

MEMORANDUM

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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.

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EU OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE: PRELIMINARY 2014 DATA PUBLISHED

The European Union has kept its place as the world's largest aid donor in 2014, according to statistics published today by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Who compiles the statistics?

The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is the ultimate authority that decides if expenditure reported to it (by member states or other donors) qualifies as Official Development Assistance (ODA). The DAC has 29 members: Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, USA, 19 EU Member States and the EU.

Two EU Member States (i.e. Estonia and Hungary) are non-DAC OECD members, while another seven (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Romania) are neither OECD nor DAC members.

How are the numbers compiled?

The Commission presents individual data on all EU Member States, including on those whose data are not available through DAC. Otherwise the data published by the OECD and by the Commission are identical. The EU uses the same current price figures as presented by DAC in the publication of preliminary figures for 2014, reconverted from USD to EUR using the DAC exchange rate.

There are two differences in analysing the changes in ODA volumes:

The Commission presents and analyses data in Euro values, while the DAC uses US Dollars. This exchange rate difference in evaluation applies for both global figures and individual Member States.

The Commission uses values in nominal terms (current prices) for presenting changes. The DAC presents data both in constant prices and nominal terms, but calculates changes only in constant prices and exchange rates.

ODA to GNI ratios are not affected by the above differences.

In addition to the EU28 ODA presented by the DAC, the Commission also presents the EU collective ODA, which is a sum of the ODA reported by the EU Member States and the additional ODA provided by the EU institutions. Most of the EU institutions' ODA spending is, for the purposes of ODA/GNI reporting, imputed to EU Member States, i.e. Member States data include part of the institutions' spending. The ODA provided through European Investment Bank (EIB) own resources is not imputed to Member States and is additional to the Member States' ODA.

What do the statistics show?

The total aid of the 28 EU Member States alone rose from €54.0 billion in 2013 to €56.1 billion in 2014, remaining at 0.41% of GNI. Additional ODA from the own resources of the European Investment Bank contributes to the collective EU amount, bringing it to €58.2 billion.

Almost all EU Member States reported their 2014 ODA levels using a new methodology for calculating their GNI. This resulted in an increase in GNI levels for those Member States, resulting in a relative decline in their ODA/GNI levels, despite an overall increase in EU collective ODA of almost 2.4%.

Without this change in GNI methodology, EU collective ODA in 2014 would have reached 0.44% of EU GNI.

Why is the data preliminary?

The data presented is based on information that OECD and Commission have received from Member States in recent weeks. Additional information on the details of funds and programmes for 2014 will be reported to and checked by DAC over the course of 2015. Final 2014 ODA figures with detailed breakdown should be published by OECD DAC in December 2015. (EU 08-04-2015)

INACTIVE MINING LICENSES IN MOZAMBIQUE MAY BE REVOKED

Licenses for surveying and exploration of mineral resources in Mozambique whose holders are failing to meet the provisions of the law may be revoked in the short term, the national director of Mines said recently.

Geraldo Valoi said all the concessions that are not being explored and are not complying with legal requirements have been identified and are now subject to the ministry's initiative to revoke ownership, collectively, of all the concessions that are idle and have not been in line with the Mining code for many year, according to daily newspaper Notícias.

The national director of Mining took part in a meeting with mining license holders, organised by the Manica provincial government, in order to listen to the business operators on the measures to be taken to curb illegal exploration, pollution of rivers and the lack of use of the concession areas for mining. Valoi said that the highest incidence of illegal artisanal mining occurs in the concession areas, whose mining license holders are not using them, encouraging mining that, in turn, has very harmful effects on the environment and human health, with significant pollution of all rivers downstream of concessions and other areas with occurrence of gold.

Sergio Sacama, manager of the Chicamba dam, told the meeting that the water in the Revué River, has mercury sediments that are already negatively affecting the operation of the machines, which can affect the longevity of projects and undermine efforts to give the facility more capacity and operability. (08-04-2015)

OIC SPECIAL ENVOY VISITING BANJUL

The special envoy of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to the Sahel, Barisu Masure is on a visit to Banjul which began on Monday.

The OIC envoy Tuesday morning held talks with Gambian Vice President Isatou Njie-Saidy at State House in Banjul. Speaking to journalist shortly after their closed door meeting, the OIC official said the purpose of his trip is to improve cooperation between the Gambia and the organization.

He said, the visit also availed him the opportunity to personally and on behalf of the OIC's Secretary General, condemned the terrorist attack that hit the country in December last year.

According to him their discussion also touched on ways of ensuring stability and development in the Sahel region, citing his capacity as the Special Envoy to the Sahel.

