MEMORANDUM

N° 150/2015 | 22/09/2015

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SUMMARY

MEDITERRANEAN-CALL FOR PAPERS: WORKSHOP ON 'FIRMS AND GLOBALIZATION'

The EU-funded Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Economic Institutes (FEMISE) and other partners are organising a workshop on “Firms and Globalisation” with a focus on Mediterranean countries, in Aix-en-Provence, France.

This workshop aims to discuss the relationship between the adjustments of firms and the phenomena related to economic globalization (reduction of tariffs, harmonization of non-tariff measures, trade diversion and increase in trade, integration within value chains etc.), focusing on the situation of developing and emerging economies. Particular attention will be paid to the case of Mediterranean countries, which will be the subject of a specific session.

Paper proposals (detailed summary or preliminary version in French or English) should be sent before **19 September 2015**. Participation in the workshop is open to all researchers, post-docs and PhD students that are affiliates to the research centres and laboratories organising the workshop.

FEMISE is an EU-funded project, which aims to contribute to the reinforcement of dialogue on economic and financial issues in the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Union for the Mediterranean. More specifically, it seeks to improve understanding of the priority stakes in the economic and social spheres, and their repercussions on the Mediterranean partners in the framework of their implementation of EU Association Agreements and Action Plans. (EU Neighbourhood 15-09-2015)

MTN ACQUIRES LICENCE FOR DIGITAL PAY TV SERVICES IN NIGERIA

South Africa’s Telecommunications giant, MTN, has acquired a N34bn (about $167m) licence to provide digital pay television broadcasting services in Nigeria.

The Director-General of the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), Mr. Emeka Mba, who confirmed the deal on Wednesday, said that it approved for MTN Nigeria part of the country’s 700MHz broadcasting spectrum solely for the purpose.

Speaking against the backdrop of allegations that the NBC had sold the spectrum to MTN without recourse to transparency or the Nigerian Communications Commission, the telecommunications industry regulator that is empowered to sell such spectrum through a transparent auction, Mba dismissed the allegations, saying it was not a telecoms spectrum, but a broadcasting spectrum.

“I am pleased to inform you that we have successfully licensed MTN Nigeria to use a part of the 700MHz to provide digital pay-TV broadcasting services. We have thus raised N34bn (about $167m) slightly less than 50 percent of our budget.

“I am pleased to inform you, also, that through this singular move, Nigeria has once again pointed the way to other African countries struggling with the effort of finding financing for their own digital switchover programmes.

“It may be necessary to clarify that the use of the band, 470 – 862MHz, solely for UHF television broadcasting service on a primary basis in Nigeria predates both the NBC and NCC.

“As a matter of fact, most administrations in the International Telecommunications Union region 1 use the entire 470 – 862 MHz for UHF television broadcasting prior to ITU WRC-2007 conference,” he said.

Mba said that in 2006, the ITU planned the entire 470 – 862MHz frequency band for digital UHF television broadcasting for the region 1, to which the Nigerian administration belonged.

He stated that the planning of the 470 – 862MHz frequency band for digital UHF television was referred to in the ITU circle as GE-06 plan, saying, “And after the signing of the agreements resulting from this plan, it is now referred to as the GE-06 agreement.”

According to him, the spectrum was sold to enable Nigeria to meet the June 17, 2015 deadline set by the ITU of transiting to digital terrestrial broadcasting.

He said despite that the announcement was in 2006 by ITU, it was not until June 17, 2012 that the White Paper giving direction to the process came out. (APA 17-09-2015)

GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE STUDIES INTRODUCTION OF TOLLS ON MORE ROADS

A study on the introduction of tolls on more roads in Mozambique should be completed by the end of the year, the Minister of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources said in Pequenos Libombos.

Carlos Bonete said the central idea of the study is to ensure availability of resources for maintenance and development of the roads, giving them high standards of traffic flow and road safety.

The potential roads identified to become toll roads are currently national road No. 1, Beira/Machipanda, Nampula/Cuamba/Lichinga, Caniçado/Chicualacuala, Chimoio/Espungabera, Catembe/Ponta do Ouro/Boane, National Road No. 6 and the Maputo Ring Road.

Current toll roads in Mozambique are National No. 4, National Roads Nos. 7 and 9, in Tete province, as well as large bridges such as Xai-Xai (Gaza), Samora Machel (Tete) Save (on the river of the same name connecting the provinces of Inhambane and Sofala) and Armando Guebuza (over the Zambezi river, linking Sofala and Zambézia provinces).

