MEMORANDUM

N° 69/2015 | 29/04/2015

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 1335 Memoranda issued from 2006 to 2014. More than 16,000 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

SUMMARY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION CONTRIBUTES EUR 295 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD INVESTMENT FACILITY

The Neighbourhood Investment Facility brings additional investments in transport, energy and environment infrastructure, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to the development of social and private sectors in Eastern and Southern Partner Countries. The European Commission decided to contribute an additional EUR 295.04 million to the Facility in 2015 to enable more than EUR 3 billion in investments.

The Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF) is an instrument which combines EU grants with other public and private sector financial resources, such as loans and equity. This allows to leverage additional non-grant financing for the development of key infrastructures and social and private sector development including specific support to SMEs.

'A flourishing economy across the neighbourhood is essential to reach our shared objectives of stability and prosperity. And for that, the private sector must be at the core of any successful process. A well-functioning private sector is critical to achieving strong and sustainable growth, creating the level of employment that is so much needed across the region. Our decision to provide an additional funding to the NIF will bring us closer to these shared objectives' stressed Johannes Hahn Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations *'*

In addition, this Commission decision allocates EUR 85 million of NIF resources in the Neighbourhood East to help SMEs to benefit from the opportunities offered by the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements signed with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine as well as stimulating woman entrepreneurship in the Eastern Partnership region. These specific projects targeting the East Neighbourhood are expected to generate more than EUR 1.3 billion of investment. (EC 24-04-2015)

EU PROPOSES TO BOOST HUMANITARIAN AID BY €50 MILLION AS COMMISSIONER STYLIANIDES VISITS SOUTH SUDAN

EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos **Stylianides**, who is visiting South Sudan, announces that the Commission is requesting new vital support in the amount of €50 million from the European Union for the victims of this humanitarian crisis.

"I have witnessed first-hand the immense suffering of the people of South Sudan. People who have been forced to leave their homes and desperately look for a safe place to live. People who lack the opportunity *to earn a living. They have suffered enough!"* said Commissioner Stylianides.

"*Humanitarian aid saves lives but it cannot solve the crisis. A sustainable peace agreement is urgently needed. I appeal to the various fighting groups in South Sudan for peace and reconciliation. South Sudanese leaders need to put an end to the unnecessary suffering of their people who deserve much better",* the Commissioner added.

The new aid package, once approved by the budgetary authorities, will bring the Commission's humanitarian aid for South Sudan and the neighbouring countries affected by the crisis to €120.5 million for 2015. It will provide immediate life-saving assistance (shelter, water, hygiene and protection) for the most vulnerable South Sudanese inside and outside of their country.

For over a year the world’s youngest state has been plagued by a major crisis affecting the entire region, including Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda. More than two million people have fled their homes, including over half a million refugees in the neighbouring countries.

The humanitarian situation in the country has been grave ever since violence broke out in 2013. The main humanitarian needs are for food, clean water, health-care, shelter, sanitation, hygiene and protection.

The UN estimates that 2.5 million people in South Sudan currently face severe food security and the situation might further deteriorate.

Humanitarian organisations struggle to reach the people who need aid, due to attacks against aid workers and general insecurity. The Commission maintains a

team of humanitarian experts in South Sudan, where they monitor the situation, assess the needs and oversee the use of EU funds. (EC 25-04-2015)

NIGERIA: EDO DISCOVERS LARGE COAL DEPOSIT - COULD GENERATE 1,200MW ELECTRICITY FOR DECADES

A group of indigenous mineral explorers said they have found coal reserves of over 196million metric tonnes in Edo State, capable of firing 1,200megawatts (mw) power plant for five decades.

Speaking during a presentation to the federal ministry of power yesterday, in Abuja, Head of the Technical Team of Jidet Nigeria Limited, Mr. Olujide Pocon Tajudeen- Alan, said the coal reserve was 35 metres long in the Edo communities, capable of generating 1,200mw of power at an estimated construction cost of $1.5billion.

Jidet Group, while briefing the ministry's coal-to-power committee, said they were in the ministry to be guided on how to attract technical partners and willing financiers with a view to actualising the project.

