

MEMORANDUM

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11 YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED PUBLICATION

SUMMARY

| | |
|--|---------|
| Aviation Safety: Commission clears all airlines from Benin and Mozambique from EU Air Safety List | Page 2 |
| Mozambique's President calls for resumption of international aid | Page 3 |
| EIB confirms support for Belt and Road initiative | Page 3 |
| IMF calls for disclosure of conclusions of report on Mozambique's debt | Page 4 |
| Cosy networks foster seemingly unbreakable corruption at Lagos airport | Page 4 |
| Ghana loses \$2.3bn annually to illegal mining | Page 5 |
| Zimbabwe gets loan to clear arrears of \$1.7bn with World Bank and others | Page 6 |
| Kenya: US suspension of health aid, others grab headlines | Page 6 |
| Next month's ocean conference eyes cutting \$35 billion in fisheries subsidies | Page 7 |
| Analysts recommend buying shares in company with forestry assets in Mozambique | Page 8 |
| Humanitarian situation worsens in DRC | Page 9 |
| Chinese VP announces major funding for Chad projects | Page 11 |
| Morocco: EU project holds training to support municipalities prepare Sustainable Energy Action Plans | Page 12 |
| Exports from Mozambique to increase with inauguration of the Nacala coal terminal | Page 13 |
| Tunisia: closing of twinning project for the modernisation of the Central Bank's monetary policy | Page 13 |
| Barclays and Société General banks interested in buying Mozambican bank Moza | Page 14 |
| South Africa plans legal battle to revive nuclear deal | Page 15 |
| Mozambique and Brazil deepen cooperation by signing several agreements | Page 16 |

AVIATION SAFETY: COMMISSION CLEARS ALL AIRLINES FROM BENIN AND MOZAMBIQUE FROM EU AIR SAFETY LIST

All air carriers from Benin and Mozambique were removed from the EU Air Safety List, while four individual airlines, one each from Nigeria, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe, were added.

Today the European Commission updated the [EU Air Safety List](#), the list of non-European airlines that do not meet international safety standards, and are therefore subject to an operating ban or operational restrictions within the European Union. The [EU Air Safety List](#) seeks to ensure the highest level of air safety for European citizens, which is a top priority of the [Aviation Strategy](#) adopted by the Commission in December 2015.

Following today's update, all airlines certified in Benin and Mozambique are cleared from the list, following further improvements to the aviation safety situation in these countries. On the other hand, the airlines Med-View (Nigeria), Mustique Airways (St. Vincent and the Grenadines), Aviation Company Urga (Ukraine) and Air Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe) were added to the list due to unaddressed safety deficiencies that were detected by the [European Aviation Safety Agency](#) during the assessment for a [third country operator authorisation](#).

Commissioner for Transport Violeta **Bulc** said: *"I am glad that we are able to take all carriers from Benin and Mozambique out of the air safety list. Their reforms have paid off. This is also a signal to the 16 countries that remain on the list. It shows that work and cooperation pays off. The Commission and the European Aviation Safety Agency are ready to assist them and raise the safety standards worldwide"*.

The EU Air Safety List not only helps to maintain high levels of safety in the EU, but it also helps affected countries to improve their levels of safety, in order to eventually allow them to operate flights to and from airports in the European Union. In addition, the EU Air Safety List has become a major preventive tool, as it motivates countries with safety problems to act upon them before a ban under the EU Air Safety List would become necessary.

Following today's update, a total of **181 airlines** are banned from EU skies:

174 airlines certified in 16 states^[1], due to a lack of safety oversight by the aviation authorities from these states.

Seven individual airlines, based on safety concerns with regard to these airlines themselves: Iran Aseman Airlines (Iran), Iraqi Airways (Iraq) and Blue Wing Airlines (Suriname), Med-View Airlines (Nigeria), Mustique Airways (St Vincent and the Grenadines), Aviation Company Urga (Ukraine) and Air Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe).

An additional six airlines are subject to operational restrictions and can only fly to the EU with specific aircraft types: Afrijet and Nouvelle Air Affaires SN2AG (Gabon), Air Koryo (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), Air Service Comores (the Comoros), Iran Air (Iran) and TAAG Angola Airlines (Angola).

The Commission is constantly looking at ways to improve air safety. One such way is to work with aviation authorities worldwide to raise global safety standards. With this in mind, the [European Aviation Safety Agency](#) (EASA) is therefore implementing technical cooperation projects with partner countries and regions. An example is the "[Improving Air Transport in Central Africa](#)" (ATA-AC) project, where EASA works with a number of African states on several aspects of aviation safety. Benin and Mozambique both benefitted from such cooperation projects, which contributed to address past safety deficiencies. More information on technical cooperation projects is available [here](#).

