

MEMORANDUM

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NEW GHANAIAN AIRLINE PLANS Q1 SERVICE TO BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON, REMOVES BARRIER TO HUB STATUS



New Ghanaian airline Goldstar Air plans to start flights to the U.S. Baltimore Washington International Airport in the first quarter of 2017 if its air operator's certificate comes through, according to CEO Eric Bannerman, [Air Transport World](#) reported.

Ghana hasn't had a national long-haul carrier since Ghana Airways, one of Africa's oldest airlines, stopped flying in December 2015.

Getting one will remove one of the stumbling blocks that prevented a Ghanaian airport from becoming a West African hub, according to an earlier [AFKInsider](#) report.

There is no strong airline and no airport hub in West and Central Africa, [Graphic.com](#) reported.

To be a hub, an airport needs an airline to drive the hub, according to travel business consultant Ikechi Uko. It must also have cheap aviation fuel plus maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facilities. It also must have a good transfer desk and transit section with transit visas issued on arrival.

As of today, no West African airport has all the ingredients. Ghana wants to claim the spot, offering visas on arrival to all Africans starting July 1. It also reduced the cost of aviation fuel by 25 percent. All that was missing was a strong airline and maintenance facilities.

The new Ghanaian carrier plans to start service in February or March 2017, and in addition to the U.S., is considering London Gatwick, Guangzhou and Dubai as its next long-haul destinations, Bannerman said.

Goldstar Air struggled since 2014 to get clearance from the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority, and its launch date was postponed at least once already, [Citi FM](#) reported in June.

It announced it would begin operations by the third quarter of 2016. That didn't happen.

The airline said earlier this year it plans to offer regional flights to the Gambian capital of Banjul; Dakar, Senegal; Conakry, Guinea; Monrovia, Liberia; and Freetown, Sierra Leone, according to Citi FM.

It will serve other West African capitals including Abidjan, Ivory Coast from the Ghanaian capital Accra, Bannerman told ATW at the World Travel Market exhibition in London.

Ghana made up for the absence of a strong carrier by issuing other airlines rights to carry passengers from Accra. South African Airways (SAA) has the right to fly to Washington D.C. for a year. Kenya Airways can fly to Freetown; TAP Portugal to Sao Tome; and Air Maroc, Egypt Air among others, [Graphic.com](#) reported.

Goldstar will operate two financed (not leased) Boeing 737-300s and three 767-300s, Bannerman said, but he declined to name the new carrier's backers.

Ghanaian flight crews will be trained overseas for future flights, he said. The carrier's website said that flight deck personnel will initially be expatriates. (AFK Insider 07-11-2016)

EU CONTRIBUTES \$1.8M FOR MONROVIA ROAD MAINTENANCE



The head of the European Union (EU) delegation in Liberia, Ambassador Tiina Intelmann, has disclosed that the EU has provided a total of \$1.8 million to Liberia for the maintenance of the Monrovia to Bo-Waterside road.

Intelmann said the contribution is part of the EU's investment in the rehabilitation and development of Liberia's road infrastructure.

The EU envoy made the disclosure Tuesday in Tubmanburg, Bomi County, when she led a delegation of EU officials comprising two Estonian members of Parliament, Mati Raidma and Mart Nutt, to Bomi County.

The delegation was also taken on an assessment tour of the ongoing Mount Coffee Hydro Project.

Intelmann noted that the trip was intended to provide the delegation an opportunity to learn more about the EU's support to Liberia and to also give implementing partners and project beneficiaries a clear view of the impact of their support to the nation.

According to her, they are working with the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) to ensure long-term maintenance of Liberia's paved road network, including the road leading from Monrovia to Bo-Waterside in Grand Cape Mount County.

Intelmann said the EU initially provided direct funding for road maintenance delivered by local contractors under contract managed by the MPW with the EU technical assistance.

She also said that the contract for the Bo-Waterside road project which began at the end of April 2016, also covers routine maintenance and repairs.(APA 02-11-2016)

RABAT SOUHAITE PARAPHER UN ACCORD COMMERCIAL AVEC LA CEDEAO



La présidente de la Confédération générale des entreprises du Maroc, Mme Miriem Bensalah Cheqroun, a plaidé mercredi à Dakar, pour la signature d'un accord commercial entre le Maroc et la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO), devant permettre d'élargir les perspectives du co-investissement entre son pays et le Sénégal.