The Gambia is expected to host the OIC summit in 2018 for the first time in its history.

President Yahya Jammeh has since been lobbying to host one of the subsequent editions of the organization's conferences.

Gambia has begun preparation for the successful hosting of the summit beginning with the construction of a state-of-the-art conference centre to hold the event.(APA 31-03-2015)

NEW SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE INVESTOR CODE INCLUDES BUSINESS TAX EXEMPTION

The new São Tomé and Príncipe Investor Code provides for exemption of tax on corporate income in specific cases, said Tuesday in Lisbon the Sao Tome Minister of the Presidency and Parliamentary Affairs.

Minister Afonso Varela, who was speaking on the sidelines of a seminar organised by the Business Association of São Tomé and Príncipe and law firm Miranda Correia Amendoeira & Associados, said the new Code includes a lower rate of corporate tax to between 15 and 20 percent.

"We are working on the development of an investors code where the investment opportunities are identified. In the tax area we will reduce the tax on business income, currently 25 percent to between 15 and 20 percent, but in specific sectors that rate will be much reduced or even zero," said Varela, cited by Portuguese news agency Lusa.

In addition to lowering the tax rate, the minister said that the government of São Tomé and Príncipe plans to “strengthen the guarantees that are given in registering properties and reform of the courts.” (08-04-2015)

EBRD PUMPS €30M INTO TUNISIA MSMEs

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is providing a €30 million loan to Banque de Tunisie, the largest Tunisian bank by market capitalisation, for on-lending to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), officials announced in London on Tuesday.

EBRD headquarters in London said MSMEs, which account for 91 percent of active firms in Tunisia, provide 69 percent of employment in the private sector.

These enterprises play an important role, accounting for 51 percent of gross domestic product.

The EBRD credit line will provide much-needed long term financing to MSMEs, helping to strengthen and develop a vital sector for the country's economy and generate job opportunities.

Hildegard Gacek, EBRD Managing Director for the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region, said: We are very pleased to further support private enterprises in Tunisia by teaming up with Banque de Tunisie. Tunisia has great potential, with high levels of entrepreneurship which we consider to be one of the most important pillars of the economy.

The EBRD has been operating in Tunisia since September 2012, committing over €232 million in 16 projects across various sectors and signing two trade finance agreements with local banks.

The Bank has also facilitated direct technical assistance through its Small Business Support programme, which has benefited approximately 130 Tunisian small and medium-sized firms to date. (APA 31-03-2015)

SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE OF NACALA, MOZAMBIQUE, RECEIVES NEW PROJECTS

The Office for Economic Areas with Accelerated Development (Gazeda) of Mozambique in 2014 reviewed and approved, through its Northern Regional Office, 27 new investment projects, Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias reported.

The newspaper cited the spokesman of the regional delegation, Américo José, as saying that the projects in the industry, trade, services, tourism and construction sectors, would all be located in the Special Economic Zone of Nacala (ZEEN).

José said the approved projects represent a joint investment of US\$353 million, an increase of 9.2 percent over the figure recorded in 2013.

The regional delegation spokesman said some of the challenges to growth of the ZEEN included a lack of water for domestic and industrial consumption, the poor quality of electricity, poor inter-institutional coordination, poor quality of roads and a shortage of skilled labour.

He said challenges for this year include improvement of access roads, construction of basic infrastructure, especially for water supply, electricity and telecommunications in the Locone and Munheuhene Duty-Free Zones as well as improvements in conjunction with the different partners operating in the Special Economic Zone of Nacala.

On Monday, the director of Gazeda, Danilo Nalá, told Mozambican newspaper O País there were investors dropping out of projects in the special economic zone, due to the poor quality of electricity, water scarcity and precariousness of local roads. (08-04-2014)

CAMEROON GETS CFA176B TO REHABILITATE ROAD

The government of Cameroon along with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Development Bank of Central African States (BDEAC), the African Development Fund (ADF) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have signed four loan agreements totaling CFA 176 billion to rehabilitate national road Number 15.

The 248.6 km-long stretch shall open up the corridor linking Central and Adamawa regions.

The organizations will each respectively contribute the tune of CFA 101 billion, CFA 40 billion, CFA 9 billion, CFA 26 billion, in addition to the CFA 26 billion from their local counterpart.

The French Development Agency (AFD), for its part, is expected to make available CFA 43 billion to finance the building of a bridge on the Sanaga River and the construction of a 24 km-long service road.

For 57 years, Cameroonian authorities have been considering paving the Bastchenga-Ntui-Yoko-Lena route, located in a heavily agricultural area and whose construction to begin in 2016, will last four years.

