forum, which on Monday and Tuesday in the Angolan capital, brought together over 450 Chinese businesspeople and many more Angolans, resulted in the signing of intent agreements and private investment projects valued at over US\$1.2 billion.

Abraão Gourgel, quoted by Angolan news agency Angop, said infrastructure remained Angolan government's priority, which has a greater participation of the private sector, including the foreign private sector, under certain conditions and with appropriate safeguards.

"The Angolan government will continue to that end, to ensure the necessary legal guarantees to private investors, and to apply the regulatory frameworks appropriate to the protection of national interests," said the minister.

The Economy Minister stressed that the government has made every effort to mitigate the vulnerabilities caused by low oil prices in the international market, with structural reforms "to embrace a development model based on the country's endogenous forces."

Gourgel also said that this forum allowed the launch of a new era of economic and bilateral business relations between Angola and China, the "time of Chinese direct private investment in Angola," as well

as demonstrating the openness of of the Angolan State to foreign and institutional private investment and the political support that Angola gives to building mutually beneficial business partnerships. (09-11-2016)

### **CHINESE ENTREPRENEURS EXPECTED TO INVEST US\$1.2 BILLION IN ANGOLA**

Chinese entrepreneurs are expected to invest at least US\$1.2 billion in agricultural, fishing, mining, industrial and construction projects in Angola, says the final statement of the Angola-China Investment Forum, held on 7 and 8 November in Luanda.

The Forum was organised by the Technical Unit for Private Investment (UTIP) of the Civil House of the President of the Republic of Angola in partnership with the Chinese Ministry of Commerce.

The Director of the UTIP, Norberto Garcia, reading of the statement, said that the figure is the result of the contracts signed, in terms of concrete proposals, between Angolan and Chinese businesspeople, who showed interest in investing in various sectors of economic activity in the country.

In addition to these contracts, he added, quoted by news agency Angop, it had also been possible to implement proposals and investment intentions in the order of US\$2 billion.

Garcia said that these private investment intentions show that Angola is capable of attracting investors and added that the country would be able to launch all its projects, with the support of all investors.

The event, which was attended by over 1,000 investors, including Angolans and Chinese, aimed primarily to reflect on the implementation and acceleration of existing projects in the country, as well as signing new contracts to attract investment to Angola.

The closure of the Angola-China Investment Forum also included a visit to the Special Economic Zone (SEZ), where Chinese entrepreneurs have said they intend to invest in factories in that area. (09-11-2016)

### **AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK APPROVES \$600M LOAN FOR NIGERIA**



The African Development Bank said Wednesday that it was loaning Nigeria \$600 million to help with a budget deficit of \$7 billion.

A bank statement Wednesday said another \$400 million would be approved next year if the government implemented reforms to economize on government costs, combat corruption and promote diversification in Africa's biggest economy.

Nigeria is struggling through its first recession in 20 years, caused by low oil prices, militant attacks that have cut petroleum production, and a heavy dependence on oil that provides 90 percent of exports and 70 percent of government revenue.

Nigeria had requested the loan in February. It has failed to raise another \$4 billion to plug the deficit.

Nigeria's Senate refused Tuesday to consider President Muhammadu Buhari's request to seek \$30 billion in foreign loans.(BD 02-11-2016)

### **MAURITIUS, VIETNAM FIRMS BID TO COMPETE WITH MTN SWAZILAND**

Four companies, including Viettel Group from Vietnam and Mauritius Telecom Orange have submitted their bids to compete with MTN Swaziland.

MTN has monopolized the industry in Swaziland for almost 20 years.

The Swaziland Communications Commission (SCCOM) told the media on Tuesday that two of the bidders are local companies, Data Networks and Swazi Mobile.

Mauritius Telecom Orange was represented by Jason Ning while Viettel Group from Vietnam was represented by Nguyen Phuong Thao during the opening of the bids.(APA 01-11-2016)

### **MOZAMBIQUE HIKES POWER TARIFFS**

State Mozambique power utility firm, Electricidade de Mocambique, (EDM) has raised energy prices by between 27 and 40 percent as from Tuesday, APA can report.

An EDM media statement emailed to APA says the price per kilowatt-hour rises to \$07.6 US cents from \$5.4 US cents for consumers on the low voltage general tariff such as industries, trade, offices, shops and similar establishments using up to 300 kilowatt-hours a month.

This signifies an increase of 39 percent.

Use of more than 300 kilowatt-hours pushes the price up steeply.

Between 301 and 500 kilowatt-hours the price rises to \$00.10 cents from \$00.07 cents per kilowatt an hour.