Cited by Mozambican newspaper Notícias, the minister gave assurances that the introduction of tolls would always be preceded by maintenance work to improve the condition of the roads.

In the case of National Road No. 1, for example, work is planned in phases to improve road conditions and tolls are expected to be introduced as each section is completed. (18-09-2013)

SAMSUNG UNVEILS DIGITAL VILLAGE IN DRC

Samsung Electronics Africa has launched its Digital Village in the community of Kasenga, 250 kilometers away from Lubumbashi.

The Digital Village will provide access to communication technologies, and education and health services to under-resourced areas, bridging the digital divide and serving as a catalyst for local business development and government service delivery.

The components of the Samsung Digital Village include: a Solar Powered Internet School, built to accommodate up to 24 learners; a Solar Powered Tele-Medical Centre; and a Solar Power Generator that powers up the Admin Centre, which can be used as office space for local entrepreneurs and any other nearby school or community centre personnel with limited electricity supply.

In addition to providing the appropriate technologies, Samsung is also working to ensure that the community takes ownership of the Digital Village and receives adequate training to optimise use of the facilities.

The multi-purpose solution aligns very well with the communities need for improved standards of living through using sustainable answers to problems faced by African people.

The Samsung Digital Village model addresses one of Africa’s largest economic challenges – electrification. Power poverty results in limited access to education, healthcare and connectivity – all of which are key to socio-economic development.

Mr. Bill Kim, Managing Director of DRC Branch for Samsung Electronics East Africa said: “The Digital Village demonstrates our innovative approach to investing in people and their communities. This initiative offers a complete educational infrastructure, comprehensive healthcare solution and power generation capabilities that will spur the growth of small businesses and harness the energy of the sun to minimise running costs, among others."

"The United Nations says being online is now seen as fundamental to human development, and access to the Internet may soon become a basic human right, like access to water. We also understand that success in Africa requires commitment to creating the market and infrastructure around it – not just entering it," he adds. "That's why we are putting resources into a variety of initiatives across the continent that are designed to address the unique needs and conditions of the continent."(IT Africa News 14-09-2015)

NIGERIA: BANKER APPLAUDS TREASURY SINGLE ACCOUNT POLICY OF GOVT

The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation, Alhaji Umaru Ibrahim, says the full implementation of the Treasury Single Account policy will help banks to diversify their sources of deposit mobilization.

Nigeria's Punch newspaper report on Thursday said that Ibrahim stated at the opening of a research building complex donated by the NDIC to the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, on Wednesday in Jos in northern Nigeria, that the policy has shown that the era of "arm-chair banking in Nigeria" is over.

Ibrahim, who stressed that the implementation of the policy should not be strange to the banks, said that banks had been warned about three years ago to take steps that would make them not to over rely on government deposits.

The NDIC boss dismissed the rumour of mass retrenchment in the banking system due to the TSA policy as unfounded and stressed that organisational renewal was a continuous exercise whereby banks not only rationalise their branches and entire operations to enhance efficiency, but also undertake recruitment to renew their human capital.

In his speech at the ceremony, Nigeria's Vice President Yemi Osinbajo said the Federal Government was appreciative of the NDIC's gesture and urged other organisations the public and private sectors to emulate the corporation.

Osinbajo, who was represented by the Director of Administration, Office of the Vice President, Alhaji Ibrahim Yabani, commended the agency for identifying with the infrastructural needs of the institute through the donation of the complex.

While expressing optimism that the building complex would provide conducive environment for research, he charged the institute to apply itself towards formulating policies that would accelerate socio-economic development in the country. (APA 17-09-2015)

MOZAMBIQUE DECLARED FREE OF LANDMINES

Mozambique is free of anti-personnel mines or other hidden explosive devices that could jeopardise the safety of people and damage public or private property, said Thursday in Maputo the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Minister Oldemiro Baloi, speaking to national and international partners that over the last six years have supported Mozambique in the removal of these explosive devices placed throughout the country, gave assurances of the successful conclusion of National Plan for Mine Action (2008- 2014).

Under this plan, the minister said, 83,392 anti-personnel mines were dug up as well as 136 anti-tank mines, 5,475 non-explosive devices and 83,882 low-caliber ammunitions and over 55 million square metres of land were now free of mines.