Intervenant lors la cérémonie de présentation des travaux du Groupe d'Impulsion Économique (GIE) maroco-sénégalais, tenue au Centre international de conférences Abdou Diouf de Diamniadio (30 km au sud-ouest de Dakar), Mme Bensalah a, à cet effet, invité le Maroc et le Sénégal à unir leurs efforts et faire un lobbying commun pour la signature de cet accord.

Cette proposition fait partie des neuf recommandations formulées par le GIE Maroc-Sénégal, une structure mise en place lors de la dernière visite du Roi du Maroc, en mai 2015 à Dakar.

Les autres recommandations du GIE sont relatives à l'amélioration de la gouvernance du groupe, la mise en place d'une bourse de transport et de la logistique, la convergence des normes, le développement des flux touristiques, la réciprocité des flux d'investissement, la promotion du capital humain local, le renforcement de l'économie sociale, l'amélioration de l'accès à l'information financière,

S'agissant de l'amélioration de la gouvernance du GIE, Mme Bensalah a indiqué que cela nécessitera

une reconfiguration des groupes de travail, la création d'une cellule d'intelligence économique, et une meilleure coordination entre les acteurs publics et privés.

La bourse de transport et de la logistique permettra, selon elle, d'informer sur les offres de capacité en camions et conteneurs, d'optimiser les retours à vide, et par conséquent, de faire baisser les coûts de transport

La présidente de la CGEM, note que les membres du GIE proposent également une convergence des normes à travers l'harmonisation des normes sanitaires, la levée des obstacles techniques au commerce (OTC), et la labellisation réciproque des laboratoires.

En ce qui concerne le développement des flux touristiques et d'investissement, Mme Bensalah a insisté sur la nécessité d'ouvrir des représentations des structures de promotion du tourisme au niveau des deux pays, de créer une synergie à travers des packages touristiques, de mettre en place des outils d'information devant favoriser les investissements privés sénégalais vers le Maroc, et d'identifier des domaines pouvant donner lieu à des joint-ventures et des partenariats croisés.

La présidente de la CGEM a également souligné l'importance de la promotion du capital humain local en ayant recours à l'expertise et aux ressources humaines nationales.

Elle a aussi mis l'accent sur la nécessité d'instaurer un cadre favorisant l'économie sociale. «Nous proposons l'organisation d'un salon annuel qui permettrait l'échange et le partage des best practices en matière d'économie sociale solidaire et d'artisanat et en particulier d'activités génératrices de revenus et d'emplois», a-t-elle dit

L'Initiative Nationale de Développement Humain (INDH) et le Programme d'Urgence de Développement Communautaire (PUDC) constitueraient les premiers domaines de ces échanges, a-t-elle ajouté.

Au sujet de l'amélioration de l'accès à l'information financière, Mme Bensalah a indiqué qu'un cadre d'échange entre établissements financiers devra être mis en place, faisant observer que l'acquisition d'actifs financiers par des particuliers sur les deux marchés de capitaux viendra soutenir l'investissement industriel.

La présidente de la Confédération générale des entreprises du Maroc, a par ailleurs, exprimé la volonté des membres du GIE d'aller de l'avant dans la réalisation des objectifs du groupe, à savoir la multiplication des investissements, l'émergence d'acteurs économiques régionaux fortement créateurs d'emplois et l'encouragement de l'intégration économique régionale.

Le président du Conseil national du patronat du Sénégal, M. Baidy Agne a, dans son discours, souligné que la rencontre de suivi des travaux du GIE témoigne de la "qualité exceptionnelle" des relations qui unissent le Sénégal et le Maroc, ainsi que la "nouvelle dynamique de coopération économique et de partenariat d'affaires que les deux pays veulent promouvoir".

M. Baidy Agne a réitéré, à cette occasion, l'engagement des membres du GIE à œuvrer en faveur de l'établissement d'un partenariat gagnant-gagnant entre le secteur privé des deux pays et à bâtir une certaine convergence d'intérêt entre les deux parties.