Above 500 kilowatt-hours a month, the increase is \$00.13 cents \$00.08 cents per kilowatt an hour.

In addition, all consumers pay an additional fixed rate, irrespective of consumption, which has risen to \$1.50 from \$1.20, a 40 percent rise.

Consumers who use EDM's pay as you go electricity meters (known as Credelec) face the same percentage rises.

EDM spokesperson Luis Amado, pointed out that EDM is still selling its power below cost.

He said the company pays between nine and ten US cents for each kilowatt-hour, but was then selling the power to its clients for nothing more than half this amount. (APA 01-11-2016)

## COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE IN MOROCCO: BROCHURE HIGHLIGHTS EU ACTION



As a partner of the UN climate change Summit COP22 which kicked off today in Marrakech, and will last until 18 November 2016, the EU Delegation to Morocco published a brochure on EU support to Morocco in combatting climate change.

The publication, issued in French, presents the programmes funded by the EU and European Investment Bank (EIB) in Morocco with the aim of contributing to reducing the causes of climate change and supporting Morocco in adopting and implementing eco-friendly policies.

*“The EU has pledged to allocate at least 20% of its 2014-2020 budget (EUR 180 billion) to the fight against climate change, while its financial arm, the European Investment Bank, in accordance with the commitment made in Lima in 2015, will spend at least 100 billion in climate action in the world by 2020,”* said the EU Ambassador to Morocco Rupert Joy in the publication’s foreword. (EEAS 07-11-2016)

[Brochure](#) (FR)

## BOTSWANA WITNESSES DECLINE IN BREASTFEEDING

Due to the rise of HIV/AIDS infection, breastfeeding rate in Botswana has gone down despite treatment during pregnancy that enables the infected mother to breastfeed, APA learnt here Tuesday. Officially launching Community Infant and Young Child Feeding Support in Mahalapye village in central Botswana, chief medical officer Dr Tshepo Machacha said they have realised that most young mothers choose not to breastfeed.

Dr Machacha said that this is because of misconceptions and myths surrounding breastfeeding in relation to HIV. He said breastfeeding is not only an affordable method of feeding but also nutritious and readily available.

He said in this era of high rate of unemployment mothers prefer to struggle with buying expensive milk rather than choosing a natural way of feeding.

He highlighted that children that have been breastfed for at least six months have shown a stronger resistance to illnesses as breast milk contains disease-fighting antibodies. (APA 01-11-2016)

## NIGERIA RECORDS HIGH MATERNAL MORTALITY

As Nigeria prepares for the 4th Family Planning Conference, reports show that the country's maternal mortality ratio has hit 576 deaths out of every 100,000 live births daily.

This translates to about 40,000 women dying every year with 111 dying daily or 5 percent dying every hour.



This makes the country home to the second largest number of maternal deaths in the world after India.

The report was presented on Tuesday in Abuja by Dr. Ezike Orji, the Chairman of the Association for the Advancement of Family Planning (AAFP) as well as the Chairman of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) of the conference.

According to the report, most of the deaths are associated with poor family planning strategies.

Some of the deaths occur in high-risk pregnancies, including too young girls with obstructed labour.

Many young girls with unwanted pregnancies die in complications arising from procuring abortions.

Women too, who have too many children, could very easily bleed to death after delivery.

“In another case, some women's pregnancies are very close together and their chances of bleeding to death are remarkably high after the delivery,” the report said.

The report said that family planning had been universally accepted as one of the key pillars and most cost effective means of achieving safe motherhood.

The report indicted Nigeria for being behind in the use of contraceptives. “Nigeria happens to be one of the poor performing countries this season of success.”

According to the report, for the first time in history, the number of women and girls using modern contraception in the world's 60 poorest countries has surpassed 300 million, but Nigeria has not recorded success.

“It noted that more than 30 million additional women and girls compared to 2012 now can use contraception across the 60 focus countries.”

The sad news for us, the report noted, is that even in this celebrated increase in the use of contraception across the globe, Nigeria happens to be one of the poor performing countries.

“The reason being largely that family planning programmes have not been given priority and well funded,” the report added.

At the Family Planning conference in London in 2012, Nigeria committed to add \$8.3 million to the existing agreement to provide \$3 million, but has been able to release \$3 million since then.

At the family planning holding from November 3rd, experts including those from UNFPA would interact with women and girls as well as religious leaders and reach-out to a unique group of stakeholders to save the women. (APA 01-11-2016)

## **BUSINESS ROADSHOW TUNISIA 2016: AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENHANCE COOPERATION BETWEEN RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY SECTORS**



The EU-funded project EUROMED Invest is participating in the organisation of the National Days of Technology Transfer of Tunisia (JNTT'2016) to be held on 9-10 November 2016 in Gammarth, Tunis. The event will bring together key actors from the research and industry communities to enhance cooperation between the two sectors.

