MEMORANDUM

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SUMMARY

REVISED EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY: SUPPORTING STABILISATION, RESILIENCE, SECURITY

The ENP was reviewed in 2015 to respond to the new challenges of an evolving neighbourhood. Today's report shows results following a new approach based on differentiation, joint ownership and flexibility.

The revised European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) reinvigorated the relations between the European Union and its neighbours to the East and South, with a greater focus on stabilisation, resilience and security. Today's neighbourhood-wide Joint Report on the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy demonstrates that the new policy approach ensures stronger joint ownership and more flexibility by recognising different aspirations and diversity of each partner. The report is a follow-up to the European Neighbourhood review which was adopted in November 2015.

"The European Union has been investing a lot in economic development, resilience, security, democracy and the rule of law in our Eastern and Southern neighbours. One year and a half after the review of the European Neighborhood Policy, we have managed to build - in cooperation and full partnership - a tailor made approach with each and every country, to ensure it addresses the real needs and interests, for the sake of all our citizens." said Federica **Mogherini**, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, upon publication of the joint report.

"We consulted widely before updating the Neighbourhood Policy – and this report shows how we are really putting into action the results of that consultation: a stronger focus on mutual interests, greater differentiation to reflect the diversity of our partners, a greater sense of shared ownership of the policy and more flexibility in how it is implemented," added Johannes **Hahn**, EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations.

Implementing the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy

Long-lasting crises and the geopolitical relevance of the EU's neighbourhood show the importance of having a solid policy framework in place to enhance political and economic relations with the EU's neighbouring countries.

Today's joint report by the European Commission and the High Representative on the implementation of the ENP review confirms the ENP's central role in creating the conditions for the stabilisation of the EU's neighbourhood, which the review identified as a top priority.

The review refocused the ENP to ensure a **differentiated approach** to partners, recognising the different aspirations of each country, **joint ownership**, based on both **partners' needs** and **EU interests**, and more **flexibility** in the use of EU instruments. The new approach has been crucial in reenergising the EU's relations with the ENP partner countries, including through the negotiation and adoption of new Partnership Priorities and the ongoing updating of Association Agendas, in each case sharpening the focus of relations for the next few years on areas of agreed mutual interest.

Within the new political framework, the EU is acting with more flexibility and sensitivity towards its partners, deploying its resources with more impact as regards the implementation of the key priorities. Flexibility in the use of EU funding (through the European Neighbourhood Instrument), has been increased through the use of Trust Funds to ensure a rapid delivery of financial assistance, through greater use of blending and of improved joint programming with Member States. Finally, through enhanced coordination with International Financial Institutions and the creation of a new flexibility cushion to allow rapid response to crisis situations and changing circumstances.

Progress in priority areas

The reviewed ENP has mobilised significant support to reforms in four priority areas: good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights; economic development for stabilisation; security; migration and mobility.

With EU support, important steps have been taken by some partner countries to advance reforms on **good governance, democracy, rule of law** and **human rights** with extensive programmes on public administration reform and anti-corruption, on strengthening the judiciary, and on supporting human rights, as well as fostering a stronger civil society.

Boosting **sustainable economic development** is at the heart of the EU's contribution to stabilising the neighbourhood and is crucial for developing partners' resilience. Since the review, the EU has invested in structural reforms to improve competitiveness and the business environment, to boost trade, to support SMEs and to tailor education and skills to the needs of the real economy.

The ENP review significantly increased the policy's focus on security issues, with a comprehensive approach to the **security** challenges in its neighbourhood. The EU has developed Security Sector Reform programmes both in the East and South, and taken forward important work on counter-terrorism and preventing violent extremism, while strengthening efforts on disrupting organised crime and on enhanced cooperation in the area of Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

The challenges of the **refugee** crisis **and irregular migration** remain high on the political agenda and have been a key aspect of the EU's work with its neighbouring countries. The comprehensive approach put in place by the EU encompasses efforts to address the root causes of migration in order to reduce irregular migration, to promote legal migration and mobility and to effectively manage borders while safeguarding the right of EU citizens to free movement within the EU.

Background

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was reviewed in 2015 to respond to the new challenges of an evolving neighbourhood. The review - proposed by European Commission President Jean-Claude **Juncker** in 2014 and welcomed by EU Member States - was subject to a wide public consultation prior to its publication in November 2015. The outcome of the review was a revised policy based on the principles of differentiation, flexibility and ownership under the overarching objective of stabilisation.

The Joint report adopted today is the first neighbourhood-wide report that is published by the EU as a standalone document, without a set of individual country reports. The aim of this new report style is to provide a broad overview on developments and trends in the neighbourhood. Country-specific reports are now adopted and published separately: they are timed to provide the basis for political exchanges in the run-up to meetings of the Association Council or similar high-level events held with respective partners. (EC 18-01-2017)

Read the Report

Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP): stronger partnerships for a stronger neighbourhood

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY REVIEW

What is the focus of the ENP Review implementation?

The implementation process reflects the way in which the EU and its partners in the East and the South have been working to promote stabilisation (through building up resilience) focussing on the key priorities identified in the ENP Review adopted in November 2015: good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights; economic development for stabilisation; security; and migration and mobility.

How have the ENP Review principles been applied?

Following the adoption of the ENP Review, relations with the neighbouring countries have been reenergised through new forms of tailor-made partnerships. This has included work on new country-specific frameworks for bilateral cooperation in the form of Partnership Priorities and updated Association Agendas or existing Action Plans. The approach of joint ownership has made it possible to better reflect individual needs and aspirations of partner countries as well as EU interests and values. Financial assistance is being used in a more flexible way, to support the new priorities of the ENP.

How has coordination with other relevant policies been ensured?

The ENP Review implementation has been guided by the overarching political priorities for the EU's external action agreed with the Council following publication of the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy in June 2016.

Coherence has also been ensured with the Rome Declaration which promotes a stronger role of Europe on the global stage, and with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its sustainable development goals.

What is the state of play of bilateral engagement with Southern partners?

Partnership Priorities with **Lebanon** and **Jordan** were adopted at the end of 2016, and with **Algeria** in March 2017.