Background information

Today's update of the Air Safety List is based on the unanimous opinion of the aviation safety experts from the Member States who met from 25 to 27 April within the EU Air Safety Committee (ASC). This Committee is chaired by the European Commission with the support of the [European Aviation Safety Agency](#) (EASA). The update equally got the support from the European Parliament's Transport Committee. Assessment is made against international safety standards, and notably the standards promulgated by the [International Civil Aviation Organisation](#) (ICAO).

[List of airlines banned within the EU](#)

[1]Afghanistan, Angola (with the exception of one airline which operates under restrictions and conditions), Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon (with the exception of 2 airlines which operate under restrictions and conditions), Indonesia (with the exception of 7 airlines), the Kyrgyz Republic, Liberia, Libya, Nepal, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone and Sudan (EC 16-05-2017)

MOZAMBIQUE'S PRESIDENT CALLS FOR RESUMPTION OF INTERNATIONAL AID

The Mozambican President asked international organisations and countries that contribute financially to the State Budget to resume this support “so that the government can consolidate the country’s development efforts,” Mozambican newspaper Notícias reported.

Filipe Nyusi’s statements in Angoche at the end of a three-day visit to Nampula province were the first official response to the delivery of the international audit report on the loans contracted by three public companies with the support of the Mozambican state.

The report, drawn up by Kroll Associates UK, was delivered last Friday to the Attorney General’s Office, which is leading the investigation into the loans and the final destination of more than US\$2 billion.

“The progress made in restoring effective peace and the ongoing macroeconomic correction measures in the country are key to restoring confidence among partners and investors,” said Nyusi, thanking the Swedish government for its support in paying for the audit.

The President also noted the willingness of the government to provide the necessary support for the conclusion of this process conducted by the Attorney General’s Office. (16-05-2017)

EIB CONFIRMS SUPPORT FOR BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

Europe’s long-term lending institution, the European Investment Bank, formally agreed to support China’s Belt and Road initiative, at the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation opened by President Xi Jinping.

“The European Investment Bank, the EU Bank, recognises the potential of the Belt and Road Initiative to promote economic growth and strengthen international cooperation. We appreciate the tremendous efforts of all involved and recognise the clear leadership that China has shown to develop this key initiative. Cooperation and shared experience is crucial to ensure maximum impact of infrastructure projects of this scale and the European Investment Bank looks forward to sharing our unique financial, technical and environmental experience gained across Europe and around the world to support the Belt and Road initiative.” confirmed Jean-Christophe Laloux, Director-General of the European Investment Bank.

The strengthened cooperation between China and the European Investment Bank to support the Belt and Road Initiative will enable increased dialogue and examination of individual infrastructure projects located in Asia, Europe and Africa and covered by the initiative.

It is expected that the agreement between China and six multilateral development banks will enable greater investment in infrastructure crucial for cross border trade, and contribute to strengthening growth, development and prosperity across three continents.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by representatives of the Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the New Development Bank, the World Bank, and the European Investment Bank.

Reflecting the European Investment Bank’s experience gained across 160 countries worldwide it is expected that projects supported under the Belt and Road initiative will include support for both sustainable and inclusive investment across a range of sectors and that schemes are strengthened through open competition.

The European Investment Bank has financed projects in China since 1995 and last year the European Investment Bank Group provided EUR 84 billion to finance new investment around the world, including EUR 19.6 billion for climate related investment. (EIB 16-05-2017)

IMF CALLS FOR DISCLOSURE OF CONCLUSIONS OF REPORT ON MOZAMBIQUE'S DEBT

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects the Mozambican Attorney General's Office to publish a summary of the international audit report on hidden debts by the end of the month, the Mozambican representative said in a statement recently issued in Maputo.

Ari Aisen said in the statement that the IMF expects the Attorney General's Office to release the full report on loans taken out by three public companies with the endorsement of the Mozambican state.

The Swedish Embassy also issued a statement welcoming the delivery of the audit report by Kroll Associates UK to the Attorney General's Office, which took place last Friday.

Sweden paid for the report, which is a condition for the IMF to resume funding to Mozambique.

The Embassy added it was waiting for the report to be published as soon as possible.

Kroll Associates UK was hired by the Attorney General's Office in November 2016 to investigate "the existence of criminal offences, among others, in the process of founding, financing and operation of Proindicus, Empresa Moçambican de Atum and Mozambique Asset Management."

The crux of the matter is more than US\$2 billion in loans taken on from foreign banks between 2013 and 2014 by the three state-owned companies with government guarantees that were not approved in parliament and were only recorded in public accounts this year. (16-05-2017)

COSY NETWORKS FOSTER SEEMINGLY UNBREAKABLE CORRUPTION AT LAGOS AIRPORT

Large billboards at Lagos airport urge travellers to call a hotline to report officials asking for bribes. But there is a problem with this attempt to fight the corruption that plagues Africa's biggest economy.