On the firm's capacity to operate a power plant he said: "We have the capacity to produce 1,000mw electricity for the next 50 years from the coal reserve. As at now, we have confirmed a reserve of 196million MT.

"Our major reasons for coming here is, we want to commence the application and processing of licences to officially enter into the power sector. We are also soliciting the support of experts in the ministry to guide us because initially we are mainly into mineral exploration."

Responding, Minister of Power, Prof. Chinedu Nebo, represented by his special adviser on renewable energy, Dr. Albert Okorogu said: "The meagre electricity we have in Nigeria is not sufficient so anything we have that we can tap into is very much welcomed.

"They have discovered coal in some unusual places that we have looked into and that's wonderful. If you look at our coal map, we have never actually mapped Edo as having coal. So the ministry will do all it can in ensuring that they move from mining coal to using it to generate power." (Daily Trust 22-04-2015)

MAPUTO/CATEMBE BRIDGE, IN MOZAMBIQUE, TO OPEN IN 2017

Work to build the bridge between Maputo and Catembe, which connects the two shores of the Bay of Maputo, will be concluded by the end of 2017, Mozambique's President, Filipe Nyusi.

The President, who was speaking at a rally, also said the government would make efforts to improve the vessels that currently offer passenger transport between the two sides, "to ensure their maintenance and avoid breakdowns."

Nyusi announced the start of construction work of some roads in Catembe, over six kilometres, which will significantly improve road travel in the town, another concern raised by local residents.

The Maputo/Catembe bridge is a long-standing plan of the Mozambican authorities, who at one time negotiated financing for the project with Portugal, but which, in 2012, would be provided by the Export-Import Bank of China, when the project was officially launched together with the Maputo ring road, whose budget of about US$315 million was also largely provided by the Chinese state-owned bank in the form of loans to the Mozambican government.

Both projects are being implemented by the China Road and Bridge Corporation, and the Maputo ring road, which is 74 kilometres long in total, is in its final phase of construction.

Considered the most important work in the south of Mozambique, since the country's independence, the bridge over the bay of Maputo will implement and complete the road link from the far north to the far south.

The bridge, which will be one of the largest suspension bridges in Africa, will be 680 metres long, with the northern access viaduct being 1,097 metres long and the southern access 1,234 metres long.

Construction of this bridge is part of the project to build the Maputo/Ponta do Ouro road, over a distance of 209 kilometres, a project split into three parts – Maputo/Catembe section (35 kilometres), section two from Catembe to Ponta de Ouro (109 kilometres) and includes the repair/construction of roads between Catembe/Bela Vista and Bela Vista/South Africa and section three to repair the Bela Vista/ Boane road (63 kilometres).

This project has an estimated cost of just over US$700 million. (27-04-2015)

LESOTHO: BASOTHO MUST BENEFIT FROM "WHITE GOLD"

Lesotho's new Minister of Water Ralechate 'Mokose says it is of paramount importance if Basotho are the ones to first benefit from a plethora of water sources locally known as 'White Gold'.

The minister said this on Wednesday in Maseru when addressing the challenge of water scarcity and hydroelectric power in the country.

"The two ministries of Water and Energy have to navigate ways of getting out of this situation."

He said he was going to propose US$3.3 million from the government for the 2015/16 financial year that would all be used to avail water to most Basotho.

'Mokose said it was a practice uncalled for to see Basotho thirsty and yet Lesotho is blessed with lots of water that could be used for domestic, industrial or irrigation purposes.

He said despite the giant project of the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission, Lesotho has some water sources that through technical expertise could be able to reach every Mosotho all over the country.

The Minister said they are planning to call experts from Swaziland to show them how they draw water from their rivers to implement various projects in their country.