Draft Partnership Priorities with **Egypt** were provisionally agreed in December 2016.

A Joint Communication on strengthening EU support for **Tunisia** was adopted in September 2016 that set out further actions to promote long-term stability, including good governance, justice reform, socio-economic development and security.

The EU has supported **Morocco**'s reforms agenda in a wide range of social, economic and justice sectors.

In **Libya**, EU cooperation has adjusted to the very particular circumstances, including by channelling support through municipalities.

The EU Strategy for **Syria** adopted in March 2016 sets out the EU's strategic goals, immediate objectives and lines of action for the resolution of the war in the country and dealing with its immediate and long-term humanitarian impact.

As regards **Israel** and **Palestine**, the EU remains firmly committed to a two-state solution, which is vital for peace, the stability and long-term development of the region. The EU has invested considerably in strengthening the capacity of the Palestinian Authority. EU funding has also focused on investments that can contribute to sustainable improvements of living conditions, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

What is the state of play of bilateral engagement with Eastern partners?

Parts of the Association Agreement with **Ukraine** have been provisionally applied since 2014, with the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) being provisionally applied since 1 January 2016. Visa free regime is undergoing EU's approval process and is expected to enter into force in July.

The EU-**Georgia** Association Agreement entered into force in July 2016 (provisionally applied since 2014), the EU-Georgia Association Agenda 2017-2020 is being updated, Georgia acceded to the Energy Community Treaty in October 2016 and the short-term visa free travel for Georgia citizens entered into force at the end of March 2017.

The EU-**Moldova** Association Agreement entered into force in July 2016 (provisionally applied since 2014) and work is ongoing on the Association Agenda.

Negotiations with **Armenia** on a new Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement were concluded in February 2017.

Negotiations on a comprehensive agreement with **Azerbaijan** aimed at replacing the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (in force since 1999) were launched in February 2017.

An informal Coordination Group, formed by EU and **Belarus** senior officials, was set up at the beginning of 2016 to better reflect the state of bilateral relations.

What is the state of play of regional engagement with Eastern partners?

Based on the Riga priorities, since 2016 a more results-oriented approach towards the Eastern Partnership has been applied with a continued focus on strengthening state and societal resilience. A new strategic work-plan combining both bilateral and regional cooperation aims to guide the work of the EU and the six Eastern Partnership countries between Summits, by focusing on twenty deliverables by 2020. Each deliverable is linked to implementation tools, with clear milestones to be reached by the time of the next Eastern Partnership Summit in November 2017, and targets to be achieved by 2020. In parallel, work has continued in the framework of the Black Sea Synergy.

What is the state of play of regional engagement with Southern partners?

A roadmap with concrete proposals to revise existing priorities of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and to increase synergies was endorsed by the UfM Ministers of Foreign Affairs on 23 January 2017 in Barcelona.

In December 2016, the EU and the League of Arab States confirmed, at ministerial level, the Joint Work Programme, which puts an emphasis on activities related to crisis management, civil society, human rights, diplomacy, electoral observation and increased participation of women in economic development.

The EU's cooperation with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation has gained new impetus with the successful co-organisation of a High Level Event on Anti-Muslim Discrimination and Hatred in New York in January 2016.

What progress has been registered in the area of good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights?

These priorities feature prominently in discussions on Partnership Priorities and revised Association Agendas. Through political dialogue, the EU continues to engage with partners on promoting respect of international human rights commitments.

In 2016 the Commission developed in close co-operation with OECD/SIGMA the Principles of Public Administration (PAR) to be used as a reference framework for those ENP countries that are committed to reform their administrations in line with internationally recognised good governance principles and practices.

In 2016, the EU started implementing the Rights-Based Approach, encompassing all human rights, as one of the guiding principles of ENI financial assistance and an opportunity to mainstream more effectively the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The EU has continued to challenge the shrinking space available for civil society action throughout the Neighbourhood. The EU is implementing roadmaps for engagement with civil society.

The implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 has led to mandatory gender analysis of all project proposals and the inclusion of gender in all Partnership Priorities, Association Agendas and country reports.

What progress has been registered in the area of economic development for stabilisation?

As regards domestic business environments, in October 2016 the EU together with the OECD launched a joint Programme on Promoting Investment in the Mediterranean.

The setting up and implementation of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTA) with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine is opening new trade and investment opportunities and a more stable operating framework for companies from the EU and the region. The EU is the number one trading partner for all three DCFTA partners.

A number of initiatives on economic modernisation and entrepreneurship strategies aim at fostering SMEs.

Increased emphasis has been put on drawing together the strands of cooperation in youth employment and employability.

Work has continued in implementing regional development policy in partner countries.

Education and youth cooperation is being supported by Erasmus+ programme. 57 new capacity building projects further support the modernisation of higher education systems and universities in neighbouring countries. In addition to Erasmus+, participation to other programmes opens up new cooperation opportunities for administrations, businesses, universities, cultural and audio-visual operators, professionals, young people, students and researchers.

The EU has been active in promoting in particular the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.

On transport and connectivity, agreements amongst EU and various partner countries have been reached to ensure the necessary coordination, standardisation and prioritisation of major investments on core transport networks. Technical assistance projects are ongoing as well.

What progress has been registered in the security area?

Several civilian CSDP missions and border assistance missions have been deployed in Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Palestine and Libya and are financially supported by EU Member States or CSDP Trust Funds.

Based on their 2016 Joint Declaration, the EU and NATO have stepped up their cooperation and coordination through a set of concrete measures that seek to support partners' capacity building efforts in the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhoods and to strengthen their resilience.

The EU supported ongoing dialogues on the conflicts affecting Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Armenia and Azerbaijan with the aim of reaching peaceful and sustainable solutions.

Cooperation with the Southern partners on tackling terrorism and preventing radicalisation leading to violent extremism has been strengthened. Upgraded security and counter-terrorism dialogues, and high-level visits have been conducted in the region. Counter-terrorism/security experts have been deployed in several EU Delegations with direct support of EU Member States.

EU support to security sector reform in third countries is now framed by the new EU Security sector reform (SSR) policy adopted in July 2016.