The phone number does not work, an indication of how little progress President Muhammadu Buhari has made in tackling a problem he promised to address when he was elected two years ago.

The government has fired customs and immigration officers accused of corruption, introduced staff rotation at passport and customs desks at Lagos airport to disrupt cosy networks, and set up the phone number to report demands for bribes.

That did not end a decades-long culture of corruption at the main gateway to Nigeria. But it did make officers more cautious as colleagues got fired, airport workers say.

But airlines and cargo firms say the fight against corruption has since faltered and government work has slowed while Buhari has been on and off sick leave since January.

On Sunday, the 74-year-old left again for treatment in London.

The government achieved results to begin with but officers have started acting with a sense of impunity again, said the country manager of an airline with daily flights to Nigeria, asking — like others — not to be named.

A presidency official acknowledged problems, such as the phone line being switched off for an unknown reason. He said a new number was planned as part of a package of new measures.

Executives say authorities have inadvertently made the problem worse by asking customs officers to be more aggressive in collecting duties to offset the slump in oil revenues, which has pushed the West African nation into recession.

But the results are not always as intended.

"The way it works now is that a customs officer makes maximum demands but then says, 'If you don't want to pay just give me something'," said another one airline manager.

For Nigeria, corruption is a problem that could cost it 37% of its GDP by 2030 if it is not tackled, PwC said in a study in 2016.

Built in the 1970s using Amsterdam's Schiphol airport as a blueprint, Murtala Muhammad International Airport in Lagos has, like the rest of the country, seen little investment. There is no central air conditioning and some luggage carousels don't work.

In most of the world's airports, officers only do random luggage checks, relying on dogs and x-ray machines to spot drugs or bombs.

But in Lagos, officers from four state agencies search every bag, working from desks at check-in counters. To avoid searches delaying flights, some airlines say they pay officers \$25 for each flight. "If you don't pay they will slow down searches." That doesn't stop officers asking passengers for bribes, exploiting a vague ban on food items that can be resold. They have been known to confiscate a jar of jam unless money is paid.

In February, vice-president Yemi Osinbajo made a surprise visit to the airport, demanding to know why maintenance funds had not been used to fix air chillers and luggage carousels, officials said. He also raised the issue of bribes.

The next day the presidency sacked Nigeria's civil aviation heads. At Lagos airport, officers were again more cautious for two weeks. But they went back to their old habits as there was no follow-up to the disciplinary blitz, airport workers said.

Two weeks later, Buhari returned from treatment in Britain, but he has not been active and the anticorruption drive has been taken up by his deputy, Osinbajo.

A presidency official said Osinbajo had given orders to install cameras to identify bribe-takers. Three maintenance engineers had been removed and more staff were being reviewed.

"We have seen some slight improvements but it's less than we expected," said Bismarck Rewane, CEO of Lagos consultancy Financial Derivatives. "It's a culture change that's needed." That can be seen at the arrivals terminal door. It is off-limits to nonairport staff but people can still enter if they hand over a small bribe to police officers or have friends to get them in.

Baggage porters ask travellers for the equivalent of \$10 to get through customs without searches, a Reuters correspondent at the airport said.

Authorities have also been unable to end the practice by some cargo import firms of paying customs officers a flat fee to avoid searches, executives said.

"It's a payment shared by officers who then charge less or nothing for [import] duties," said one executive. "It's a win-win for officers getting cash and importers avoiding customs." (Reuters 15-05-2017)

GHANA LOSES \$2.3BN ANNUALLY TO ILLEGAL MINING

Ghana is on record to be losing a colossal amount of \$2.3 billion through the activities of illegal miners, APA learns here.



These were losses made through royalties and taxes that were evaded by those gravely engulfed in illegal mining.

The Director of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Isaac Karikari, made this known in a presentation during an interactive session with the Diplomatic Missions in Accra on Tuesday, saying, laws on mining would be enforced to the brim to help the nation reap maximum benefits from its natural resources.

The revelation has come on the backdrop of the extension of a moratorium for all illegal miners to retreat by pulling all their heavy equipment from site.

Mr. Karkari warned that no one who would default after the grace period would be spared.

He explained that the government was not against the mining communities but only wanted the miners to use proper channels and processes to ensure that the environment was adequately protected.