Lesotho is currently exporting large volumes of water to the neighbouring South Africa where it earns millions of dollars on monthly basis. (APA 23-04-2015)

GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA WANTS TO BRING AN END TO BEEF IMPORTS

Angola currently spends US$500 million to import 100,000 tons of beef, a situation that the government intends to change, said Saturday in Lubango the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.
Minister Afonso Pedro Canga, speaking at a meeting with producers on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the establishment of the Cooperative of Southern Angola Cattle Breeders (CCGSA), said that the money spent on imports was a very large sum, "a situation that should be changed urgently."
To solve the problem, the minister said that some resolutions were adopted during the 4th joint meeting of the Economic Commission and the Commission for the Real Economy of the Council of Ministers.
He said the approved project aims to increase domestic production of quality beef in order to meet the growing needs of the population, starting with support to farmers and agricultural and livestock business-owners who have properly structured farms and are able to supply animals to slaughterhouses.
The project will be implemented through a credit line granted by selected banks following proposals submitted by farmers who, to this end, will have to employ at least two livestock technicians.
The Cattle Breeders Cooperative of Southern Angola (CCGSA) currently has 64 members, throughout the provinces of Huíla, Namibe, Cunene, Benguela, Huambo and Kwanza Sul. (27-04-2015)

EBRD AND EU HELP MOROCCAN HI-TECH FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANY ACHIEVE GROWTH

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), with funding from the EU's Neighbourhood Investment Facility, have connected S2M, a Moroccan company specialised in payment solutions, with an international adviser and technology expert to support the company to enter new markets and achieve its growth potential.

At the end of their two-year project, S2M's sales had grown by 33%, with exports increasing 25%, while the number of people employed by the company rose 18%.

After the success of the project, S2M and the EBRD are soon going to start a second Small Business Support (SBS) project, focussing on areas such as long-term planning, improving project management capacity and production efficiency and further developing sales operations and export capacity.

The **EBRD** was established in 1991 in response to major changes in the political and economic climate in central and Eastern Europe following the fall of the Berlin wall. In 2011, in response to the events of the Arab Spring, it agreed to extend its operations into the southern Mediterranean region. The EBRD finances projects, primarily in the private sector, that serve the transition to market economies and pluralistic democratic societies. The Bank is owned by 61 countries, the European Union and the European Investment Bank. (EU Neighbourhood Info)

ANGOLA WILL HAVE ANOTHER 25 HOTELS BY THE END OF THE YEAR

Angola will soon have an additional 25 hotels with 1,965 rooms, said Thursday in Lisbon the Secretary of State for Hospitality speaking at the inauguration of Hotel Skyna Lisbon, of Angolan group Skyna Hotels.

Paulino Baptista, who did not mention precise deadlines, said these 25 units would be inaugurated as part of the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of national independence, taking place this year, according to Angolan news agency Angop.

Among the new hotel developments, Baptista noted the Intercontinental Hotel, with 390 rooms, in Luanda, Hotel Palanca, with 146 rooms, in Malanje, as well as more than 20 units of the “AAA” company in five provinces of the country, “which will change the history of hotels in Angola forever,” he said.

The Secretary of State for Hospitality said the hotel and tourism sector in Angola was developing rapidly, featuring a network of 185 hotels, with 10,238 rooms and 13,743 beds, 14 apartment hotels with 725 rooms and 1,068 beds, 88 holiday villages, with 284 rooms and 310 beds and six inns, with 113 rooms and 117 beds.

Alexandre Portugal, CEO of the hotel chain, of Angolan group Socinger, explained the choice of Portugal for the start of the internationalisation process with the “proximity between the two countries, both because of the common Portuguese language and the success of partnerships between Portugal and Angola in tourism and hospitality.”

Skyna Hotel Lisboa has 105 rooms, including seven suites, five master suites with private balconies and views of the city, 67 standard rooms and 26 superior rooms.

The hotel’s restaurant will focus on Portuguese cuisine as well as special events, at which it will promote Angolan cuisine.

The chain’s first hotel, Skyna Hotel Luanda, was inaugurated in Angola in 2009. (27/04/2015)

COMMISSIONER HAHN IN TUNISIA ON 29-30 APRIL

On 29-30 April Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes **Hahn** will visit Tunisia, a priority partner for the EU. The purpose of the visit is to show support for Tunisia's reform process, hold consultations on the Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy and sign co-operation agreements with the country.