EU agencies are gradually getting more involved in providing capacity building support to partner countries and intensifying the exchange of operational and strategic information with ENP partner countries to help combat organised crime.

Activities of the Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation (CBRN) Centres of Excellence (CoE) have been increased.

What progress has been registered in the area of migration and mobility?

The EU has put in place a comprehensive approach to migration, which encompasses efforts to reduce irregular migration, to promote legal migration and mobility, to maximise the development impact of migration, address root causes, and effectively manage borders while safeguarding the right of EU citizens to free movement within the EU. This is reflected in the Communication on a new Partnership Framework with third countries adopted under the European Agenda on Migration and the Communication on Forced Displacement and Development and the related European Council Conclusions of June 2016.

The EU has worked closely with the Member States of the Khartoum and Rabat Processes (both Neighbourhood countries and wider regional partners) to implement the agreed actions of the Valletta Summit on Migration (November 2015).

In June 2016, the European Commission proposed a revised Blue Card Directive as part of the new policy on legal migration and making it more effective to attracting talent to the EU.

Mobility Partnerships offer a framework for comprehensive cooperation with partner countries in order to address mobility issues, including where appropriate visa issues, as well as the need to facilitate return and readmission of irregular migrants.

What examples are there to illustrate that financial assistance is delivered in a more flexible way?

Since the adoption of the ENP Review in November 2015, the EU has brought together a number of different tools to further improve the coordination and coherence of all aid modalities. To this end, grant cooperation programmes have been complemented by other activities designed and led by partner institutions with a more strategic use of blending, TAIEX, and Twinning. In particular, TAIEX and Twinning have been refocused to create closer synergy between policy work and financial assistance programming.

The EU actively supports neighbouring countries that are facing exceptional external financing shortages through its Macro-Financial Assistance instrument and the Neighbourhood Investment Facility.

In line with the ENI regulation, the ENP Review, and the Council Conclusions on stepping up Joint Programming of 12 May 2016, the EU is moving towards more joint programming in the neighbourhood.

Recognising the important role of the International Financial Institutions, the European Commission followed up on an enhanced cooperation initiative, launched in 2015, with the most relevant development financial institutions active in the neighbourhood region.

The EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis has reached a total of EUR 932 million two years after its inception and will reach EUR 1.3 billion by summer 2017. In January 2017, a further EUR 200 million was announced to support the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

In September 2016, the Commission proposed the creation of a 'flexibility cushion' for external instruments to allow the EU to better react to new crises and unforeseen needs. The flexibility cushion is part of the proposed revision of the Financial Regulation.

In September 2016, the European Commission proposed an ambitious European External Investment Plan to support investment in partner countries in Africa and the European Neighbourhood.

How often will such reports be published?

Such neighbourhood-wide reports will be published regularly, although not necessarily on a yearly basis since country-specific reports will be adopted annually ahead of high-level meetings between the EU and each ENP partner country. (EC 18-05-2017)

MOZAMBICAN GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK TO RESTORE RELATIONS WITH THE IMF

The Mozambican government will seek to tighten fiscal and monetary policies to restore relations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and resolve liquidity problems, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) said in its latest country report.

Noting that political pressures will lead to these policies not being fully adopted, the EIU added that economic growth will remain weak in 2017/2018, at least when compared to previous periods, due to weak domestic demand and a low level of investment.

“Stronger economic growth is expected to start in 2019 as business and investor confidence strengthens,” the report said.

The EIU analysts once again said in this report that the economy remains destabilised by a liquidity crisis created by debt servicing that is complex to manage and by the widespread freezing of aid previously provided by international organisations and by Western countries.

The debt crisis, which is the basis of one of the most complicated situations experienced by Mozambique since the end of the civil war, “shows no signs of a quick resolution,” and the country has already gone into default because it failed to pay two coupons on two loans contracted by public companies with the State’s guarantee.

“The government is seeking to restructure foreign debt servicing, which is equivalent to 100% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but both the result of these efforts and the timetable for its implementation are surrounded by uncertainties,” said the report.

The EIU also writes that the most likely scenario will be for the three commercial loans to be joined together (one bond issue and two syndicated loans) into a single instrument, with creditors being forced to lose part of the capital invested and repayment to the mid/late twenties.

The report forecasts a budget deficit of 6.7% of GDP for this year, with expenditure and revenues falling compared to previous years, with a decrease of 3.1% in 2018 due to revenue from the probable start of natural gas exploration in the north of the country.

The Bank of Mozambique, the report continues, will seek to restore price stability and at the same time try to mitigate vulnerabilities in the banking sector, where Nosso Banco has ceased to exist and Moza remains the target of intervention by decision of the central bank. (18-05-2017)

MOGHERINI TO HOST MEETING OF LIBYA QUARTET NEXT WEEK IN BRUSSELS

EU High Representative Federica Mogherini will host a meeting of the European Union, the United Nations, the African Union and the League of Arab States (Libya Quartet) in Brussels on Tuesday 23 May 2017.

This will be the second meeting of the Libya Quartet. It follows up on the meeting hosted by the League of Arab States in Cairo on 18 March 2017.

The objective of the format is to support UN mediation and regional work and to step up coordination to further advance the political process in Libya in respect of full Libyan ownership. (EC 18-05-2017)

EU-Libya relations

CASHEW NUT PRODUCTIONS RAISES US$120 MILLION FOR MOZAMBICAN FARMERS

The marketing of the 137,000 tonnes of cashews harvested in the 2016/2017 season raised around 7.4 billion meticals (US$120 million) for Mozambican producers, the Council of Ministers spokesman said on Tuesday in Maputo.

The spokesman and deputy health minister Mouzinho Saíde added that the 100,000 tonnes harvested in the 2015/2016 campaign provided producers with US$23.1 million.

Saíde said the cashew sub-sector provides work and income to more than 1.4 million households across the country, with whole nuts exported to India and Vietnam and peeled ones to the United States.

The central provinces of Zambézia and Manica, Inhambane and Gaza in the south and Nampula in the north are those where cashew nut production is highest, and the activity is mainly carried out by family farmers.