Ghana faces imminent water crisis from the activities of illegal miners, thereby putting pressure on the ministry of lands and natural resources to wage a war against illegal mining, popularly called 'galamsey' in all parts of the country. (APA 10-05-2017)

ZIMBABWE GETS LOAN TO CLEAR ARREARS OF \$1.7BN WITH WORLD BANK AND OTHERS

Zimbabwe has secured a syndicated loan put together by the African Export-Import Bank that will enable it to clear arrears of \$1.7bn with the World Bank and African Development Bank (AFDB).

The funds will allow the country to settle the \$1.1bn it owes in interest and penalties and some principal debt to the World Bank, and \$601m to the AFDB, Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa said. He didn't name the lenders but said the rate on the loan is cheaper than that charged by the World Bank.

"It should reduce our country-risk profile and also make us eligible for access to soft windows of those institutions — we need new inflows," Chinamasa said in an interview in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital. "It also opens up other institutions to do business with us [and] also make us able to access international capital."

Chinamasa has been leading efforts to revive the country's struggling economy and tap fresh financing from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The economy has halved in size over the past 16 years.

Zimbabwe has paid the \$110m it owes the IMF, the minister said. As of October, the country owed lenders including the IMF, World Bank and AFDB about \$9bn, according to the finance ministry, and missed a \$1.8bn payment in June.

The nation abandoned its own currency in April 2009 as runaway inflation rendered it worthless, opting instead for a basket of currencies that includes US dollars, South African rand, the British pound and the Botswana pula.

Rand options

A shortage of bank notes has become so dire that businesses are offering huge discounts to cash-paying customers, limiting the amounts they can charge on credit cards or refusing to accept them altogether. The central bank has introduced dollar-pegged bond notes that citizens dub "zombie currency".

The liquidity crisis "is temporary", Chinamasa said. "We have to find ways to make rand more available. We would like a situation where we borrow in rands from SA, [and] pay back in the same currency. We will continue to engage them."

Zimbabwe conducts 60% of its trade with SA, the continent's most developed economy, Chinamasa said.

The economy is forecast to expand 3.7% in 2017 from 1.7% last year, supported by agriculture, he said. (Bloomberg 11-05-2017)

KENYA: US SUSPENSION OF HEALTH AID, OTHERS GRAB HEADLINES

The United States move to suspend \$2.1 million health aid to Kenya, President Uhuru Kenyatta hiring of data firm behind Trump, Brexit victories and August 8 general elections, grabbed the attention of major Kenyan dailies on Wednesday.



“Kenyans pay dearly for Afya House scandal,” reported the Standard newspaper which pointed out that Kenyans will bear the brunt of the American government's decision to discontinue its multi-million-shilling annual funding of key medical support projects in public hospitals.

“The US switched off a Sh2.1 billion aid tap because of "corruption and integrity issues" at Afya House. The move made through the United States Agency for International Development (Usaid) has put thousands of lives and jobs at risk, and is likely to hurt at least seven critical programmes,” reported the daily.

“Uhuru hires data firm behind Trump, Brexit victories,” reported the Star newspaper which pointed out that Jubilee has contracted the services of global data mining company Cambridge Analytica in the run-up to the August presidential election.

“Cambridge Analytica is credited with helping President Trump to win the American presidential election last November and with helping the Leave side to win in the Brexit referendum in the UK last June. It has been described as a "psychological warfare firm” reported the daily.

“Get ready: IEBC sets off race for 10 million votes,” reported the Daily Nation which noted that Official poll campaigns will start on May 28, the electoral commission has announced.

“The announcement made on Tuesday paves the way for frenetic public rallies leading up to what promises to be one of the most expensive and hotly contested General Elections.,” reported the daily. (APA 10-05-2017)

NEXT MONTH'S OCEAN CONFERENCE EYES CUTTING \$35 BILLION IN FISHERIES SUBSIDIES



A fisheries worker unloading the morning's catch

Harmful fishing subsidies that contribute to overfishing are estimated to be as high as \$35 billion, fisheries experts from the United Nations trade and development agency today said, highlighting one of the key issues that will be debated at next month's Ocean Conference.

“If you consider that the total export of fish and seafood products is \$146 billion, we are talking about that of each \$5 in fish products, \$1 is subsidized,” David Vivas of the UN Conference on Trade and Development ([UNCTAD](#)) told reporters in Geneva.

“So it's not a small amount. People are paying very expensively for a fish. They pay it by the dish and with their taxes,” continued Mr. Vivas, a Legal Affairs Officer in UNCTAD's Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch.

This financial motivation creates “a race to the bottom” as fleets compete against each other to harvest increasing amounts of fish – at a time when seafood is already a scarce resource.

The subsidies “create incentives to deplete resources faster than if there weren't the subsidies,” Mr. Vivas said.

The international community is harvesting fish at unsustainable biological levels, according to UNCTAD. The Mediterranean Sea is about 70 per cent exploited; the Black Sea 90 per cent.