During his visit Commissioner will meet President Béji Caïd Essebsi, Head of Government Habib Essid, and civil society representatives. In Tunisia Commissioner **Hahn** will also be a keynote speaker at a Conference entitled 'Tunisia transformation – Cooperating with the neighbours: Europe, North Africa'.

EU PROVIDES €10 MILLION TO COUNTER RADICALISATION IN THE SAHEL-MAGHREB AND STEM THE FLOW OF FOREIGN FIGHTERS FROM NORTH AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND WESTERN BALKANS

Foreign terrorist fighters joining the ranks of IS and other militias in the Middle East are a growing threat to many countries, inside and outside the EU. The Commission is launching a new programme to help partner countries to counter radicalisation in the Maghreb countries and stem the flow of foreign fighters from North Africa, the Middle East and Western Balkans.

The High Representative and Vice-president Federica Mogherini: "Foreign fighters are a threat not only to the region but to the whole world. We need to increase our cooperation and support to partner countries, because terrorism is a common threat and we must fight it together. These programmes are a further step implementing the EU commitment to work closer with countries from North Africa, the Middle East and Western Balkans."

'Countries in the Middle East, North Africa and the Western Balkans are particularly concerned by the threat of foreign fighters and the radicalisation of their young population. However, such phenomena do not respect borders and the international community therefore needs to support these countries in their efforts to stem the flow of foreign fighters and counter radicalisation. The EU has allocated €10 million for a new programme providing such support ' stressed Johannes Hahn, EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations.

Under the new programme "Countering radicalisation and Foreign Terrorist Fighters", the EU will allocate a first tranche of €5 million to fund technical assistance to enhance the capacities of criminal justice officials to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cases of foreign fighters or would-be foreign fighters.

The second tranche of 5 million euro will finance countering radicalisation programmes in the Sahel and Maghreb region. It will offer the possibility to non-state actors to implement activities in the field of media, education, religion, culture. Projects focussing on messaging, internet, social media, disengagement, and awareness-raising with social workers will also be considered as well as measures preventing the radicalisation and recruitment of foreign fighters.

Today, the European Commission is also presenting its European Agenda on Security, where one of the priorities is preventing terrorism and countering radicalisation. The Agenda will enable a better use of existing and new tools in this area by improving exchange of information and increasing cooperation between EU institutions and agencies, Member States and relevant stakeholders. For more information see IP/15/4865.

The new programme "Countering radicalisation and Foreign Terrorist Fighters" has been defined in line with the Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions on counter-terrorism on 9 February 2015 in Brussels. These conclusions call for launching further projects of cooperation with key partners on counter-terrorism, including helping address the foreign fighter threat and address radicalisation, through our external aid instruments.

The programme builds upon the ongoing project "Supporting rule-of-law-compliant investigations and prosecutions in the Maghreb region" implemented by UNODC which started in 2014. The overall objective of this ongoing project is to increase the capacity of criminal justice and law enforcement officials to effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases in the Maghreb.

The new programme component on Foreign Terrorist Fighters is part of a global UNODC-initiative on "Strengthening the Legal Regime against Foreign Terrorist Fighters ", which was launched in Malta on 23-25 March 2015 and co-financed by the US and Japan.

The programme component on countering radicalisation in Sahel-Maghreb is part of the Sahel Regional Action Plan implementing the EU Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel adopted in March 2014. It complements other actions in the field of countering radicalisation such as "STRIVE Global" (Strengthening Resilience to Violence and Extremism) which will contribute to supporting the International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism (the Hedayah Centre) and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF). (EC 28-04-2015)~

CHINESE COMPANY BEGINS CONSTRUCTION OF PEMBA LOGISTICS BASE IN MOZAMBIQUE

The China Harbour Engineering Corporation (CHEC) is due within 30 days to launch the first phase of construction of the Pemba Logistics Base in northern Mozambique, the chief executive of ENH Logistics said.

The Pemba Logistics Base, whose official name is Integrated Hydrocarbon Logistics Centre, is a facility designed to meet the logistical needs of oil and gas operators in northern Mozambique.