The African Cashew Alliance recently reported that Mozambique has practically doubled cashew production over the past decade, with the country's farmers producing about half of the world's output. (18-05-2017)

GENERAL MOTORS IS LEAVING SOUTH AFRICA

'After a thorough assessment of our South African operations, we believe it is best for Isuzu to integrate our light commercial vehicle manufacturing operations into its African business'

General Motors (GM) informed employees and unions on Thursday morning that it is quitting SA.

Besides its light commercial vehicle manufacturing operations in Struandale, Port Elizabeth, which it was selling to Isuzu, the US car maker intended to cease its South African operations by the end of 2017, GM said on its website.

The announcement of its exit from SA and India on Thursday followed a March 5 announcement that GM was exiting Europe by selling its Opel brand to the French maker of Peugeot and Citroën, PSA for $2.3bn.

"After a thorough assessment of our South African operations, we believe it is best for Isuzu to integrate our light commercial vehicle manufacturing operations into its African business," GM's vice-president of its international operations, Stefan Jacoby, said in a statement on Thursday morning.

"We determined that continued or increased investment in manufacturing in SA would not provide GM the expected returns of other global investment opportunities."

The home page of GM SA's website on Thursday morning was changed to a frequently asked questions site for owners of its Chevrolet and Opel brands.

The answer to the question, "What does this mean for me?" is: "If you are an Isuzu, Chevrolet or Opel owner ongoing aftersales and parts support will continue through the existing GM dealer network to the end of 2017. All existing warranties and service plans remain in place and will be honoured beyond 2017.

"From 2018, Isuzu dealers will provide aftersales and service support to Chevrolet and Opel customers until the details of our discussions with PSA have been finalised." GM said in its statement that Isuzu would purchase GM's Struandale plant and its remaining 30% in Isuzu Truck SA, with sales through a national dealer network. Isuzu will also purchase GM's vehicle conversion and distribution centre and assume control of the parts distribution centre. (BD 18-05-2017)

ANGOLA CREATES STRATEGIC STATE FOOD RESERVE

The Angolan government will launch by the end of June the Strategic State Food Reserve to guarantee the supply of some food products “for a certain period of time”, according to a joint statement from the Ministries of Economy, Finance, Agriculture and Trade.

The order establishes a technical group to prepare, in technical and legal terms, the Strategic State Food Reserve, which will include some of the products of the basic basket of goods, such as wheat flour and maize, rice, beans, sugar and salt.

Jofre Van-Dúnem Júnior, president of the Entreposto Aduaneiro de Angola (Angolan Customs Warehouse – EAA), a public company created in 2002 that manages this State reserve, said recently that it would be regulated by June or July and added that in reality it already exists, “although not in the quantity that is planned.”

The proposed study provides for a Strategic Food Reserve with a physical storage component at strategic points in the country, with a capacity to cover between three and six months of consumption needs. (18-05-2017)

GENERAL MOTORS' EXIT FROM SOUTH AFRICA A PITY BUT NO SURPRISE, SAYS ROB DAVIES

Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies issued a statement responding to General Motors' (GM) exiting SA, saying he learnt of the news with “regret and concern for the numerous employees whose jobs and livelihood will be directly and indirectly affected as a result”.

But Davies said GM's departure was not surprising, considering it had failed to meet the minimum production volume of 50,000 units required by the government's Automotive Production and Development Programme (APDP) since 2013.

“Sales have been on a downward trend for the past five years, and exports remained low at about 2,000 vehicles per annum with a maximum of 3,500 units,” Davies said.

“Although we do not welcome this decision, we believe that the future of the industry positive as automotive industry stakeholders are finalising a master plan for SA with a view to growing domestic vehicle production volume and local value addition, and an announcement on the final programme can be expected early 2018 latest and will cover the period post 2020,” he said.

“GM has had a presence in SA since 1926, under various brands such as Buick, Chevrolet, GMC, Isuzu, Oakland, Oldsmobile and Vauxhall,” his statement said.

Davies downplayed that GM's decision to close the South African operations it was not selling to its Japanese joint-venture partner Isuzu was a criticism of ANC policies.

To back this argument, Davies noted that GM had exited Australia in 2013, where it had a joint venture with Holden.

GM also closed a plant in Indonesia in 2015 and another in India in April.

In March, it had exited Europe by selling its Opel and Vauxhall brands to Peugeot.(BD 18-05-2017)

ANGOLA'S NEW CUSTOMS TARIFF UNDER PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The proposal for Angola's Customs Tariff 2017 is under public consultation until the end of May, after which it will be submitted for the consideration of the Minister of Finance, an administrator of the General Tax Administration (AGT) said on Tuesday in Luanda.

Hermenegildo Gaspar told Angolan news agency Angop that the Minister of Finance will take the proposal to the Council of Ministers and, once it has been assessed, will be sent to the National Assembly, the Angolan parliament, for discussion and final approval.

The proposal, with 133 articles, was drawn up on the basis of the 2017 version World Customs Organisation's Harmonised System, in effect since January, said the AGT director who said he could not predict the date of final approval of the document, "given that we are in an election year."

The new Customs Tariff exempts 87 types of products out of a total of 400 from import duties and consumer tax, increases tax on some products in order to increase revenue collection and protect the Angolan manufacturing sector and prevent smuggling.

Gaspar said that in this case the supply in the market remained unchanged, but tax revenue did not increase despite customs duties having increased 80%.

Reducing the trend for counterfeit products is another aim of the 2017 Customs Tariff, as increased tax rates of certain goods led to an increase of imports of similar counterfeit, low-cost goods.

Imported motor vehicles are now classified according to engine capacity, with the designation of "luxury" for some vehicles being abandoned, as it is subject to different interpretations by the dispatchers, the Association of Road and Other Transport Equipment Dealers (ACETRO) and other entities. (18-05-2017)

SOUTH AFRICA AND UK START MAKING PLANS FOR POST-BREXIT TRADE

Nations agree in principle to implement interim arrangement based on existing EU partnership deal

SA and the UK have reached an in-principle agreement that an interim arrangement will be put in place once Britain leaves the EU which will be based on the existing economic partnership agreement between SA and the EU.