The government reintroduced the project in its development agenda 30 years ago. (APA 31-03-2015)

CABO VERDE: COLD STORAGE IN PORTO GRANDE

A consortium of three Spanish companies is expected to be awarded the management of the cold-storage facility in Porto Grande, in Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) as it was the only candidate to move on to the second phase of the international tender launched by Cape Verdean port management company Empresa Nacional de Portos de Cabo Verde, reported weekly newspaper A Semana.

The technical and financial proposal submitted by the consortium formed by ATMLO, Frigoríficos del Grove and Frescomar, the latter set up in Mindelo for a long time, is still being analysed and a final decision is expected in the next few days.

The cold-storage facility of Porto Grande, inaugurated Tuesday by Prime Minister José Maria Neves, will only come into operation when the committee in charge determine the outcome of the tender, although the cold store machines are already operating.

Co-financed by Cabo Verde and Spain to a total of 12.7 million euros, the facility for storing and processing of fish, vegetables and meats took six years to build.

The president of Empresa Nacional de portos de Cabo Verde, Franklim Spencer, said the facility could receive around 700 tons of fresh produce for the domestic market or for export. (08-04-2015)

ZAMBIA DESCRIBES 2015 AS TOUGH ECONOMIC YEAR

Zambia's government on Tuesday said that the year 2015 has proved to be economically challenging for the Southern African country in view of falling copper prices, the main export, on international markets, a top government.

Secretary to the Treasury Fredson Yamba said on Tuesday that copper was selling at its lowest in five years and this had affected the country's projected export earnings on which the Ministry of Finance had based a number of development programmes but with less money coming into the treasury adjustments would have to be made.

He added the strong performance of the United States dollar in recent months had also negatively impacted the performance of the local currency the Zambian Kwacha, which has been under severe pressure and had continued on the downward spiral for many months.

He noted that the volatile currency had affected the copper mining industry negatively as it had become difficult for mining companies to plan their activities.

He said however that despite the poor performance of the Kwacha and the low copper prices, overall the country's economy would continue to record positive strides with the country expected to post a growth rate of about 6 percent at the end of the year. (APA 31-03-2015)

CABO VERDE'S ECONOMY POSTS GROWTH IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY

Cabo Verde's (Cape Verde's) domestic demand indicator, after a slowdown in late 2014, showed a slightly faster pace of growth in the first two months of the year, mainly determined by changes in gross fixed capital formation (GFCF), according to the Bank of Cabo Verde.

The investment indicator (GFCF) continued the recovery started in 2014, showing some stabilisation in growth since November 2014. The greater dynamism of GFCF was supported by increases in imports of construction goods and equipment, continuously driven by the public sector and foreign investment. Internal financing conditions remained negative for the domestic private sector, while externally the indicators of financial markets in the Euro Zone continued to show a trend of slight relaxation of the restrictions.

In a recently released document, the archipelago's central bank also noted that domestic demand continued to support the momentum of economic activity, given that external demand remained unfavourable.

The bank also said the consumption indicator continued the upward trend it had been following since the end of 2014, supported by consumption of durable goods.

According to the document, tourism revenues captured by banks decreased by 19.1 percent, despite an increased supply capacity and prices in the sector.

Structural constraints (infrastructure, taxation and diversification of supply), which limit the capacity of Cape Verdean operators to compete with other markets, may be contributing to these results, the Bank of Cabo Verde said. (08-04-2015)

CHINA DONATES MILITARY HARDWARE TO NAMIBIA

Namibian President Hage Geingob has on Monday thanked the Chinese Government for donating military equipment to the country's defence force worth \$58 million.

General Chang Wanquan, the State Councillor and Minister of National Defence of China made the announcement when he met President Geingob at State House on Monday.

Wanquan said the military equipment would go a long way to assist Namibia in its ongoing effort to contribute to peace keeping operations in the region and Africa in general.

As an important country on the southern part of Africa, Namibia has made positive contribution to peace and stability in the region and China express appreciation and adoration of such role, he added.

Wanquan, who was accompanied by high ranking officers from China's military, said they used their visit to Namibia as an opportunity to deepen and press forward the cooperation on defence and other military related initiatives. (APA 31-03-2015)

PORT IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA RECEIVES FIRST CRUISE SHIP

The city of Namibe, in the province of the same name in southern Angola, Monday for the first time received a cruise ship with 53 passengers of different nationalities, according to Angolan news agency Angop.

The vessel arrived at Namibe port from the city of Walvis Bay in neighbouring Namibia, and went back to sea six hours later headed for the Angolan cities of Lobito and Luanda, before heading to Europe.