The implementation of the National Plan for Mine Action allowed the demining of economically important infrastructure, notably the Chicamba dam in the province of Manica and the Cahora Bassa dam in Tete, the Limpopo , Salamanga and Machipanda railways, the high voltage transmission towers of Maputo/Komatipoort (South Africa) and Mavuzi/Nhamathanda (Beira Beira I and II) as well as in the entire border area with Zimbabwe.

Oldemiro Baloi, cited by Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias also said the overall cost of the demining plan was estimated at just over US$220 million, an amount that came out of the state budget and contributions from cooperation partners.

In this process, Mozambique had political, technical and financial support from South Africa, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, United States, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, Norway, New Zealand, Switzerland, United Kingdom , Zimbabwe, and UN agencies lincluding the United Nations Development Programme, UNMAS ("United Nations Mine Action Service") and UNICEF, among others. (18-09-2015)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO SUPPORT PALESTINIAN CIVIL SOCIETY

The European Commission has launched a call for proposals to support Civil Society Organisations in Palestine under the Thematic Programme "Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities". The reference of the call is EuropeAid/150473/DD/ACT/Multi.

The global objective of the programme is to strengthen Palestinian Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in line with the focal sector of the Single Support Framework.

The specific objective of the Call is to enhance CSOs' contribution to governance and development processes as stakeholders in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth in Palestine, in partnership with public authorities and the private sector.

The overall indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is **€7 million.** Any grant requested under the Call must fall between €600,000 and €1.5 million.

The deadline for submission of Concept Note is **2 November 2015** at 22:00 Brussels time. (EU Neighbourhood 16-09-2015)

Call for proposals

NEW MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK TO BE SET UP IN SOMALI COAST

Oceans Beyond Piracy and the Taipei Representative Office in Brussels have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to set up a new maritime communications network along the Somali coast, The Ethiopian Herald newspaper reported here on Thursday.

According to the report, Taiwan will contribute US$166,000 to establish maritime communications and safety centers in Bosasso, Berbera and Mogadishu, and eventually in Hobyo and Kismayo.

The report adds that these centers will be linked to regional information sharing centers in Mombasa, Sana'a and Dar es Salaam and be able to notify international naval forces of problems, Oceans Beyond Piracy said, adding that the project is intended to "increase Somali ownership of their maritime domain and avoid dangerous misunderstandings between local traffic and international partners at sea."

The centers will be working with the various international naval groups including EUCAP NESTOR and coordinate efforts with UNFAO, EUNAVFOR and US AFRICOM.

Oceans Beyond Piracy, launched in 2010, is a program launched by the NGO, One Earth Future. It aims to cultivate a response to maritime piracy, through mobilization of stakeholders in the maritime community and emphasis on sustainable deterrence based upon the rule of law. (APA 17-09-2015)

NATIONAL BANK OF ANGOLA INCREASES INTEREST RATES

The National Bank of Angola decided to keep the country's key interest rate – BNA Rate – at 10.50 percent but has increased other benchmark rates, according to the decisions of an extraordinary meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee.

It increased the interest rate on the marginal lending facility from 12.0 percent to 12.5 percent and the liquidity absorption from 0 percent to 1.75 percent.

In a statement published on its website, the BNA said the decisions of the Monetary Policy Committee were based on analysis of inflation, the real economy, fiscal and monetary accounts as well as the international economic climate, including recent developments and the outlook for crude oil prices.

In August inflation stood at 11.01 percent, up 0.60 percentage points from the previous month, the overnight Luibor rate stood at 13.26 percent and the average exchange rate of the kwanza against the dollar remained practically unchanged at 126.409 kwanzas per US dollar. (18-09-2015)

EU MUST DEMAND MORE TRANSPARENCY FROM COMPANIES IN AFRICA

Piketty's recommendations reflect a shift in activist focus. Hamburg environmentalist protest, 2014
The European Union should require companies operating in Africa to disclose the taxes they pay there more transparently, to ensure they contribute fairly to government revenues, French economist Thomas Piketty said on Thursday (10 September).

Africa's fast-growing economies are attracting the attention of foreign investors looking for new markets, particularly as developed nations have seen growth slow.

But development in Africa remains hobbled by some of the world's lowest rates of tax collection, said Piketty, who shot to fame last year with the publication of his book on wealth and inequality, Capital in the Twenty-First Century.

He said the biggest international companies, which often negotiate preferential tax deals with African governments, should be paying at least as much tax as small- and medium-sized companies, most of which are locally owned.