This will ensure a smooth transition and ensure there is no interruption in trade between the two countries when Brexit occurs in about two years' time. Until the exit the UK will be subject to all the trade obligations of the EU, including the economic partnership agreement.

The Southern African Customs Union (Sacu) has already sent a letter to the UK requesting that discussions take place to establish an interim arrangement based on the economic partnership agreement.

"It is anticipated that discussions between Sacu and the UK may start after the UK's general elections on June 8 2017," Department of Trade and Industry chief director for trade negotiations Niki Kruger told members of Parliament's trade and industry portfolio committee this week.

She noted that the in-principle agreement had been arrived at in the continuing discussions on post-Brexit arrangements that have taken place between SA and the UK.

Kruger said there were a number of tariff rate quotas in the economic partnership agreement and SA would have to negotiate the volume of these with the UK. Tariff rate quotas protect a domestically produced commodity or product from competitive imports. They allow a quota or volume of product to come in at a lower tariff, while anything above the quota is subject to a higher, often prohibitive tariff.

"Since the tariff rate quotas with the EU were never increased as more countries became part of the EU [such as Croatia in 2014] it is SA's position that the volume of tariff rate quotas in the economic partnership agreement should not be reduced with the UK's exit from the EU."

The economic partnership agreement, which replaced the previous trade development and cooperation agreement between SA and the EU, was signed in June 2016 and came into force on October 10, except for agricultural products which took effect from November 1. The partnership agreement gave improved market access for 32 agricultural products, especially wine, sugar and ethanol.

The UK is SA's seventh largest trading partner and second biggest in the EU. About 30% of SA's fruit exports and 25% of all wine exports go to the UK. Total trade between SA and the EU — as a bloc, SA's largest trading partner — increased from R150bn in 2000 to R588bn in 2016. South African exports to the EU over this period rose from R64bn to R250bn while imports from the EU increased from R88bn to R338bn.(BD 18-05-2017)

CABO VERDE HAS MORE TOURISTS IN THE 1ST QUARTER

Cabo Verde's (Cape Verde's) hotel establishments registered 2.4% and 6.8% increases in the number of guests and overnight stays in the first quarter of the year, compared to the same period of 2016, according to the National Statistics Institute (INE).

From January to March the number of guests in Cabo Verde's hotel establishments totalled 195,100 and the number of overnight stays was 1.2 million, with an average stay of 5.9 nights.

The United Kingdom was the main source of tourists in the period and visitors from the UK also stayed the longest in Cabo Verde, with an average stay of 7.9 nights.

The island of Sal was the most sought after, accounting for around 47.9% of hotel entrances, followed by Boavista Island with 28.8% and Santiago with 9.9%, according to INE.

By type of establishment, hotels continued to be the most sought after, with 84.3% of total entries, followed by bed and breakfasts with 4.7% and tourist villages with 3.6%

The main markets for tourists were, in addition to the United Kingdom, France, Germany and the Netherlands, with 13.5%, 12.3% and 11.1%, respectively. (18-05-2017)

USAID EXPLORING FOOD AID, DISASTER ASSISTANCE MERGER FOR TRUMP REORGANIZATION

The United States Agency for International Development is exploring a merger of its disaster assistance and food assistance offices, to create a combined entity that would oversee the agency's roughly $4 billion humanitarian operations, Devex has learned.

Leaders of USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance have discussed including the merger proposal, which has not been finalized but has been related to staff, as part of their bureau's contribution to the restructuring plan the Trump administration is requiring federal agencies to submit by June 30, according to a source briefed on the proposal, who spoke anonymously to relate internal discussions.

Merging the two offices, which often operate in the same crisis contexts, is an idea that has been floating around USAID for at least a year. In 2016, during the Obama administration, the agency hired the consulting firm McKinsey to conduct a study of what a potential merger might look like and what its implications would be.

Jeremy Konyndyk, now a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development, directed USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance at that time.

"It was starting out from a recognition that using food [versus] non-food as an organizing principle for humanitarian assistance within USAID didn't make a lot of sense," Konyndyk said.

The OFDA leads the U.S. government's interagency response efforts for complex disasters. Past examples have included the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa, the Nepal earthquake, and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. The Office of Food for Peace was created in 1948 and engages in development and emergency relief to improve food security and provide food assistance during and after disasters.

Konyndyk explained that USAID deals with an overlapping set of challenges in responding to complex emergencies. Programs focused on livelihoods, water and sanitation, health, food assistance and other kinds of support must intersect and mutually reinforce each other.
“Having two distinct entities running humanitarian assistance, whose missions often bumped into each other, didn’t seem optimal,” he said.
Under current budget levels, merging the two offices could create an entity within USAID that oversees close to $4 billion in disaster and food assistance programming, making it larger than all of the agency’s existing bureaus, other than global health.
“If they were to be merged, they would need to be elevated too,”
— Jeremy Konyndyk, senior fellow at the Center for Global Development
Still undetermined is whether the proposal would suggest that OFDA and FFP split off from the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, where they are currently housed, to become a separate bureau focused on humanitarian assistance.
Konyndyk said that if the new entity were not detached, it could lack leadership, oversight and the “support structure” necessary to manage its large budget and complex mandate. “If they were to be merged, they would need to be elevated too,” he said.
Elevating the offices to a combined humanitarian bureau could have the added benefit of giving the U.S. government a stronger voice in global humanitarian policy circles, Konyndyk added.
On April 12, the White House Office of Management and Budget issued the “Comprehensive Plan for Reforming the Federal Government and Reducing the Federal Civilian Workforce.” This requires all federal agencies to submit a plan to the OMB to “maximize the performance of government workers” and “modernize and streamline their operations.” Within that process, each of USAID’s bureaus is proposing reforms and consolidations that might contribute to those goals.
This “comprehensive reorganization” will be reflected in the president’s fiscal year 2019 budget proposal, according to the White House.
“We have begun a consultative process to engage our entire workforce, which will significantly inform the broader reorganization proposal,” a USAID spokesperson told Devex, adding that USAID routinely looks at ways to improve efficiency and effectiveness.
Konyndyk suggested that if USAID is going to undertake this consolidation, it would make sense to do so before the assistant administrators who will lead the bureau under the Trump administration are in place, since their scope of work could change significantly in a shakeup.
The former disaster chief was skeptical — based on findings from the earlier McKinsey study — that a merger of the two offices would result in major cost savings. He also cautioned against pursuing the consolidation for the purposes of staff reduction.
“You wouldn’t want to go making significant cuts to the staffing level, because basically then you’re in effect ensuring less oversight to a comparable amount of money,” Konyndyk said.(DEV 18-05-2017)

DEVELOPMENT BOSS: ‘TRAINING IN AFRICA DOES NOT MEET BUSINESS NEEDS’

Africa’s rapidly growing population has made youth employment a major issue. While businesses are offering increasing numbers of jobs, agriculture will continue to be the main source of employment for young people.