Roughly 56 per cent of all fish products come from wild harvest, with the remaining amount farmed, according to figures cited by the UN.

“The demand remains quite strong, mainly from the Asian region. Hence countries are not only going to NY to consider, issuing a political signal,” said Lucas Assunção in reference to [The Ocean Conference](#), “they are very concerned about this considerable market.”

The topic of fishery subsidies is “very contentious,” said Mr. Assunção, who heads UNCTAD's Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch.

It involves requesting countries to provide information on what subsidies they provide and prohibiting those that contribute to overfishing, as well as potentially giving differential treatment to developing countries.

UNCTAD is working towards a multilateral fisheries agreement that will be discussed at The Ocean Conference in New York in early June, and finalized at the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires this December.

The idea of such an agreement has support from a number of countries and regional blocs, including the African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group (ACP), the European Union, and Pakistan.

In addition to fishery subsidies, the UN trade agency is focusing in illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, and access to markets.

“Not all countries participate equally,” Mr. Assunção said of the nearly \$150 billion market for fish and marine products. “[The oceans are] a global common good that is not benefitting all countries that have coasts in equitable ways.”

Some Governments have said that they will use The Ocean Conference as an opportunity to seek access to bigger markets. The issue is of particular concern for Pacific and Caribbean island states where processing and transporting goods is often more expensive.

The main areas of work at the Ocean Conference will be a political call to action, a segment on partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments. (UN News Center 10-05-2017)

ANALYSTS RECOMMEND BUYING SHARES IN COMPANY WITH FORESTRY ASSETS IN MOZAMBIQUE

Align Research has made a buy recommendation of up to 30.52 GBp for the shares of forestry group Obtala Ltd on the grounds that they are currently undervalued, according to a report issued this week. Obtala Ltd is a group based in the UK island of Guernsey that has agricultural and forestry assets in Tanzania and Mozambique and aims to become one of East Africa's largest producers of food and wood products.

Align Research wrote that since the appointment of the new board of directors in April 2016, the group has redefined its strategy, focusing on agricultural and forestry assets, and has raised 18.3 million pounds to expand these two business areas.

In Mozambique the group controls a 58% stake in Argento Mozambique, which has 312,465 hectares of 50-year forestry concessions, and the funds raised with a recent issue of shares will allow the rapid expansion of the business.

In Tanzania, the group controls 1,735 hectares of agricultural land under two long-term tenancy agreements, in which US\$10 million has already been invested in land preparation, infrastructure construction and initial sowing.

Align Research's buy recommendation is based on the fact that the group's shares are currently trading at 18 GBp, which is little more than the implied value of the company's stake in Argento Mozambique. (11-05-2017)

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION WORSENS IN DRC

The Kasai crisis has led to the largest population of internally displaced people in the whole of Africa as aid workers struggle to respond amid increasing violence and political instability.



A dramatic increase in violence between security forces and the Kamwina Nsapu militia in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has led to the internal displacement of a record 3.7 million people.

Clashes initially began in August 2016 in the Kasai-Central province but have since spread to four other provinces.

The conflict was initially sparked after the militia attacked local police and called for an insurrection of the central government.

Over the past month thousands of people in affected regions have begun fleeing to neighboring Angola, stretching resources in villages along the border.

On 25 April the United Nations (UN) launched a fresh \$64.5 million USD (59.3 million euros) emergency response appeal in order to provide life-saving assistance to 731,000 people over the next six months.

Humanitarian crisis

Prior to the current Kasai crisis, the DRC already faced acute humanitarian problems, with more than 4 million people suffering from hunger and 3.5 million children under five facing malnutrition.

Rein Paulsen is the head of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the DRC and will be visiting a number of key European capital cities this week in order to draw attention to the conflict. He told DW from Berlin that a rapid response by the UN and other aid organizations is key in order to prevent further deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

"We are talking about funding life-saving interventions. This is to respond to the needs of people that have had to flee at short notice, are sleeping under the open stars, are exposed to violence, and a series of other urgent needs," he said.

"Even with the initial funding, clearly the needs outstrip what we have, which is why we've launched the flash appeal and we've increased the overall amount required," Paulsen added.

Prior to the current emergency appeal, the UN launched a Humanitarian Response Plan for 2017 which was intended to reach approximately 6.7 million people in all parts of the country which were identified as vulnerable. However less than 20% of the original budget has been spent so far.

"It really is a very very concerning situation and we need to mobilize resources in order to respond to these very urgent humanitarian needs. It requires our best staff and our best capabilities and it requires the kind of flexible and responsive strategy that we've put in place."



UN peacekeepers and other aid organizations are finding it difficult to address the current crisis in DRC

Aid organizations struggle to respond

However aid workers are finding it increasingly difficult to address the deteriorating situation in DRC.