Rabat et Dakar, ont en outre convenu de parapher quatre importants accords de partenariat dont une convention de partenariat relative aux actions communes de promotion et de développement touristique entre l'Office national marocain du tourisme et l'Agence sénégalaise de promotion touristique.

Les deux pays, à travers le GIE vont signer une convention portant sur la création d'un Salon tournant de l'Economie sociale et solidaire et de l'Artisanat, de partage des bonnes pratiques de l'INDH et du Programme d'Urgence de Développement Communautaire (PUDC).

Les deux parties ont également convenu de signer une convention de partenariat pour la création au Sénégal d'un Centre de compétences numériques et un Protocole d'Accord pour la création d'une joint-venture entre le groupe logistique marocain « La Voie Express » et la société Sénégalaise « Tex

Courrier ».

Deux autres accords de partenariat et de coopération bilatérale sont en cours de préparation, a indiqué le ministre des Affaires étrangères et des Sénégalais de l'extérieur, Mankeur Ndiaye, co-président du GIE maroco-sénégalais.

Le GIE Maroc Sénégal, rappelle-t-on, a pour objectifs de dynamiser la coopération économique, favoriser la co-émergence, promouvoir le partenariat entre les secteurs privés des deux pays et assurer le suivi de réalisation des accords privé-privé et public-privé entre les deux pays

La cérémonie de présentation des travaux du Groupe d'Impulsion Économique (GIE) maroco-sénégalais a été présidée par le chef de l'Etat Sénégal et le Roi du Maroc en visite d'amitié et de travail au Sénégal.(APA 09-11-2016)

L'ALLEMAGNE SUSPEND LE FINANCEMENT DES MICRO-PROJETS AU CAMEROUN



La République fédérale d'Allemagne a décidé de suspendre le financement des micro-projets de développement au Cameroun pour les années, a appris jeudi APA auprès de cette représentation diplomatique.

Selon communiqué reçu à APA, « l'ambassade (d'Allemagne) a suspendu le financement des micro-projets de développement pour les années 2016 et 2017. Les demandes ne seront acceptées qu'après la reprise du financement des micro-projets de développement ».

Aucun justificatif n'est apporté à cette suspension bien que certaines sources proches du dossier font état d'une suspension liée à un problème de « restructuration ».

Néanmoins, précise le communiqué, « dans le cadre de la coopération bilatérale technique, l'ambassade de la République fédérale d'Allemagne au Cameroun dispose d'un fonds pour le financement des microprojets de développement ».

« Les projets financés, souligne le communiqué, doivent viser à couvrir les besoins de base des couches les plus démunies de la population. Une attention particulière est également portée sur la prise en compte de la notion du genre dans chaque projet financé ».

Par ailleurs, note le communiqué, « du fait du nombre élevé de demandes, le financement du projet est limité à un montant maximum de 10.000 Euros au Cameroun », soit environ 6,5 millions de francs CFA.

Au ministère de l'Economie, de la Planification et de l'Aménagement du territoire (MINEPAT), où se gère la coopération bilatérale, une source a indiqué que « c'est du fait de l'absence de personnels dédiés au suivi de l'exécution physico-financière des micro-projets qu'elle finance par ses propres ressources que l'ambassade d'Allemagne a décidé de suspendre ce financement ».

Les micro-projets soumis à l'ambassade pour financement ciblent principalement la construction et l'équipement des écoles et des centres de santé, l'agriculture, l'élevage, la pêche, l'électrification rurale.

En d'autres termes, cette suspension ne concerne pas la coopération bilatérale en elle-même. C'est-à-dire les ressources octroyées au gouvernement du Cameroun dans le cadre des négociations intergouvernementales et suivies par des structures habilitées.

C'est le cas avec le GIZ, l'organisme de coopération allemande dont l'enveloppe destinée au Cameroun en 2016 dans le cadre de la coopération bilatérale est estimée à 65,8 milliards de francs CFA. (APA 10-11-2016)

SOUTH AFRICA LOOKS TO NORWAY TO EXPAND ANTARCTIC TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES



Sanae IV, South African base station in Antarctica.