Céline Gratadour is the head of the French Development Agency's Education and Professional Training project. She took part in the conference *Employment for tomorrow in continental Africa: what opportunities for young people?*, which was held in Paris on 25 and 26 April.

Africa is the region with the highest proportion of young people in the world. What is the situation in terms of youth employment?

Unemployment as such does not exist in Africa, where we speak more often about "NEETs", young people who are not in education, employment or training and are really discouraged by their situation. This is the most representative indicator of youth unemployment in Africa, particularly in North Africa, where young people have invested a lot in their studies.

And there is a strong distinction to be made between the Maghreb region and sub-Saharan Africa. In the Maghreb countries, youth unemployment is high because one-third of young people do not have jobs. In sub-Saharan Africa, on the other hand, poverty is the factor that attains dizzying heights, with 70% of young people living on less than $3.10 per day. But all young people work to support their families. The main problem is the quality of the work and the amount it pays.

Around 30 million young people arrive on the African labour market each year. So we need to achieve unprecedented levels of job creation. The economic and social stakes are immensely high and young people between the ages of 15 and 29 have never been better educated or connected. This is a real opportunity.

In Africa, what are the specific difficulties that young women have to face in order to get jobs?

Even if women today have much better access to education in Africa, they still come up against huge difficulties in accessing the labour market, especially when it comes to maintaining their position once they get pregnant.

When they want to found their own companies, they are told they cannot. They encounter much more difficulty in raising funds and accessing the networks that are indispensable to a successful business. In rural areas, another obstacle women face is access to the land. And there is still the weight of family expectation and the highly gendered roles of men and women, even if these have evolved in the right direction.

UK's May promises to keep 0.7% aid spend target if she wins election

British Prime Minister Theresa May promised Friday (21 April) to keep the UK's aid spending at 0.7% of GDP if – as appears likely – her ruling Conservative party win the upcoming snap election.

The African population will continue to grow very quickly. Will the existing education systems be able to cope with this challenge?

We will not be able to make any progress on employment if the people do not know how to read or write, are uneducated and have no skills.

Today, the gamble of providing large-scale access to education in Africa has more or less proved a success, with very high rates of primary education. But the big issues for tomorrow are more concentrated in secondary education, where there is far less investment from international donors. Many questions remain to be answered over the quality of the education and the training of the teachers.

And there are also real issues surrounding higher education and professional training in Africa, because many programmes are completely disconnected from the needs of businesses and the realities of work.

For example, in Nigeria, there is strong demand in the electricity sector, because it has been privatised. But the system of professional training has remained under public management and has not evolved with the needs of the sector. The teachers have no experience in business, the students have no practical training, etc. Which leads to a total disconnect between people in training and their future employers.

Are the aspirations of Africa's young people today in line with the kinds of jobs the continent has to offer?

There is a big gap between the aspirations of young people, the perception and expectations of families and the realities of the labour market. There is also a problem of correlating the skills people acquire and the needs of the market. In reality, there is very little formal work available.

For example in the Maghreb countries, lots of young people want to enter the civil service but there are fewer and fewer public sector jobs. The lack of opportunity has a very strong demoralising effect. A consequence of this is that it kills innovation. It kills young people's confidence and their dreams.

How do you explain this gap between supply and demand?

Young people are not well informed about the realities of work. The public information services on employment and training are, themselves, disconnected from the private sector, so they are ineffective in Africa.

In Ivory Coast, the French Development Agency (AFD) is helping in the reform of the country's youth employment agency. One of the areas of cooperation is the reform of the information system. We realised that the website offered a very low number of CVs and job opportunities, around 80. But in parallel, we also met a start-up that managed to collect 18,000 CVs and job offers to test its platform. This young entrepreneur met Barack Obama in Davos, but in his own country, he has not even managed to act as a link for the public authorities. The AFD is trying to bring these two worlds together.

French development chief: 'SDGs apply to France in same way as Burkina Faso'

Development agencies have to change their dualist approach to Africa, as it does not correspond to the reality the continent is facing, the head of the French Development Agency told EURACTIV France.
A majority of young Africans still live in rural areas. But agriculture seems to hold little attraction for young people. How can this be changed?
Our view is clear: agriculture and the rural environment will be the biggest source of jobs in the years to come. But today, young people only come back to agriculture after failing to achieve some other project in the city. This has many consequences. Young people are not returning to the land by choice, but out of need, so they are not motivated. And as it is often the families that push young people to go out in search of a better life, there is also an effect of disappointment for their entourage.
What is more, young people are often not trained in how to get the best from their land and diversify their businesses. We need to ensure they are better informed about the difficulties and opportunities of the business and are ready to work on the perception of the farming profession.
Entrepreneurship is often presented as a lever with which to fight unemployment among young people in Africa. Is this really the case?
Africa's young people are entrepreneurs because they cannot afford not to work. Everyone has their own little stalls where they sell vegetables and sim cards. But there is a difference between the subsistence entrepreneur and the business entrepreneur, who creates jobs.
People often say that entrepreneurs will save Africa. This is not true. Not everyone can be an entrepreneur. Entrepreneurialism offers great opportunities but it cannot be the only answer. Today, there is also a whole entrepreneurial ecosystem that needs to be developed. The banking system, for example, is underdeveloped.
This interview is published in partnership with the *ID4D blog*, coordinated by the French Development Agency. (EurActiv 10-05-2017)

FRANCE : BNP PARIBAS VA TRANSFERER CERTAINES DE SES ACTIVITES INFORMATIQUES AU MAROC

Une agence de la BNP à Alger

BNP Paribas veut délocaliser des activités informatiques liées à sa banque de détail au Maroc. Ce transfert concerne 150 emplois actuellement basés en Île-de-France.