Many face the risk of attacks and are unable to access areas in most need of humanitarian assistance.

Since the beginning of 2017, almost 3,000 incidents involving violence or direct threats against aid and development workers have been reported.

On 28 March the bodies of two UN security experts alongside their interpreter were [found in the Kasai Central province](#).

They were in the region to assess a sanctions regime imposed on DRC by the UN Security Council when they disappeared on March 12.

Paulsen said the UN places a high priority on the safety of its workers in the region.

"We continue to place the highest possible premium on operating as securely as possible, because at the end of the day if we're not able to continue our operations, it is the Congolese who have been displaced who are going to suffer if programs are shut down."

The huge geographic area of the conflict and the lack of front lines also complicates the response strategy.

"We know that the situation is fluid, we have a series of activities that we can implement quickly in areas where access is easier, where the situation is a little bit more calm, places where people have come precisely to flee from the violence," Paulsen said.

"[We also] allow rapid interventions in locations where access is more of a challenge."

Political instability remains rife

The Kasai crisis continues to unfold in the wake of [a wave of violence across the DRC](#) following President Joseph Kabila's failure to step down the end of his constitutional mandate in December 2016.

[A new expanded government was revealed on Tuesday](#), as part of a power-sharing deal with the opposition in an attempt to ease tensions over the president's intent to remain in power.



DRC President Joseph Kabila remains in power despite reaching the end of his constitutional mandate

Opposition leader Bruno Tshibala was named Prime Minister following the resignation of Samy Badibanga

Although the new government has again reiterated [an election will take place by 2018](#), the reality of this occurring is unlikely, as political analyst Benoît Kamili told DW.

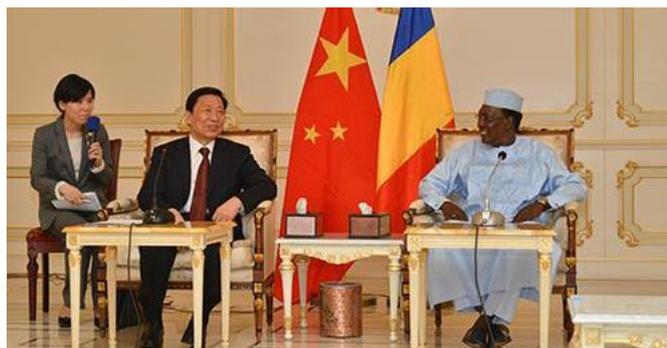
"The Congolese people needed this government, but from what we have seen and heard I have to say that there's no difference between Tshibala and Badibanga," he said.

"I don't think that Tshibala will organize the elections."

Kabila has held office since 2001 and was widely accused of serious electoral fraud in 2011, which has plunged the DRC into a long-term political crisis.(DW 10-05-2017)

CHINESE VP ANNOUNCES MAJOR FUNDING FOR CHAD PROJECTS

Chinese Vice President, Li Yuanchao on Tuesday announced that his country would bankroll six water and infrastructure projects in Chad.



He made the announcement while emerging from a meeting in Ndjamena with Chadian leader Idriss Deby.

The Chinese VP who was at the head of an important delegation from Beijing held talks with President Deby about bilateral cooperation between the two countries and to realize some projects that are in the pipeline.

Beset by crisis, several infrastructure projects in Chad have been suspended, including construction work by Chinese companies.

Mr. Li Yuanchao also announced the provision of emergency food aid to Chad amounting to 60 million yuan and the unrequited financing of the construction of a stadium to the tune of 200 million yuan.

Regarding higher education, China's Vice President also announced an increase in the number of scholarships and internships granted to young Chadians who wish to be trained in China.

President Deby and Li Yuanchao, commit their two countries to the development of a long-term development plan for the benefit of their two peoples.
(APA 09-05-2017)

MOROCCO: EU PROJECT HOLDS TRAINING TO SUPPORT MOROCCAN MUNICIPALITIES PREPARE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACTION PLANS



The EU-funded CES-MED project organised a three-days training of trainers workshop in the Moroccan capital Rabat which brought together many Moroccan municipalities as well as representatives of the different actors, universities and consulting firms as well as the evaluation mission of the Morocco-EU cooperation in the field of energy, in order to better prepare the elaboration of the Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP) approach in Morocco.

The workshop was organised in two sessions: the first day of the workshop was intended to address the presidents of Moroccan municipalities and explain the project activities and the Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) approach, as well as to promote adhesion to the Covenant of Mayors (CoM).

The second day targeted municipal technicians and engineering executives to increase their abilities to prepare and/or delegate the preparation of SEAPs.