During the two-day event, participants will have the opportunity to present and promote their inventions and services in an exhibition space; forge profitable collaborations thanks to Business2Research meetings; meet with national and international experts in technology transfer; attend conferences with high scientific focus and showcasing best practices led by national and international stakeholders; participate in the National Invention Contest.

The aim of the **EUROMED Invest** project is to boost private business and investment within the Euro-Mediterranean region to contribute to inclusive economic development. The project's activities aim to empower Euro-Med business and investment networks to implement targeted strategies in support of SME development in specific sectors: agri-food, water and alternative energies, tourism, transport and logistics, cultural and creative industries. (EUROMED Invest 07-11-2016)

EUROMED Invest [website](#), [facebook](#) and [twitter](#)

## US EXTENDS SUDAN'S SANCTIONS

U.S. President Barak Obama has decided to extend American sanction on Sudan, according a statement issued by the White house on Monday.

In the communiqué, president Obama accused Sudan of adopting policies that threaten the national security of the US.

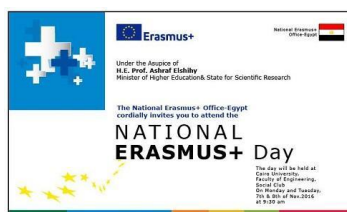
"The President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Sudan is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 2016" it announced.

"The crisis constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan that led to the declaration of a national emergency in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, and the expansion of that emergency in Executive Order 13400 of April 26, 2006, and with respect to which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13412 of October 13, 2006, has not been resolved" it said.

" These actions and policies continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13067 with respect to Sudan" it further added.

US economic sanctions imposed in Sudan since 1997.(APA 01-10-2016)

## EGYPT: 3RD NATIONAL ERASMUS+ DAY TO PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH & INNOVATION



The National Erasmus+ Office (NEO) in Egypt is holding the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Erasmus+ Day at the Social Club of the Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University on 7 and 8 November 2016 to announce the launch of the third Call for Proposals of various key actions under the Erasmus+ Programme.

The two-days-event is an opportunity to focus on the EU's support to the Higher Education, Research and Innovation sectors in Egypt, as well as provide information about the third Call for Proposals under the Erasmus+ programme.

In addition to Erasmus+, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation – Horizon 2020 – will also be briefly presented. Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly EUR 80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020). Currently, there are 24 projects funded under H2020 with participation of Egyptian entities including universities, research centres, public bodies and NGOs.

The Erasmus+ programme is the EU's flagship programme in the fields of education, training, youth and sport – both within the EU, and between the EU and the world. With a total budget of EUR 14.7 billion, it covers the period 2014-2020. Erasmus+ aims at becoming a more effective instrument to address the real needs in terms of human and social capital development in Europe and beyond. (EEAS 01-11-2016)

National Erasmus+ Office Egypt – [website](#) and [Facebook page](#)  
Erasmus+ - [website](#)

## **EU AGREES €27M FUNDING OF NAMIBIAN EDUCATION SECTOR**

The European Union Ambassador to Windhoek Jana Hybášková has revealed that the union has agreed to avail €27 million in budgetary support toward the education sector in Namibia.

“I am hoping before the end of this year we will be signing the budgetary support (agreement) toward the education sector in Namibia,” she said during a courtesy call to President Hage Geingob at State House on Tuesday.

Hybášková was accompanied by Pim van Ballekom, the vice-president of the European Investment Bank and his delegation.

The ambassador said the budgetary support was discussed on October 20, 2016 by 28 European ministers of development as part of the EU Development Fund (EDF) committee that agreed to fund various sectors in the Southern African country.

She said the EU delegation in Namibia and the Minister of Economic Planning, Tom Alweendo are expected to sign the funding agreement before the end of the year. (APA 02-11-2016)

## **ETHIOPIAN DAMS BACK TO FULL CAPACITY**

Ethiopia's dams whose power generation capacity had been reduced due to the El-Nino caused drought have started normal power generation after they retained sufficient water during the rainy season, a senior official told APA on Wednesday.

According to Engineer Azeb Asnake, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP), the drought which occurred last year affected the water volume of the dams and cuts their power producing capacity by more than half.

Ethiopia generates power from five dams including the recently inaugurated Gilgel Gibe III hydro-power dam.