Norway has a wealth of experience in the oceans economy and has partnered with South Africa on a variety of research programs in Antarctica since 1959. That's the year South Africa established its first Antarctic base at an abandoned Norwegian base on the edge of an ice shelf in Dronning Maudland. The first team to cross Antarctica overland in 1958 included South African meteorologist, Hannes la Grange.

La Grange took the South African flag to the South Pole and led the first South African National Antarctic Expedition (SANAE 1) in the summer of 1959, helping establish a permanent South African presence on the continent that continues to this day, according to the [Antarctic Legacy of South Africa](#) website.

From the South African Department of Environmental Affairs in [All Africa](#).

The week-long Norway-South Africa Science Week held Oct. 31 to Nov. 4, 2016, in Cape Town focused on opportunities that the oceans economy presents for both South Africa and Norway.

Science Week brought together and forged new relationships for different stakeholders in infrastructure, education, research, innovation and business in South Africa and Norway, who shared their perspectives and expertise.

The goal was enhancing South Africa as a gateway to Antarctica, focusing on balancing ecological, economic and social goals towards a sustainable development.

There are opportunities for scientific research and innovation on which South Africa and Norway can collaborate. South Africa derives about 4 percent of its gross domestic product from the surrounding oceans. It has an opportunity to present itself as a gateway to Antarctica for many countries that have a presence there.

There are budget constraints for South Africa which require finding new sources of funding. Some key economic reasons to allocate budget towards the Antarctic region are that South Africa has a global position, status and stewardship and there is a public goods provision, gateway income and support of sustainable development such as catching fish.

South Africa plans to cooperate with Norway on providing service for countries that leave for Antarctica through South Africa.

A key strategy is a proposal for air-corridor tourism. Activities such as snow skiing, skating, snow kite boarding, marine, animal, scenic and bird viewing hikes and snow riding in Antarctica could boost economic potential for South Africa.(AFK Insider 06-11-2016)

NAMIBIA AND TURKEY AGREE TO ESTABLISH BUSINESS COUNCIL

The Namibia Investment Centre (NIC), the country's official investment promotion and facilitation agency on Wednesday signed an agreement for the establishment of the Turkey-Namibia Business Council with the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey.

The purpose of the Turkey-Namibia Business Council will be to promote trade and cross-border investment between the two countries.

It will further contribute to the industrial and technological collaboration between Namibian and Turkish companies and institutions, and facilitate the participation in trade fairs and exhibition.

Bernadette Artivor, the NIC executive director and a representative from the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey signed the agreement.

The agreement was signed during the conclusion of the two days investment conference that was attended by over 1000 delegates from Namibia and other countries across the world.(APA 09-11-2016)

LIBERIA, EGYPT SIGN MOUS ON INFORMATION, POLITICAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM

The governments of Liberia and Egypt have signed two separate bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) on media and information sharing and the establishment of a political consultation mechanism.

According to a Foreign Ministry press statement issued here Tuesday, the signing ceremony took place in Monrovia when a visiting Egyptian envoy paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Marjon V. Kamara.

Kamara signed the two MOUs on behalf of the government of Liberia, while the visiting Assistant Minister for African Affairs at the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mohamed F. Edrees, signed on behalf of his government.

In the MOU, the two parties reaffirmed their commitment considering the benefits of the establishment of political consultations and of the exchange of opinions at different levels concerning regional and global issues of common interest.

The "Parties" under the MOU promised to work collaboratively to intensify the friendly bilateral relations and promote mutual cooperation between the two countries in conformity with the aims and principles of the charters of the African Union and the United Nations.

The "Parties" agreed to consolidate ties of media cooperation aimed at enhancing the brotherly relations between the two peoples. They, among other things, agreed to encourage the exchange of visits for senior media officials and experts in the fields of radio and television in order to get acquainted with working techniques in both countries.

Mr. Edrees, who is in the country as a special envoy of Mr. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, President of Egypt, stated that Egypt, being one of three African representatives on the United Nations Security Council, see their being on the Council as a privilege to speak for all African nations, including Liberia.

He spoke of his country's willingness to further deepen and strengthen the bilateral relations subsisting between both countries.