The main outcome of the training was to raise awareness and explain to 15 presidents of municipalities the principles and objectives of the CoM and the SEAP and to train the technical staff of these municipalities in the Baseline Emission Inventories techniques (BEI) and modalities for the formulation of priority actions in the SEAP.

The training also allowed the presentation of other energy planning tools and examples as implemented in Morocco, including national energy strategies.

Since its launch in 2013, the CES-MED project has been involved in Morocco in coordination with the MEMEE to support three pilot Moroccan municipalities in their adherence to the Covenant of Mayors, the preparation of their SEAPs and the enhancement of the priority actions in their plans.

The "**Cleaner and Energy Saving Mediterranean Cities**" (CES-MED) project is an EU-funded regional initiative set up to provide training and technical assistance support to local and national authorities in the southern Mediterranean region, with a view to helping them respond more actively to sustainable policy challenges.

CES-MED ensures that the actions proposed match with the objectives of the Covenant of Mayors: to reach and even go beyond the European objective to reduce CO2 emissions by 20% thanks to the improvement of energy efficiency and the increased use of sustainable energy. (CES-MED 10-05-2017)

CES-MED project - [website](#)

EXPORTS FROM MOZAMBIQUE TO INCREASE WITH INAUGURATION OF THE NACALA COAL TERMINAL

The inauguration on Friday of the coal terminal at the port of Nacala-a-Velha and the railway line to transport ore mined at Moatize is expected to increase exports and even make coal the main product exported by Mozambique, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) reported recently.

According to the Mozambican press, the ceremony was attended by the President of the Republic of Mozambique, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Aloysio Nunes Ferreira Filho, the heads of the Brazilian group Vale and the state-owned Portos e Caminhos-de-Ferro de Moçambique (CFM), the two main shareholders of the Nacala Integrated Logistics Corridor.

The Moatize-Nacala railroad stretches over 900 kilometres and required an investment of US\$4.1 billion, which was spent on the construction of new sections and the reconstruction of others, both in Mozambique and in the 200 kilometres in Malawi.

The railway is intended to allow the annual export of 18 million tonnes of coal and will be used by twenty trains which will drop off coal in Nacala will to be loaded onto ships.

"Moatize's coal is well positioned internationally to supply, at a competitive cost, the markets of Asia, Europe and even Brazil," the Vale mining group said.

The EIU recently wrote that the increase in production from the Moatize mine, from 8.7 million tonnes in 2016 to 13 million in 2017 and 18 million in 2018, would probably be enough for coal to overtake aluminium as the largest source of export revenues in Mozambique. (12-05-2017)

TUNISIA: CLOSING OF TWINNING PROJECT FOR THE MODERNISATION OF THE CENTRAL BANK'S MONETARY POLICY

Within the framework of the Support Programme to the Association Agreement and the Neighborhood Action Plan (P3AII) between Tunisia and the EU, the closing seminar of the twinning project aimed at modernising the operational framework of the monetary policy of the Central Bank of Tunisia was held

last week in Tunis in the presence of representatives of several ministries and the Bank of France as well as representatives of other banks and financial institutions.



The twinning project between the Central Bank of Tunisia and the Banque de France, which began on 11 May 2015 and lasted for 24 months, was funded by the EU with a budget of EUR 745,000. Its main objective is to modernise the procedures for implementing the monetary policy of the Central Bank of Tunisia and to develop the interbank liquidity market in parallel, through cooperation with counterpart institutions in the European Union, particularly the Banque de France, the Central Bank of Germany “the Bundesbank”, the European Central Bank and other European central banks.

The twinning programme was structured around four areas:

- The reorganisation of the Central Bank's intervention procedures on the monetary market,
- The establishment of an effective liquidity forecasting system,
- The development of the interbank market, and
- Reform of the Negotiable Debt Securities Market.

The closing seminar was an opportunity to present to the main actors in the Tunisian banking and financial sector, as well as to the general public, the progress made through this twinning. In his opening speech, the Governor of the Central Bank of Tunisia highlighted the excellent quality of cooperation links between Tunisia and the European Union that have materialized through this second twinning experience between the Central Bank of Tunisia and the Banque de France, as well as other European central banks, including the Bundesbank.

EU Ambassador to Tunisia Patrice Bergamini underlined that the establishment of a modern monetary policy framework is an important factor for the development of the capital market and a lever for the revival of the economic activity in Tunisia. (EEAS 10-05-2017)

[EU cooperation with Tunisia](#)

BARCLAYS AND SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE BANKS INTERESTED IN BUYING MOZAMBICAN BANK MOZA

South African banking group Barclays Africa and France’s Société Générale are two of the main players interested in buying a majority stake in the Moza bank, which is currently subject to Bank of Mozambique intervention, the Africa Monitor Intelligence (AMI) newsletter reported.