The tourists from the United States, Australia, United Kingdom, Germany, Czech Republic, Norway, Turkey, Canada, South Africa, Costa Rica and Norway and aged between 29 and 85 years, visited some of the monuments in Namibe as well as the desert that the Angolan province shares with Namibia.

The first cruise ship to stop off in Angola docked in the port of the capital, Luanda, on 9 February, 2013, travelling from South Africa, with about 300 tourists on board. (08-04-2015)

ETHIOPIA: COMESA MEMBER STATES URGED TO CONSOLIDATE FREE TRADE AREA

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) has urged its member states to continue consolidating free trade area across the region, reports said on Tuesday.

In its final communiqué of the eighteenth summit of the Heads of States and government taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, COMESA also appealed to its member states to remove all non-tariff barriers using the tripartite online reporting and monitoring mechanism.

The regional grouping has appreciated Uganda for beginning to implement the COMESA Free Trade Area (FTA) and commended commitments of Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea to joining the COMESA free Trade Area.

The intra-COMESA trade had increased to \$22.4 billion in 2014 signifying a recovery from \$12.7 billion in 2009.

The summit also urged COMESA member states that have not accepted the protocol amending WTOTRIPS Agreement to do so as soon as possible and notify the WTO Secretariat by December 2015 after which date the acceptance shall be invalid.

The summit further called on member states to promote and invest in strategic programs aimed at improving access, manufacture and distribution of antiretroviral and other drugs and medical commodities as a sustainable step towards ending major epidemics including AIDS, TB and malaria. (APA 31-03-2015)

MALAWI: REGULATORY BODY UNVEILS MAXIMUM TOBACCO PRICE

Malawi's Tobacco Control Commission (TCC), the country's tobacco regulatory body has released minimum and maximum buying prices for tobacco leaf at the Auction Floors on Tuesday.

Burley tobacco minimum price is at MK379 (85 cents) to MK2 007 (US\$4.50) per kilogram (kg), Flue-cured tobacco buying price is at MK129 (25 cents) to MK1,784 (US\$4) per kg while Dark fire is at MK446 (US\$1) to MK1,516 (US\$3.40) per kg.

TCC Chief Executive Officer, Bruce Munthali said Tuesday in the capital Lilongwe that the tobacco output has dropped by 10million kilograms to 181million compared to last year's 191million kg mainly due to dry spells and heavy rains experienced in the country.

"Despite natural calamities like heavy rains, floods and dry spells which affected the output of tobacco in the country, the quality of the leaf is still good," he said.

He added that farmers should expect good price on their tobacco leaf because of the competition which will be there on the side of buyers on the market. However, tobacco market is set to open on Wednesday, April 8.(APA 31-03-2015)

WHY MOBILE MONEY SHOULD MATTER TO GOVERNMENT

Mobile money thrives on convenience. There are towns in South Africa where banks do not exist which force residents to travel great distances and long hours just for an ATM.

Speaking at The Economist Conference in Johannesburg in late 2014, Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene said, "There is a perception that financial inclusion efforts will necessarily lead to increased financial risk and hence have a negative effect on financial stability. However, if financial inclusion is approached from a systemic perspective and pursued responsibly, the opposite is true".

This tells, without a doubt, that government is eager for a nation where no one is financially excluded; where the poor, the marginalised and those who live in far-flung areas have no access to banks and other financial services. Mobile money is an efficient and reliable answer to this. It has the potential to transform lives by bringing into the system those who have been left behind due to high costs of banking and general lack of access to banks due to distance.

Mobile money thrives on convenience. There are towns in Africa where banks do not exist which force residents to travel great distances and long hours just for an ATM. This market has been neglected for a long time and it is even estimated that in South Africa about R12 billion is kept "under mattresses". The National Development Plan touches on this saying "while the South African banking and insurance sector is viewed as relatively sophisticated in a global context, banks and insurers find it hard to extend services to this market segment using traditional channels because of their high costs and limited potential for income". The NDP would like South Africa to reach 90% of financial inclusion by 2030.

Mobile money in its simplest definition is the ability for a person to pay for goods and services, transfer or deposit money, apply for insurance or a small loan, send money or receive money from another person using a cell phone. The mobile money system must also allow that particular individual to spend the money without exchanging it into cash. This also means the local enterprises, supermarkets, retailers, general dealers etc, must be able to accept mobile money as another form of payment alongside cards and cash. Mobile money can also allow citizens to pay for municipal bills, receive salaries, social grants, and travel without using cash.