"As we know, this is not always the case in Europe or the US, and there are good reasons to believe in Africa it is even worse, partly because of western companies," he told Reuters during an interview in Ivory Coast, at a forum organised by *Le Monde.*

Civil society initiatives, including Publish What You Pay for the extractive industries, have pushed multinational companies for more transparency in their dealings with developing countries. However, Piketty said this must be taken a step further.

"I think that it is important that the European Union enacts legislation," he said. "We give lessons to African countries all the time about corruption, but in the end we're not always contributing to things going in the right direction."

The sub-Saharan African countries, among the world's poorest, generally collect taxes equivalent to around 10 to 15% of GDP, he said. And some have seen revenues decline as trade liberalisation has led to decreased earnings from customs tariffs.

"You have no examples of countries that have become rich with 10% or even 20% of GDP in tax revenue," Piketty said.

African countries should aim to gradually raise tax revenues to 30 to 50% of GDP, the levels typical in Europe, he said.

While European legislation could help, African governments must also play a role by reforming how they collect taxes on personal income, among other measures.

"Nobody really trusts the system very much because there is very little transparency with the data that is available. And I think if you want to improve the system, you need to be transparent about what's working and what's not working."

Over the last 50 years, Africa is estimated to have lost in excess of $1 trillion in illicit financial flows (IFFs). This sum is roughly equivalent to all of the official development assistance (ODA) received by Africa during the same timeframe. Currently, Africa is estimated to be losing more than $50 billion annually in IFFs.

Amid a crackdown on tax avoidance, the European Union backed new rules requiring the extractive industries to disclose payments made to governments on a country-by-country basis. Updated in 2013, the Transparency Directive requires European extractive and logging companies to present a more detailed picture of the payments they make to governments on an individual country basis rather than a global total.

Large oil and gas companies had lobbied the EU legislature claiming that laws in certain countries they operate in may prevent them from disclosing all of their tax payments, putting the lives of their workers at risk. But none of the companies were able to supply any evidence to support the claim, EU sources said.

Member states had until July 2015 to transpose the directive into national legislation but most EU countries were expected to miss that deadline.(EuroActiv 11-09-2015)

UNILEVER EXPANDS VASELINE FACTORY IN KENYAN CAPITAL TO MEET REGIONAL DEMAND

Leading global consumer goods manufacturer, Unilever has opened a new 155 million shillings ($1.4 million) state of the art facility that will double the production of Vaseline petroleum jelly in Nairobi to meet growing demand among regional countries.

The company said the new production line comes with the latest technology available from Unilever globally.

“It shows how world class manufacturing processes, assets and skills can be deployed in Kenya as part of a site that is already zero non-hazardous waste to landfill and within Unilever efforts to drive up industry benchmarks,” said Unilever CEO for East Africa Marc Engel during the launch in Nairobi.

The production line was officially opened on Thursday by the head of Unilever Africa Bruno Witvoet and the head of Supply Chain at Unilever Africa, Simon Smith.

“This huge investment shows our commitment to meet growing demand for our products and the confidence we have in Kenya as our regional production hub for East Africa and beyond,” said Witvoet.

The Nairobi factory serves the East African market and some countries in the COMESA region such as Zambia and Zimbabwe.

“More and more people want to buy Unilever Vaseline jelly across the region as a growing population demands quality skin care products,” Mr. Engel said.

“This is a milestone for Unilever as we expand the reach of all our brands in Kenya and across East Africa,” he added. (APA 17-09-2015)

ANGOLA: CHINESE GROUP HUAWEI EXPECTS GROWTH OF OVER 15 PCT IN ANGOLA IN 2015

Chinese group Huawei estimates business growth in Angola of between 15 and 20 percent, said the director of the group's subsidiary in the West African country, James Yang.
Yang said that to achieve the results intended Huawei had the support of telecommunications company Unitel, with which it has an exclusive contract, as well as direct sales to the government and private companies.
The board of directors of the company, which recently launched the P8 model mobile phone in the Angolan market, expect the product to be a success, "given its quality and the price at which it was launched."
In 2014 the Huawei group recorded turnover of US$46.5 billion, and expects turnover to reach US$70 billion by the end of 2018.
Huawei, based in Shenzhen in China's Guangdong province, is a group specialised in the manufacture of telecommunications equipment and computer networks and provision of related services. (18-09-2015)

ONLINE JOB PORTAL BEGINS OPERATIONS IN TANZANIA

Everjobs, Tanzania's newest online career portal, recently started its operations in Tanzania. During a press conference, Co-founder and Managing Director for Africa Eric Lauer introduced the company officially to the public.