"The decrease water volume in all dams in turn created shortage in the supply of power for domestic consumption and neighboring countries," she claimed.

They are generating power with their full capacity, she said.

Gibe-III hydro-power plant is also supplying up to 800 mega watt of electricity to the national grid, she added.

According to her, the country is currently supplying power to the neighboring countries so as to compensate the income it missed last year as a result of the drought.(APA 02-11-2016)

## MOROCCO SEES 'NO TURNING BACK' FOR CLIMATE PACT



Morocco is a leader of green energy in Africa and the Middle East

There is "no turning back" from a global accord to combat climate change, Morocco's foreign minister said on the eve of UN talks in Marrakesh, amid fears that US presidential candidate Donald Trump will try to pull his country out of the pact if he wins the upcoming election.

"There is no possible turning back in the negotiation on what was agreed in Paris," Salaheddine Mezouar, who will preside at the talks, told a news conference on Sunday, two days after the agreement, which was reached last year, came into effect.

"We can only advance," he said, adding that the agreement had strong momentum after formally entering into force on Friday with backing from major greenhouse gas emitters led by China, the United States and India.

Asked about Trump's threats, UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa noted that any state wanting to pull out would have to follow formal legal procedures, due to last four years.

"The agreement has entered into force and we are all obliged to deliver on those commitments," she said. Still, the agreement lets all nations to define their own commitments for fighting climate change and has no sanctions for non-compliance.

The number of nations that have ratified the 2015 Paris Agreement to curb global warming by shifting from fossil fuels has risen to 100 in recent days, including OPEC's top oil producer Saudi Arabia, the United Nations said.

The US election is casting a shadow over the meeting of officials from almost 200 countries in Marrakesh from November 7-18 to work on ways to implement pledges made in Paris to adopt cleaner energies such as wind and solar power.

Trump wants to ditch the Paris Agreement, doubting mainstream scientific findings that droughts, floods and rising sea levels are linked to human activities. By contrast, his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton is a supporter.

With the UN accord legally in place, Trump may find it easier if he wins to oppose US President Barack Obama's plans to cut US greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 percent cut by 2025 from 2005 levels. Trump says the agreement would undermine US jobs, such as those in the coal industry.

The Morocco meeting is set to start writing a detailed "rule book" for the Paris Agreement, likely to take two years, and find ways to act such as raising finance to help developing nations cut their rising emissions.

The Paris Agreement entered into force on Friday after it passed a twin threshold last month of support from 55 nations representing 55 percent of global emissions.

Efforts to build a new global deal to tackle climate change were for many years criticised for moving at glacial pace. Climate negotiators in Morocco find themselves facing an entirely new problem: a deal that, astonishingly, has come into effect more than three years ahead of schedule.

That has been a cause for celebration - and some puzzlement.

"We're now in an interesting conundrum we never thought we'd find ourselves in: After pushing for decisive and speedy action, we got it," said Paula Caballero, global director of the climate programme at the Washington-based World Resources Institute.

The immediate challenge for negotiators is that, by law, countries that have ratified the deal must start agreeing the rules to implement it at the next UN climate conference.

But that meeting starts on Monday in Marrakesh. That has left officials a very short time to iron out a host of technical issues - and only about half the parties that crafted the Paris deal eligible to participate in the early decision-making.

"Because we've jump-started the (deal), we now have to find a way for negotiators to discuss the rules while still finding ways for other countries to come in and join," said Liz Gallagher, a climate diplomacy expert at London-based E3G, a sustainable-development think tank.

But that is "a good problem to have", she said. "It's the first time we really feel the urgency in the negotiations is reflected." (Al Jazeera 06-10-2016)

## **NAMIBIA MAKES PHOSPHATE MINING CLEARANCE U-TURN**

In a dramatic U-turn, Namibia's Minister of Environment and Tourism, Pohamba Shifeta on Wednesday announced the withdrawal of an environmental clearance certificate for phosphate mining on its seabed with immediate effect.

The decision came after legal representatives of the fishing industry launched an urgent application in Windhoek's High Court on Tuesday evening against the mining of marine phosphate.

The Confederation of Namibian Fishing Associations, the Namibian Hake Association, the Midwater Trawling Association of Namibia asked the court to overturn the decision by Environmental Commissioner, Teofilus Nghitila to issue the certificate to the Namibian Phosphate Mining.

Pohamba who was also publically censured by Fisheries and Marine Resources Minister, Bernard Essau over the matter said the withdrawal will now accord interested parties to launch their inputs into the mining of marine phosphate for the next three months.