The project was contracted to Portos de Cabo Delgado (PCD), a company set up by Mozambican oil and gas company ENH and port and rail manager CFM, which, in turn, sub-contracted the project to ENHILS, a company made up of ENH Logística (ENHL) and Nigerian company Orlean Invest.

The project aims to create an integrated logistics solution for current and future oil and gas research and development activities in the region, bringing together a commercial port and commercial, residential, industrial and tourism areas together in one place.

The first phase of implementation of the project has an estimated cost of over US$150 million to be used to build a 300-metre pier and development of a 60-hectare industrial area.

In a statement issued Monday, Eduardo Naiene said the facility, which is the first phase of the project, would be ready to offer logistics services to the oil and gas industry in the third quarter of 2016. (28-04-2015)

NIGERIAN BILLIONAIRE SETS SIGHTS ON DEVELOPING GAS PIPELINE

Aliko Dangote, Africa’s richest man, plans to quadruple the supply of gas to Nigeria by building pipelines that may be backed by Carlyle and Blackstone the world’s two biggest private-equity firms.

Mr. Dangote, who has a net worth of $15bn according to the Bloomberg Billionaires index, will invest $2.2bn to $2.5bn in two sub-sea 550km pipelines running from Nigeria’s oil and gas-producing Niger River delta region to the commercial hub of Lagos, Dangote said in an interview on April 25. The pipes would increase the amount of gas available in Africa’s biggest economy to 4-billion standard cubic feet (SCF) per day from 1-billion, he said.

While Nigeria has gas reserves of about 180-trillion cubic feet, more than any other African country, most of what is produced is flared or exported because of a lack of infrastructure to transport it to local companies and households. Boosting domestic supply would help increase electricity generation in a country where power cuts were common and about 70% of electricity plants were fuelled by gas, Mr. Dangote said.

"Having an additional 3-billion SCF will sort out all the gas issues we have today in Nigeria," he said in the lounge of his house in the Victoria Island district of Lagos. "It’s badly needed."

Mr. Dangote, who has interests ranging from cement to sugar and oil refineries, planned to start laying the pipelines before the end of the year, he said. The first one should be ready by mid-2017.

Private equity

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) was considering an investment in the pipelines as were Blackstone and Carlyle, Mr. Dangote said. Neither buyout firm responded to e-mails requesting comment.

Desmond Dodd, a Johannesburg-based spokesman for the International Finance Corporation, declined to comment by e-mail on Monday.

"We have a lot of companies that are very interested in participating," Mr. Dangote said.

Blackstone and Carlyle said in August they would partner Dangote Industries, the holding company for the billionaire’s operations, to invest in sub-Saharan Africa. Blackstone said its Johannesburg-based partner, Black Rhino, would jointly invest $5bn with the company on energy and other infrastructure in the region.

The pipelines could be used by oil producers in Nigeria that currently had little incentive to sell gas from their fields in the country, including Royal Dutch Shell and Exxon Mobil, Mr. Dangote said.

No infrastructure

"If today they process that gas, there's no infrastructure to remove it, there's no pipeline," he said. "We're trying to build that infrastructure."

Nigeria's economy, which gets 90% of export earnings and two-thirds of government revenue from oil, has been hit by the 40% fall in Brent crude prices since June. The naira has weakened by 18% against the dollar in that period, while the Nigerian Stock Exchange's all share index is down 19%.

Mr Dangote, who controls Dangote Cement, Nigeria's largest listed company, has seen his wealth fall by $3.4bn this year, more than anybody else aside from Warren Buffett, according to the Billionaires index.

His investments in oil and gas include a $9bn refinery near Lagos, which will be able to process 650,000 barrels a day when completed. The company got a licence from the government earlier this year and would export refined fuel to the rest of sub-Saharan Africa as well as sell it locally, Mr. Dangote said.

"We will be in the market with our petroleum products by the first quarter of 2018," he said.

Investors' concerns

Dangote Cement, which has a market value of $15bn and a free float of 7% in Lagos, would be ready to list its shares in London by the end of 2016, Mr. Dangote said. It was addressing investors' concerns in the meantime about the composition of its board and other corporate governance issues, he said.