"Everjobs is here to help with employability, which is the main issue highlighted by all the key figures in the labor market" said Eric Lauer. A survey conducted by the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) in 2014 found that over 61% of youth in Tanzania lack employability skills, technical know-how and basic work-related capabilities. In the same year, the World Bank reported that only about 12% of the Tanzanian labor force is mid- and high- skilled. Meanwhile each year it is projected that 800,000 job seekers are entering the labor force.

Everjobs' mission is to simplify the job search and hiring process by connecting job seekers with employers in a matter of clicks, acting as a key driving force in redirecting Tanzania's best talent to international companies as well as small local enterprises (SME's).

Eric Lauer, Co-founder and Managing Director at Everjobs Africa, said, "Everjobs aims to help promote employability in Tanzania. All applicants will have their CV reviewed by Everjobs to make sure they have the best chances of catching the attention of a recruiter."

There are currently about 400 career opportunities from about 80 employers on the Everjobs platform. "Overall in Tanzania we are seeing a growing number of opportunities in the areas of Telecommunication Services, Financial Services, Construction and NGOs," adds Eric Lauer. Although the economy is very centralized, with most opportunities in Dar Es Salam, there are some positions in Mwanza, Arusha, Mbeya, Dodoma and Zanzibar.(IT News Africa 16-09-2015)

OVER 240,000 PEOPLE IN SOMALILAND SEVERELY FOOD INSECURE

More than 240,000 people in Somaliland are severely food insecure due to a continuing drought in the region, 19 national and international aid agencies said here on Thursday.

In a statement issued in Nairobi, the aid agencies said Somaliland is currently experiencing an acute drought that has affected more than 240,000 people (40,000 households) due to the shortfall of the April-June rains in 2014 and 2015.

The statement names the most affected regions as Awdal, Maroodijeeh, and Gebiley, which are traditionally the main food producing regions. Other regions affected include Selel and Sahil.

As a result of the failed rains, there has been poor crop production, acute shortage of water, and death of livestock – a key source of livelihood for communities in Somaliland.

In the statement, the humanitarian agencies said malnutrition is at its highest peak among infants, small children, the elderly, sick and other vulnerable groups.

According to Save the Children, malnutrition rates – especially for children under the age of five – are currently at alarming rates and are likely to increase further.

So far, thirteen deaths of children and elderly people have been reported, a number likely to rise if no immediate assistance is provided.

“We need to take note of the warnings that have been given and address the urgent needs of the people of Somaliland. As NGOs we need to work together with our donors to build communities’ resilience so that they can withstand the drought,” said François Batalingaya, World Vision Somalia Country Director in a joint statement issued under the aegis of the Somalia NGO Consortium.

The water shortage and rapidly drying pasture has led to an estimated 35 to 40 percent loss of livestock including camels, goats, sheep and cattle, said the statement.(APA 17-09-2015)

ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT CREATES PUBLIC FUND FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

The government of Angola has created a public fund to ensure the implementation of the national housing construction programme, according to a presidential order of 25 August.

The creation of the Asset Fund for Housing Development (Fadeh) is explained in the order as seeking to “boost the sector” and “create a model of more efficient and sustainable management” for the State in economic and financial terms, according to Portuguese news agency Lusa.

This Fund, which “needs to raise bank credit to secure financial resources to fund housing projects with a sovereign guarantee,” will take over public real estate assets such as housing, business premises and plots for construction, overseen by the Ministry of Finance.

Apart from this newly-created fund at the end of 2014 the Angolan government handed over management of construction and sale of these houses as part of a social policy for the sector, to Imogestin, which is still in operation. (18-09-2015))

AFRICAN POLITICIANS CRITICISE 'RISK AVERSE' GERMAN COMPANIES

While German politicians have labelled Africa as a "continent of opportunity" for the German economy, African representatives lament the perceived risk-aversion of German companies. Der Tagesspiel reports.

Thembinkosi Mhlongo believes that there has been enough discussion about large infrastructure projects in Africa. The Deputy Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) regrets above all that although international donors want to build dams, power line, power plants and roads, when it comes to the "industrialisation of Africa, there's no money."

Inga 3 dam project equally as important as Suez Canal

Franck Mwe di Malila, the Democratic Republic of the Congo's deputy minister of international relations, also believes that there isn't enough foreign investment in large-scale infrastructure projects. He added that the Inga 3 dam project, located around 250 km down river from the capital Kinshasa, is "as important as the Suez Canal."