Mr. Edrees used the occasion to pay a special tribute to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, for the role she played in leading the African agenda during the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the successor of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). (APA 08-11-2016)

ANGOLAN AND CHINESE COMPANIES SIGN AGREEMENT FOR INVESTMENTS IN LUNDA SUL



Angolan company Sogespro Engenharia & Consultoria Lda and China's Guangxi Liuzhou Iron and Steel Group Company Limited on Wednesday in Luanda signed an agreement of intent to form a partnership for investment in the agricultural and industrial sectors, in Lunda Sul province.

The Director-General of Sogespro, José Dantas, said at the time that signing the agreement marks a new era of industrial development in the province of Lunda Sul, in the context of diversification of the economy, according to Angolan news agency Angop.

The document was signed in the presence of the President of the Angolan Agency for Investment and Export Promotion (Apiex), António Henriques da Silva, who said he wanted the agreement to develop partnerships in the industrial sector (energy, steel, electrical equipment and smart meters) and in agriculture, particularly in the production of sugarcane and alcohol.

Henriques da Silva stressed that the investment focused on the province of Lunda Sul is part of the process of diversifying the economy and reducing regional disparities in Angola and added that his institution will support the subsequent stages of the project now launched with the signing of the agreement. (10-11-2016)

TRUMP WIN SENDS SHOCKWAVES THROUGH DEVELOPMENT WORLD

The election of Donald Trump as the next U.S. president is sure to send shockwaves throughout the global development community as worries rise about his aid policy and stated position on climate change.

Little is known about exactly what a Trump presidency means for foreign aid, in part because in this election development issues have been largely overshadowed by debates over national security, immigration and a myriad of highly personalized attacks.

Yet development is a key issue, especially for people beyond the U.S. borders. Some 65 million people around the globe — more than ever before — are currently displaced from their homes and seeking development assistance to help restore a sense of normalcy in their lives. The world has an opportunity to end diseases such as malaria and HIV. And in Marrakech, Morocco, climate negotiators are hard at work assembling the financial and monitoring systems needed to address climate change.

Trump has said he would “cancel” the Paris climate deal, setting back not just U.S., but global efforts to tackle climate change. The few answers Trump has given on foreign aid policy, mostly in an April town hall, have largely been vague: He would try to continue some support to Pakistan and would try to help humanitarian efforts, but not if it cost too much. What is clear is that Trump has run on an agenda that rejects American international engagement and that he would not invite Syrian refugees fleeing the crisis into the U.S.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon congratulates U.S. President-elect Donald Trump and looks forward, as the future for U.N. funding comes under question.

Some worry that his aid policies turn out to be extreme. As Devex wrote earlier this year: It's not impossible to imagine Trump proposing to abolish the [U.S. Agency for International Development](#) altogether, to end funding to Muslim countries, or to demand countries refund the foreign assistance they've received. It could also mean an end to the recent era of bipartisan cooperation on issues of foreign aid.

Respondents to a recent anonymous survey of Devex members on the impact of this election found that some believed Trump's presidency could erode support for existing U.S. aid programs and according to

one would undermine “an area of U.S. policymaking that has been a rare success story for bipartisan cooperation.”

Another survey respondent said, “The former bipartisan coalition undergirding support for international development has already been eroding — Trump's candidacy has effectively obliterated it.”

Early reactions from the development community seem to be of shock and concern at the reality of a Trump administration taking office.

“I'm just so stunned and sad for the country in general,” said Meghan Froehner, an independent consultant working on gender and social policy. “I can't even begin to imagine what this could mean for the development sector. He is completely a loose cannon.”

Blair Glencorse, the founder of the Accountability Lab, an organization that works to empower local citizens to strengthen systems of accountability, called Trump's win a “deeply troubling result.”

“It is going to be a very, very difficult period for American development efforts around the world,” Glencorse said. “Trump has repeatedly indicated he'd rather spend on domestic infrastructure than foreign aid, and has demonstrated very little knowledge of poverty reduction and governance efforts. So I think we're looking at cuts in spending, a deeply unhappy aid bureaucracy and an America that moves away from aid.”