"There are a lot of criteria we've met," he said. "Our aim is to create a world-class company. That's why we're going to London. It's not purely because we're looking for money."

Dangote Cement shares were unchanged at 175 naira by the close in Lagos on Monday. The stock is down 13% this year, more than the Nigerian stock index, which has fallen 1%. Profit declined 21% last year after a higher tax bill and prolonged rainy season in its home market, the company said in March.

Mr. Dangote's companies would increasingly focus on exports from Nigeria, including of cement, fertilizer, petrochemicals and refined fuel.

"But 2018, in the worst case, the Dangote Group will be able to export about $8bn-$10bn worth of goods," he said. "We are totally transforming the business to be export-orientated." (Bloomberg 28-04-2015)

CHINESE GROUP MAY FINANCE GRAPHITE PROJECT IN MOZAMBIQUE

Triton Minerals has signed a letter of intent with Chinese group Shenzhen Zhongjin Qianhai for US$200 million to finance a graphite mining project in Mozambique, the Australian mining company said Monday.

The final agreement will be signed by the end of June and provides for a direct investment of US$100 million by the Shenzhen Zhongjin Qianhai Group Co., Ltd (SZQG) in Triton Minerals' equity, with the remaining amount granted through a loan, said the Australian company in a statement.

Among the conditions set by the Chinese group for the loan is the annual supply of 200,000 tons of graphite concentrate over a decade from the monte Nicanda project in northern Mozambique, at a minimum price of US$750 per ton.

Triton Minerals expects that the minimum amount of this supply agreement will be US$1.5 billion, which will ensure the necessary investment for the start of graphite exploration activities in this deposit, "the largest known graphite reserve" which is part of the Balama Norte concession, one of three that the company operates in Mozambique.

Headquartered in the city Shenzhen, in Guangdong Province, the SZQG group focuses on finance, retail and trade, managing a portfolio of assets valued at around US$10 billion, according to the Triton press release.

Since the beginning of the year, the Australian mining company has signed at least two important agreements with Chinese groups, seeking financing for its graphite exploration projects in Mozambique.

The most important was announced at the beginning of April and involves a contract with Yichang Xincheng Graphite Co. (YXGC), which is for 20 years and gives Triton Minerals exclusive rights to supply graphite to this company in Malawi, Madagascar and Tanzania, and Mozambique.

The commercial contract guarantees a minimum sale price of US$1,000 per ton of graphite that the Chinese company will purchase during the 20-year contract period, with the overall value of the deal set at a minimum of US$2 billion.

Triton Minerals has a majority stake of 80 percent in the three projects it explores in Mozambique – Ancuabe, Balama Norte and Balama Sul – and the remaining share (20 percent) is owned by Grafex Ltd.(28-04-2015)

THINK TANK EVENT IN TUNIS: EXPLOITING THE POTENTIAL OF SATELLITE NAVIGATION FOR ROAD REGULATED APPLICATIONS

A 'Think Tank' event is being organised in Tunis on 19 May by the Euromed GNSS II/MEDUSA project, bringing together speakers from European and Euromed countries to present their state of play and practical experiences concerning European Satellite Navigation Systems (E-GNSS).

The day-long event on 'Exploiting the potential of E-GNSS in non-EU countries for road regulated applications' is organised to coincide with the Elgazala Innovation Days 2015.

The Think Tank is aimed at industry, business and research sectors involved in the fields of geolocalization and Intelligent Transport Systems, as well as road operators and public bodies. It features interactive discussions from different perspectives, policy, user needs, technology and commercial.

The deadline for registration is 13 May.

MEDUSA supports the Southern Mediterranean partner countries towards the operational introduction and exploitation of the European GNSS (EGNOS/Galileo) in various applications, mainly in the transport sectors.

The **Euromed Satellite Navigation (GNSS II)** is part of the Euromed Transport programme, and provides technical assistance and infrastructure to promote the introduction of global navigation satellite system (GNSS) services in the Mediterranean region. (EU Neighbourhood 22-04-2015)

AIRPORT IN CABO VERDE'S CAPITAL DOUBLES ITS CAPACITY

The international airport in Praia, the capital of Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), will have its passenger and luggage processing capacity doubled within two years, said Monday the Minister of Infrastructure and the Maritime Economy.