There are few questions that are always asked regarding mobile money in South Africa like, how safe is it and what can South Africa do to emulate Kenya's success story where 77% of its population are living within 5 km of financial access, thanks to mobile money agents. South Africa is, at the moment, advancing technologically at a rapid pace which also means the execution of the mobile money system should not be a challenge. Mobile money compared to cards that can be cloned or susceptible to fraud and cash that can be lost or robbed still rates the safest.

The key to mobile money security is to make it as easy to use but as secure as possible. This is done by using security measures like location tracking, two step verification even more advance security features like biometric. Although every mobile money solution applies its own security methods they all have one thing in common, as our phones become smarter, so do the criminals. Lack of consumer education allows criminals to elicit information from unsuspecting mobile money customers which is used in fraudulent activities. Mobile operators and financial institutions need to work closely to provide greater levels of security and a safe mobile banking experience.

At Walletec, for example, we ensure that all data is encrypted between the POS and the mobile money provider. No data is stored on any third party devices like the POS or any other device except on the mobile money provider's system. All data transmitted by Walletec is encrypted using a 1024-bit RSA key. The Walletec solution enables secure end-to-end encryption of messages from the handset, over the air, through the mobile networks, to the mobile payment or banking platform and vice versa.

For South Africa to reach levels of high adoption a massive education campaign for citizens and businesses will need to be promoted and this can only succeed through a partnership between the private sector and government. Digital wallet companies will also need to abide by regulations to deliver a system that is safe, secure, reliable, accessible and definitely affordable. The success of the mobile money system must really be a co-ordinated effort by all to deliver a system that speaks to the needs of the people where no one is excluded because we are approaching a future where everything will be inter-connected and where a Smartphone will simplify people's lives in ways unimaginable. (IT News Africa 02-04-2015)

EAST AFRICA: CROSS-BORDER MOBILE MONEY TRANSFERS PLANNED

East African Communities will, by the end of 2015, be able to transfer money via mobile phones across borders if full implementation of the One Area Network Agreement (OANA) succeeds. This is according to a report by [Capital FM](#).

According to the report, Communications and Technology Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i stated that: "ICT Ministers from the region are now seeking approval from all respective central banks and treasury Ministries to go on with the project."

"Our presidents gave us a deadline and we are doing our best to have this done," the CS said.

The One Area Network Agreement is a commitment by regional countries to push for a reduction on international and roaming tariffs to ensure affordable communication services for ease of doing business.

"We are now exploring how we can have the One Area Network infrastructure grow from voice to data and mobile money transfer. We want you to be able to move money from your MPESA account here to a relative in Kigali and vice versa or from Airtel Uganda to Safaricom in Nairobi," Matiang'i said.

According to Matiang'i, the ministries will on their part focus on working on data reforms to reduce its cost in the region using the relevant authorities under them.

The project is currently being implemented in three EAC countries – Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda – as well as South Sudan which is yet to formally join the community. (IT News Africa 02-04-2015)

COMMERCE: UE – ALGERIE JOIGNENT LEURS EFFORTS

A l'occasion, de la Conférence nationale sur le commerce extérieur organisée sous le haut patronage de Son Excellence Monsieur le Président de la République, le 31 mars 2015, le Ministère du Commerce et la Délégation de l'Union européenne en Algérie ont signé un protocole pour des nouvelles actions visant l'appui à la diversification de l'économie algérienne et au commerce.

Ces actions s'inscrivent dans le cadre des priorités de coopération définies dans l'Accord d'association entre l'Union européenne et l'Algérie et sont une démonstration de l'accompagnement offert par l'Union européenne aux efforts de l'Algérie pour l'augmentation de ses exportations.

Les activités envisagées sont :

1. la création de capacités de diagnostic export ainsi que la mise en œuvre de toutes autres mesures favorisant les exportations;
2. la mise en place d'un dispositif de suivi des approvisionnements du marché et de l'observation des prix;
3. le renforcement de la capacité d'analyse des comportements anticoncurrentiels;
4. l'encadrement du commerce électronique;
5. la modernisation de la gestion des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie;
6. l'accompagnement de la mise en place d'un système qualité au sein du Centre National du Registre de Commerce.

Cette coopération sera implémentée dans le cadre du programme d'appui à la mise en œuvre de l'Accord d'association (P3A) (<http://www.p3a-algerie.org/>) et mises en œuvre par le Ministère du Commerce. (EU 31-03-2015)

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND COMMUNICATIONS

Burundi - <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=42823.0>

Ghana - <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2015/car040315a.htm>

Gambia - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15155.htm>

Madagascar, South Africa - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15164.htm>

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