Annoncée lors d'un comité d'établissement et confirmée mardi 09 mai par l'*AFP*, la délocalisation au Maroc d'activités informatiques dédiées à la banque de détail de BNP Paribas ne doit pas occasionner de licenciements.
Les 150 salariés concernés par ce processus, basés en Île-de-France, se verront proposer une mobilité interne dans la région, selon l'entreprise.
Au Maroc, a-t-elle par ailleurs précisé, la banque, qui dispose déjà d'une filiale, la BMCI, recrutera de nouveaux salariés.

Engie aussi délocalise au Maroc
La semaine dernière, la Confédération générale du travail (CGT) s'était indignée de la décision du français Engie de délocaliser une partie de ses prestations de relation clientèle, notamment vers le Maroc. Cette délocalisation-ci devrait entraîner la suppression de 416 postes en France selon le groupe, 600 selon la CGT.(JA 10-05-2017)

KENYA GETS NEW PRODUCTION FACILITY TO CONTROL CROP PEST

A facility has been launched in Kenya to aid commercial production of a protein bait to control fruit flies in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The US$250,000 facility, which resulted from public-private partnership involving the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) and Kenya Biologics Ltd, will enable smallholders control fruit flies that devastate their fruits and vegetables.

Segenet Kelemu, director general of icipe, said during the launch on 29 March that fruit flies are pests of fruits and vegetables including mango and avocado that cause Africa to lose US$2 billion every year.

Smallholders in countries such as Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia suffer from reduced yields because of the pest.

Kelemu explained that the facility will boost commercial production of Fruitfly Mania, a protein bait developed by icipe through

"Synthetic pesticides also eliminate natural enemies that could biologically control the pests. The unselective and regular use of these chemicals also places at risk the health of the growers, consumers, other beneficial insects such as bees, and the environment in general," Kelemu explained.
"Many fruit fly species are considered quarantine pests, leading to the rejection of horticultural products from Africa in export markets."

The bait will be sold at 70 per cent less than the cost of other commercially available products, according to the icipe.

Sunday Ekesi, head of African Fruit Fly Programme at icipe, tells SciDev.Net: “Aside from directly damaging produce, many fruit fly species are considered quarantine pests, leading to the rejection of horticultural products from Africa in export markets.”

Ekesi explains that because protein is an important part of the diet of adult female fruit flies that destroy crops and vegetables, bait sprays are often laced with protein and an appropriate toxicant as a way of killing female fruit flies.

According to Ekesi in field suppression trials done in 2016, the total number of fruit flies captured in Fruitfly Mania treated fields was 112.1 flies per day in comparison to other management control methods that were only 56.8 flies per day, about 50 per cent reduction in the population of the damaging flies.

The strategic partnership between icipe and Kenya Biologics Ltd (KBL) to develop the fruit fly protein food bait facility, he says, is to mitigate against to losses caused to farmers.

“Icipe firmly believes that Fruitfly Mania, alongside our other integrated pest management(IPM) fruity fly packages, presents one of the strongest possibilities for reducing harmful synthetic chemical pesticide use in Africa. This will improve the health of growers and consumers and the environment, and also increase the competitiveness of fruits from Africa,” he tells SciDev.Net.

Technical and financial support for the facility has been provided by the Government of Kenya and several partners including the development agencies of the governments of Germany, Sweden Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Chris Kolenberg, managing director, Kenya Biologics Ltd, says that the facility has a capacity to produce 2,000 litres a day, enough to meet the local demand of over 229,000 households whose livelihoods depend on mango production in Kenya.

“An additional 400,000 mango growers will benefit from Fruitfly Mania once the product is escalated to include Uganda and Tanzania,” Kolenberg notes.
Simon Ngundo, a farmer in Kenya’s Machakos County who depends on fruits for income, says that most mango growers are smallholders who lack knowledge of, and access to, effective pest control tools.

According to Muo Kasina, agricultural entomologist at the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization, fruit fly pest management is a big problem in Africa because the time you have the fruits you do not spray pesticide.

“However, with this facility [that] will produce bait to enable control and reduction mechanism will have a positive impact to farmers,” he says.

“Farmers should be trained on how to use the bait because having the right tools will help to tackle the problem but if it is not implemented in a wide area system where majority of farmers are involved in the management and control, it becomes non-essential,” says Kasina (SciDev.Net)

KENYA UPGRADES OIL REFINERY TO ENABLE REVERSE FLOW

According to Kenya's petroleum principal secretary, Andrew Kamau, his ministry is in the process of upgrading the existing oil refinery.

Speaking to local media the Business Daily, Kamau said government has completed modifying its ageing refinery to allow reverse flow of oil through the pipeline from onshore storage tanks to ships ahead of the start of crude exports, next month. Read more...

The modification means oil can flow in both directions; from storage tanks to ships and from ships to the tanks, media reported.

Small-scale oil exports

It is reported that Kenya is planning to move 2,000 barrels of oil daily from Turkana oilfields in northern Kenya to Mombasa port by road from mid-May.

This is anticipated to be achieved in the absence of a pipeline and will be stored at the Mariakani refinery tanks instead.

This will allow small-scale oil exports of 2,000 barrels per day from next month to test the receptivity of the oil in the global market, pending construction of the Sh210 billion ($2 billion) pipeline by 2021 to cover 865km.

Media highlighted that the pipeline will pump more oil volumes and allow large-scale exports.

Kamau said the first sea tankers will dock at the Mombasa port in June to pick up the consignment.

He said the storage facilities at the defunct Kenya Petroleum Refineries Limited (KPRL) have been refurbished to handle the Turkana crude.