The unexpected election of Donald Trump as U.S. president added an unwelcome element of uncertainty into climate negotiations that were only finally starting to yield concrete global progress.

The Trump win may also harm U.S. credibility abroad, particularly on issues related to women and cracking down on human rights violations, said Apeksha Vora, who works for a nongovernmental organization working on gender issues in India.

“I think it has brought America to the reality of itself, that it is not as ‘developed’ as it thinks it is, that we're all on the same plane, as far as human rights and social justice indicators go,” Vora said.

More will become clear over time, but earlier this year John Norris, the executive director of the Sustainable Security and Peacebuilding Initiative at [Center for American Progress](#), suggested that a first step to Trump's approach “would probably have to start with someone explaining what the U.S. Agency for International Development does.”

One area that has already seen an impact is the financial markets. Stock markets in Asia were slumping on the news and the dollar was weakening — something that, if it became a long-term trend — could reduce U.S. spending power on aid and development projects overseas. (Devex 09-11-2016)

BOTSWANA SPENDS US\$6M ON POVERTY ERADICATION IN 5 YEARS

Botswana's Assistant Minister of Presidential Affairs, Governance and Public Administration Thato Kwerepe said Wednesday that thus far over US\$6 million has been spent on poverty eradication.

Kwerepe told Parliament that in total, government has used more than US\$6.2 million to fund 23,464 individual and group projects in the last five years.

Government's expenditure on poverty eradication is expected to increase in the next seven years after the National Development Plan (NDP) 11 identified it as one of the priority areas.

He said to achieve this, the NDP 11 will focus on improving sustainable livelihoods for the poor, access to basic services, addressing child poverty, strengthening social protection programmes as well as provision of social safety nets.

Kwerepe said social protection programmes will be strengthened through enhanced policies aimed at cushioning the vulnerable groups of the society to restore their dignity and improve their quality of life. (APA 02-11-2016)

INCIVISME DES CONDUCTEURS : LE PERMIS A POINTS BIENTOT EN VIGUEUR EN COTE D'IVOIRE

Le gouvernement ivoirien a adopté, jeudi, «une nouvelle réglementation» dont le "le permis à points", pour faire face à l'incivisme des conducteurs, a appris APA dans la capitale économique ivoirienne.

Selon le ministre Bruno Nabagné Koné, en charge de l'économie numérique et de la Poste par ailleurs, porte-parole du gouvernement « ce décret vise principalement à sanctionner et à réduire considérablement les comportements dangereux de certains usagers de la circulation routière ». Il a énuméré entre autres, « les mauvais dépassements, l'imprudence, la vitesse dangereuse, le manque de civisme de certains conducteurs ».

« Ce décret va obliger toutes les personnes désirant de faire de la conduite leur profession désormais à subir une formation professionnelle et cette formation sera élargie à l'instruction civile », a-t-il insisté tout en précisant que « l'utilisation des TIC dans les établissements d'enseignement de la conduite automobile ainsi qu'en matière de contrôle du trafic, en matière de sécurité routière, en matière d'informations des usagers » sera la nouvelle donne.

L'on aura "des permis A1, A2 et A3 en fonction des catégories". « Ce décret innove avec la mise en place de permis à points qui, permettra de lutter plus efficacement contre l'incivisme des conducteurs (...).Il organise une nouvelle nomenclature des permis de conduire notamment le permis de conduire A qui est désormais divisé en trois catégories en fonction des cylindrés, des cyclomoteurs,des tricycles, des cyclomoteurs et des quadricycles à moteur », a conclu M.Koné (APA 03-11-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE REVISES 2016 GROWTH FORECAST DOWNWARDS TO 3.7 PERCENT

Mozambican Minister of Economy and Finance, Adriano Maleiane, has said the government's forecast for economic growth this year will slow down to 3.7 per cent from the initial target of 7 percent earlier in the year, APA can report.

The official said the downward trend is due to rapidly rising inflation and growing government debt.

The discovery in April of US\$1.4 billion of previously undisclosed loans has pushed the total stock of debt at end-2015 to 86 percent of Gross Domestic Product.

Maleiane said terms of reference for the independent international audit into the three quasi-public companies (Ematum, Proindicus and MAM) that benefited from enormous loans illegally guaranteed by the previous government, under President Armando Guebuza, are almost complete.