Minister Sara Lopes was speaking to Portuguese news agency Lusa about the airport expansion project, whose foundation stone was laid on Monday by Prime Minister José Maria Neves and which will process 800,000 passengers per year "with comfort and quality services."

As part of the airport master plan the work, initially scheduled for 2014, is expected to cost 3 billion escudos (27.2 million euros) and exclude, for now, the extension of the runway, which is currently 2,100 metres long, by another 500 metres.

The financing agreement was reached in June 2013, and the African Development Bank (AfDB) pledge to fund the following project, to extend the runway, which does not currently allow for large aircraft to land.

The expansion of the airport apron, estimated to cost 2.26 million euros, was awarded to Portuguese company Armando Cunha.

Fernandes Henriques Pimenta, responsible for the international area of Armando Cunha, noted that the company built the international airport of São Vicente from scratch, including its design, financing and construction, between 2005 and 2008 and also expanded the airfield on Maio island. (28-04-2015)

CABO VERDE POSTS ECONOMIC GROWTH OF 2.7 PCT IN 2014

The economy of Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) grew at rate of 2.7 percent in 2014, according to provisional quarterly accounts presented in Praia by the president of the National Statistics Institute (INE), António Duarte.

The President of INE, an organisation that for the first time since the country's independence presents Quarterly Accounts, said the figure recorded in 2014 exceeded all forecasts.

Gross domestic product grew 1.1 percent in the archipelago in 2012, followed by a marginal drop to 1 percent in 2013 and a significant rise to 2.7 percent in 2014.

"This development means that there was a strong recovery in economic growth in 2014. Let's see how it will evolve in 2015, because next June we will present the 1st quarter accounts," said António Duarte, cited by weekly newspaper A Semana.

The sectors of the economy that most contributed to this growth were fishing, construction, telecommunications and business services but the previous year had been fishing, electricity and water, accommodation and catering, and telecommunications.

The Quarterly National Accounts provide complete and relatively detailed macroeconomic data, which is coherent and mainly integrated with the System of National Annual Accounts published previously.

The quarterly information, at current value and at the previous year's prices (by volume) allows better observation of the economic cycles, their follow-up, their understanding and therefore a plausible forecast of the dynamics of the economy. (27-04-2015)

IMPORT QUOTAS APPLIED IN ANGOLA FROM 1 JULY

Quotas on imports of drinks ordered by the government of Angola are due to be put in place in the second half of the year, said Monday in Luanda a representative of the Angola Association of Beverage Industries.

Joaquim Tandala said the association had received the assurance that quotas, previously scheduled for March, would take effect on 1 July and underlined the fact that some caution was necessary "given that this is a new measure."

"There has never been an import quota, it's a new thing, requiring some care from the government not to undermine fair competition," said Tandala during the "Angola Business Week" forum held in Luanda.

Imports of drinks cost Angola around US$400 million each year, more than half of which arrive in the country from Portugal.

In January the Angolan government set a general import quota for 2015 on water (150,000 hectolitres), soft drinks (200,000), beer (400,000) and juice (200 000), which measure has been a concern for Portuguese beverage companies, particularly brewers.

The aim of the Angolan government is to accelerate diversification of the economy, which is dependent on oil exports and is now facing a financial crisis due to the fall in the international price of oil.

"The Angolan Association of Beverage Industries is satisfied with the quotas because they will capitalise on our capacity," concluded Tandala, cited by newspaper Jornal de Angola. (28-04-2015)

INTERNATIONAL MONETRAY FUND COMMUNICATIONS

Mali - http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15177.htm

Chad - http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15181.htm

Zimbabwe - http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=42869.0

Zimbabwe - http://www.imf.org/External/NP/LOI/2015/zmb/041715.pdf

Central African Republic, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Republic of Madagascar, Sierra Leone
http://www.imf.org/external/np/tr/2015/tr041815a.htm

Fernando Matos Rosa

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