According to media, KPRL has 45 tanks, nearly half of which will store the crude from Turkana for shipment while the rest is for refined products. Read more....

Turkana crude

The reverse-flow modification will also enable Kenya to export 400,000 barrels of oil, which has been stuck in Mombasa tanks since the closure of the refinery in 2013 together with the Turkana crude, paving the way for oil marketers to recoup losses from the commodity they had imported earlier.

Media further stated that the 400,000 barrels is made up of crude oil, residue of refined oil and naphtha or flammable oil.

It is reported that the cargo belongs to oil marketers who were obligated to refine a portion of their crude at the defunct refinery at a fee before it shut down.

The government wants to dispose of the deadstock alongside the Turkana oil small-scale exports, which will occupy a small fraction of the ship per trip.

"The ship has compartments to accommodate the different components of the deadstock, comprising naphtha, high sulfur diesel, and Murban crude," Kamau said.(ESI Africa 09-05-2016)

AFRIQUE SUBSAHARIENNE : LE FMI DEVOILE SES PREVISIONS DE CROISSANCE ET SE PENCHE SUR LE SECTEUR INFORMEL

Christine Lagarde, directrice du FMI

Selon les prévisions du Fonds monétaire international (FMI), publiées le 9 mai à Dakar, l'économie de l'Afrique subsaharienne repart, mais à une vitesse décevante par rapport à la décennie 2005-2015.

L'institution s'est, en outre, penchée pour la première fois sur le poids des entreprises du secteur dit informel dans le PIB du continent.

Déjà limité à 3,4% en 2015, le taux de croissance de l'Afrique subsaharienne est tombé à 1,4% en 2016, les deux tiers des pays de la zone ayant connu un ralentissement. 2017 devrait connaître un redressement à 2,6%, confirmé à 3,5% en 2018.
Ce petit rebond est dû à une production pétrolière nigériane en hausse, à la fin de la sécheresse en Afrique australe, à une poussée des dépenses publiques en Angola pour cause d'élections et à une reprise des cours mondiaux des produits de base.

Situations hétérogènes
Ce qui frappe dans le tableau dressé par le FMI, c'est la grande hétérogénéité des situations. Pendant que l'Éthiopie caracole en tête avec +7,5%, suivie par la Côte d'Ivoire avec +6,9%, le Sénégal et la Tanzanie avec +6,8%, le Burundi est à l'arrêt (0%) tout comme la République du Congo (+0,6%). Le Soudan du Sud est dans le rouge (-3 ,5%) et la Guinée équatoriale plus encore (-5%).
Le FMI prévient les pays exportateurs qu'ils ne doivent pas compter sur la poursuite de la hausse des prix des matières premières pour se tirer d'affaire. « Cette hausse ne compense qu'une petite partie de la chute des prix depuis 2014, explique Roger Nord, directeur adjoint du département Afrique du FMI. Elle est surtout sensible pour le pétrole, mais pas pour les autres produits de base ».

Maîtrise de la dépense publique
Il est donc urgent de mettre en place un assainissement budgétaire dans les pays producteurs de matières premières dont le budget dépend de ces recettes à l'exportation. C'est particulièrement vrai pour le Nigeria, l'Angola et pour tous les États membres de la CEMAC (Cameroun, Gabon, Tchad, Centrafrique, République du Congo, Guinée équatoriale) qui doivent rapidement améliorer leurs recettes publiques et les diversifier hors pétrole.
« Ils doivent aussi réduire de façon intelligente la dépense publique, poursuit Roger Nord, car elle a connu une forte augmentation sous l'effet d'une poussée des investissements publics pas toujours productifs ».

Risques d'endettement
Les pays qui ne sont pas exportateurs de matières premières, eux aussi, doivent être prudents. L'Afrique de l'est, et en particulier le Kenya, la Tanzanie et le Rwanda, tout comme l'Afrique de l'ouest, avec la Côte d'Ivoire et le Sénégal, ont vu leur dette augmenter fortement.
« Celle-ci représente encore un risque faible, commente Roger Nord, mais ces pays devraient commencer à ralentir le rythme de leurs investissements publics, élargir leur base fiscale pour éviter de se trouver en difficulté dans quelques années. Cette prudence rassurera les investisseurs qui seront plus incités à apporter leurs capitaux ».

Le poids essentiel de l'informel
Enfin, il faut marquer d'une pierre blanche le rapport du FMI qui, pour la première fois, se penche sur le secteur informel jusque-là considéré plutôt comme une plaie. Le Fonds estime désormais que ces entreprises, qui ne paient ni impôts ni charges sociales, sont essentielles pour les populations. Selon les pays, elles pèsent entre 25% et 65% du produit intérieur brut de l'Afrique subsaharienne et entre 30% et 90% de son emploi non-agricole.
Le Fonds conseille d'améliorer leur productivité toujours médiocre en facilitant leur accès au crédit et aux infrastructures (électricité surtout) afin de les aider à croître et à devenir, un jour, « formelles ».(JA 09-05-2017)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

IMF Staff Concludes 2017 Article IV Visit to Botswana

IMF Reaches Staff-Level Agreement for Completion of the First Review of Egypt's Extended Fund Facility

IMF Concludes the 2017 Article IV Consultation Mission to Jordan and Reaches Staff-Level Agreement on First Review Under the Extended Fund Facility

IMF Staff Concludes Review Mission to Mali

IMF Executive Board Concludes the First Review under the Precautionary and Liquidity Line Arrangement for Morocco

IMF Staff Completes Visit to Niger

IMF Staff Completes 2017 Article IV Consultation and Review Mission to Rwanda

IMF Executive Board Approves US$241.5 Million under the ECF Arrangement for Togo

IMF Executive Board Concludes 2016 Article IV Consultation with Togo

Country Report No. 17/127 : Togo : 2016 Article IV Consultation and Request for a Three-Year Arrangement Under the Extended Credit Facility-Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for Togo

Country Report No. 17/128 : Togo : Selected Issues

IMF Hosts Conference on "Managing Capital Flows: Challenges for Developing Countries" in Zambia

IMF Staff Completes 2017 Article IV Visit to Zimbabwe

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