The dam will be capable of producing around 40,000 megawatts of power when it is finished. The project has been in the pipeline for decades. According to the deputy minister it should supply Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa with power. Construction costs are estimated to be around $80 billion.
Environmental impact assessments are still yet to be carried out, with critics suggesting the project's impact will be twice that of China's controversial Three Gorges Dam.

Germany is a "continent of opportunity" for German companies
Before and after the summit, foreign affairs minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and development minister Gerd Müller once again labelled Africa as a "continent of opportunity", which can offer German companies a lot. During the summit though, the atmosphere was a little more reserved.
This is because the memory of "white elephant" projects is still fresh in the mind, a pertinent example being the Nigerian aluminium factory that was built but never opened, as well as several gas power plants that, to this day, have still not generated a single watt of electricity.
For this reason, the impatience of the minister when he took to the stage was obvious. Mwe di Malila closed with a question, asking German companies whether they are at all willing to take risks for the sake of good business.

Incomplete project applications endanger investment
However, one of the speakers voiced opinions that did not tally with those of his colleagues. Madagascar's economic affairs minister, Herriluto Raveloharion, spoke at length about "good governance". Credit export guarantees and investment agreements become ever less important if an investor has to go before a court.
"It is our responsibility to strengthen our institutions," he said. He went on to speak openly about the difficulties his government faces after two years of political crisis. If, for example, a large mining contract is negotiated, every minor detail must be clarified, as renegotiations are rarely possible.
Mhlongo pointed out one major shortcoming, namely, that project applications by many governments are often left incomplete, meaning that banks find it difficult to process their requests and funding is rarely granted.
The risk-adverse German economy and weak African governments will find it hard to do any business together at anything more than a snail's pace. (Der Tagesspiegel, 10-09-2015)

ECOWAS BOSS URGES MEMBER STATES TO EMBRACE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY GROWTH MODEL

The president of the ECOWAS Commission Desire Kadre Ouedraogo has urged Member States in the region to obtain sustainable energy growth models.

Speaking at the ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Policy and Investment High Level Panel which opened in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, Ouedraogo said that there was a high need in this regard, for energy stakeholders to urgently mobilize effective financial instruments and in particular secure the political support of Member States in aid of Energy Efficiency Projects and Renewable Energies in the ECOWAS region.

A statement by the ECOWAS Commission on Friday in Abuja said that Ouedraogo, who was represented by the ECOWAS Commissioner for Energy and Mines, Dr. Morlaye Bangoura, noted that the regional energy drive, which is 'ensuring universal access to electricity in our region by 2030', does not only motivate, but compels us to institutionalise concrete measures that promote investment in sustainable energy services.

The ECOWAS Commission believes that the encouraging development in the political terrain would usher in a new era of opportunities making residential and industrial buildings, business enterprises and industries of the region a bee-hive of large-scale energy supply and consumption.

He disclosed that ECOWAS has noted with satisfaction the adoption of national and regional sustainable energy policies and the development of corresponding national plans for the realisation of concrete field actions.

According to him, the national action plans are aimed at promoting the attainment of the regional objectives of renewable energy, energy efficiency and universal access to energy by 2030.

“Let me recall that these objectives include increasing the share of renewable energy in total electricity generation to 10% in 2020, and 19% in 2030. In addition to major hydro-electricity plants (identified in the ECOWAS Master Plan), the share should attain 35% in 2020 and 48% in 2030,” he added.

At the forum ECOWAS Member States were commended for the remarkable progress made in formulating their national sustainable energy action plans, particularly the National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAPs), the National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAPs) and the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Programmes.

The ECOWAS boss commended the President of Cote d’Ivoire, Mr. Alhassane Ouattara, for his unrelenting efforts in promoting the ECOWAS ideals within his cabinet and to the valiant people of Cote d’Ivoire.

The participants at the forum included representatives the Development Partners-European Union, Spain, Austria, Germany, UNIDO, African Development Bank, Global Environment Fund, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), International Renewable Energy Agency, ECOWAS Member States’ Delegations and the Minister for Oil and Energy of Cote d’Ivoire.(APA 18-09-2015)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Benin - http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15416.htm

Central African Republic - http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15417.htm

Congo - http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=43285.0

Congo - http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=43284.0

Egypt - http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15422.htm

Equatorial Guinea - http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2015/car091515a.htm

Equatorial Guinea - http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=43280.0

Kenya - http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15421.htm

Mali - http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15420.htm

Sierra Leone - http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15413.htm

South Africa - http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=43244.0

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