Minister Esau has been resolute in his opposition to phosphate mining, arguing that the government needed time for more studies to determine its impact on marine resources given that such mining has not been done anywhere in the world.

The fisheries sector has also resisted the proposed phosphate dredging, arguing that it will cause significant impact to the marine environment and the fishing industry on the basis that mining sediment plumes could drift over fish breeding grounds and leave a suffocating impact.

Namibian Marine Phosphate which was awarded a mining permit by the Mines ministry to exploit marine

phosphate about 120 kilometres southwest of the port of Walvis Bay, is owned by Omani billionaire, Mohammed Al Barwami and Namibian partner Knowledge Katti.

In a strongly worded press statement, the company has accused those against phosphate mining of trying to mislead the public.

“The issue of whether or not Namibia should continue with its established world leader status in marine mining and proceed with the development of the marine phosphate industry should not be allowed to be hi-jacked by any polarising entities or parties to further vested social, political or commercial interests at the expense of the National interest” the company said.

It said the core of the matter was to give fair and due consideration on the balance of evidence supported by scientific fact, to the responsibility for developing all of Namibia’s natural marine resources to their fullest potential for the National benefit. (APA 02-11-2016)

### **NEW MAGHREB SCRIBE ADVOCATES PROGRESSIVE INTEGRATION**

The new Secretary General of the Union of Arab Maghreb (UAM), Teyib El Bekouch is advocating a “progressive integration” of members of the region bloc according to a statement issued in the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott on Wednesday.

The Tunisian head of the UAM said the organization should mobilize all its forces and work toward gradual integration of Maghreb countries through what he called a clear working method.

He explained that such a method must be spread “over several stages” and advance “step by step to achieve the desired goals”.

The new UAM Secretary General was speaking after emerging from a meeting with Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz in Nouakchott.

Bekouch said he was in the Mauritanian capital to inform President Ould Abdel Aziz of his conception of the UAM General Secretariat’s action during the next step for it to be “an effective tool capable of developing the union and its institutions.”

He thanked the Mauritanian leader for his personal trust in him by “supporting my candidacy,” presented by the Tunisian president to head the UAM.

Aside from Mauritania, UAM members include the North African countries of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya. (APA 02-11-2016)

### **STANDARD & POOR’S LOWERS CREDIT RATING ON MOZAMBIQUE**

Credit rating agency Standard & Poor’s (S&P) has reduced its rating on Mozambique’s long term sovereign debt by one level from “CCC” to “CC”, according to a statement issued on Friday.

The review came after the announcement of the government’s intention to undertake a restructuring of its external liabilities, which is considered a default, according to S&P.

S&P classified Mozambique’s sovereign debt with a negative outlook, reflecting its view that the restructuring of bonds with maturity in 2023, “is equivalent to a financial default.”

On 25 October the government of Mozambique officially acknowledged its inability to pay the next instalments of the debts of state-owned enterprises with loans backed by the state, calling for a restructuring of payments and a new financial aid package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Mozambique previously benefited from a process of debt restructuring of US\$850 million taken on by tuna company Ematum, also under a state-backed loan, which occurred before more the disclosure of loans to two other public companies in the amount of US\$1.4 billion.

“This succession of defaults demonstrates a weak debt payment culture in Mozambique,” said S&P, also referring to the two companies that benefited from the new hidden loans, Proindicus and Mozambique Asset Management (MAM), which failed in May to pay the first instalment of US\$178 million.

A week before Fitch Ratings had announced it was keeping Mozambique’s long-term credit rating unchanged at “CC”, both in foreign currency and in local currency, with short-term debt, both in foreign currency and in local currency, receiving a rating of “C”, one level below “CC”. (07-11-2016)

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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.



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Infrastructure is the most significant factor affecting the economic growth and development of Africa's emerging markets. By 2030, the African continent will be home to nearly two billion people, with 175 million living in urban centers of 5 million inhabitants. High growth sectors such as agribusiness, manufacturing, fast moving consumer goods, ICT and tourism are driving a new demand for better infrastructure. As African countries compete in the global market, governments and the private sector will need to explore new sources of funding, engage new partners and adopt innovative business models and technology.

Join the Corporate Council on Africa and more than 400 business executives, investors and government leaders convening in New Orleans on December 4-6 at the 2016 U.S.-Africa Infrastructure Conference. CCA's U.S.-Africa Infrastructure Conference - the first and only conference in the United States focused solely on U.S.-Africa Infrastructure – will bring together stakeholders in African economic growth to network, engage and discuss Africa's infrastructure development and how to unleash the continent's Next Wave of Growth.

We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans this December!

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