The Mozambican central bank intervened in Moza in September 2016 due to the continued deterioration of the bank’s prudential situation in order to “protect the interests of depositors and other creditors, as well as safeguarding the normal operating conditions of the Mozambican banking system.”

Moza (formerly known as Moza Banco), which started operations in 2008, is controlled 51% by Moçambique Capitais and the remaining 49% held by Portugal's Novo Banco, a bank that inherited the healthy assets of bankrupt bank Banco Espírito Santo.

Shareholders met at a general meeting on 23 January 2017, decided to proceed with a capital increase and set a deadline of 23 March 2017 for to exercise preferential rights, but at the end of that period they did not comply with the agreement.

In a statement issued on the same day, the Bank of Mozambique added that the provisional board of directors, in coordination with the evaluation committee, would continue with the Moza capitalisation process.

The branches of the two banking groups – Barclays Bank Moçambique and Société Générale Moçambique – are the main candidates to buy the majority of Moza, increasing their market share through the mergers and acquisitions process.

Both banks have expressed their intention to grow in the Mozambican market, and therefore this acquisition, if successful, will increase Barclays Bank Moçambique's market share from 6% to 13% and Société Générale Moçambique from the 2% to 8%. (12-05-2017)

SOUTH AFRICA PLANS LEGAL BATTLE TO REVIVE NUCLEAR DEAL

South Africa government ponders legal battle to revive [Rosatom](#) nuclear deal [South Africa's energy ministry](#) and Russian nuclear power giant Rosatom have shown that they look forward to press on with plans to construct nuclear power stations in the state, regardless of the decision of the South African High Court that their 2014 cooperation pact was illegal.

Rosatom said recently, that it was still dedicated to taking part in a transparent and cutthroat bidding process to put up the plants. Meanwhile, the ministry showed that it was considering an appeal against the judgment.

Rosatom said in a statement: "We are positive in our world class technology, unparalleled safety standards and extremely competitive solutions."

The two sides had completed an intergovernmental agreement to build 9.6GW of nuclear capacity and trim down South Africa's reliance on coal. The range of the deal covered the construction of nuclear plants, research reactors and a programme to train South African engineers at Russian universities. The document was held to breach competition rules as it obliged the government to work solely with Rosatom without holding open tenders.

Speaking on Twitter, David Nicholls, [Eskom](#)'s chief nuclear officer said after the court's decision: "To put the matter to rest I want to corroborate that @Eskom_SA has terminated the Nuclear RFI."

Other companies in the competition to build up to 10 reactors besides Rosatom are State Nuclear Power Technology of China, EDF of France and KEPCO from South Korea.

The State Atomic Energy Corporation ROSATOM is a Russian state-owned corporation, which is the chief in the global nuclear technologies market.

It brings together nuclear power and power engineering assets, as well as NPP design and construction. ROSATOM, produced 196.37 billion kWh of electricity in 2016 (or 18.3% of the nation's total generation of electricity). ROSATOM holds first place in terms of the number of electricity generating units under construction simultaneously abroad (34 NPP units in 12 countries).

ROSATOM produces yearly approximately 3,000 tons of uranium domestically, and some 5,000 tons in other nations (CRO 09-05-2017)

MOZAMBIQUE AND BRAZIL DEEPEN COOPERATION BY SIGNING SEVERAL AGREEMENTS

The Mozambican and Brazilian governments signed a number of legal agreements in Maputo on Thursday to promote and strengthen bilateral cooperation relations, including one relating to social security, during an official visit to the country by Brazil's foreign minister.

The agreements were signed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique, Oldemiro Balói and of Brazil Aloysio Nunes Ferreira Filho, and the Mozambican minister noted the importance of the social security agreement, which establishes that citizens of both countries have the same rights, specifically in relation to old-age and sickness benefits.

“This agreement will make Brazilians feel less foreign in Mozambique and Mozambicans also less foreign in Brazil,” said Balói, according to Mozambican news agency AIM.

Also as part of the visit of Brazilian Foreign Minister, a Mozambique-Brazil business forum was held in Maputo, to publicise investment and business opportunities in the various sectors of economic activity, as well as the promotion of partnerships between entrepreneurs from both countries.

The opening session was led by the Minister of Industry and Trade, Ernesto Max Tonela, with the participation of Aloysio Nunes Ferreira Filho, the representatives of the Investment Promotion Centre, the Brazilian Embassy in Mozambique and the Confederation of Economic Associations.

Among the entrepreneurs, besides the Mozambicans from various sectors, there were 17 Brazilians who are part of the ministerial entourage and have interests in the sectors of industry, agribusiness, health, commerce and others. (15-05-2017)

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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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