The following phase is the hiring by the Attorney-General's Office of an independent external auditor.

The audit is a key condition for the International Monetary Fund and other western partners before they resume normal relations.

Maleiane said the audit would reveal what has happened to the money lent to the three companies, and whether it can all be accounted for in the assets they have acquired.(APA 03-11-2016)

ALGERIE : UN GROUPE CHINOIS VA RENOVER UNE RAFFINERIE POUR 380 MILLIONS D'EUROS



Le siège de Sonatrach, à Alger.

La société publique d'hydrocarbures algérienne Sonatrach a signé dimanche un contrat de près de 380 millions d'euros avec le groupe d'ingénierie chinois Cpecc pour la réhabilitation et la modernisation de sa raffinerie d'Alger, un contrat initialement remporté par le français Technip.

Le contrat, qui devra être réalisé dans un délai de 21 mois prévoit la construction de nouvelles unités qui permettront à la raffinerie de produire des essences à des spécifications identiques à celles en vigueur en Europe, a précisé le groupe. Le projet permettra d'accroître de 35% sa capacité de raffinage.

La rénovation de cette raffinerie avait été confiée en 2010 au groupe d'ingénierie français Technip pour 880 millions d'euros. Mais le contrat avait été résilié en juin 2015 à la suite d'une bataille de procédures entre Sonatrach et Technip.

Le groupe français s'est rendu compte après la signature du contrat que les canalisations devaient être totalement refaites, et non juste réhabilitées, selon la presse algérienne.

Construite en 1964, la raffinerie d'Alger produit 2,7 millions de tonnes de pétrole par an. (AFP 07-11-2016)

MORE FOREIGN AIRLINES MAY LEAVE NIGERIA

The President of the Association of Foreign Airlines' Representatives in Nigeria (AFARN), Mr. Kingsley Nwokoma, has warned that more foreign airlines operating in the country may close shops if nothing is done urgently to tackle the unfavourable foreign exchange rates.

Nwokoma told journalists in Lagos on Wednesday that the present exchange rate was affecting their operations of the airlines and that their members were yet to benefitted from the concession granted to them to access foreign exchange at the inter-bank foreign exchange market.

According to Nwokoma, the scarcity of dollar is still persisting in the country and warned that more foreign airlines could leave the country if the issue was not resolved urgently.

Nigeria's Minister of State for Aviation Hadi Sirika had earlier assured foreign airlines in the country that they would source foreign exchange at concessionary rates through the Central Bank of Nigeria. (APA 03-11-2016)

NIGERIA APPROVES EIGHT NEW PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Eight new private universities have been approved by the Nigerian Government to be established in different states of the country.

Nigeria's Minister of State for Education Anthony Onwuka, who announced the approval on Wednesday after the Federal Executive Council meeting in Abuja, said that the ministry submitted a memo seeking approval for eight private universities after recommendation by the National Universities Commission.

Onwuka said the approved universities included Anchor University, Ayobo, Lagos State; Arthur Jarvis Akpabuyo University, Calabar, Cross River State; Clifford University, Owerinta, Abia State and Coal City University, Enugu in Enugu State.

Others are Crown Hill University in Kwara State; Dominican University, Ibadan in Oyo State; Kola Daisy University, also in Ibadan; and Legacy University, Okija in Anambra State.

He disclosed that the new universities were given three years provisional license and that they would be monitored by older universities in the country. (APA 03-11-2016)

CABO VERDE: GOVERNMENT PREPARES SOLUTIONS FOR AIRLINE TACV

The government of Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) is expected to present concrete solutions for flagship airline TACV in the first quarter of 2017, said Monday in Praia the Minister of Economy and Employment, quoted by news agency Inforpress.

José Gonçalves confirmed there would be redundancies in the company, "which is going through difficult times and it has been kept in operation by the National Treasury through large monthly transfers," but declined to say how many workers will be laid off.

The Minister stressed he was looking for resources to compensate people and said steps were being taken to ensure that TACV can operate in conditions of "profitability and sustainability."

"It is better to have fewer more motivated and better framed staff, than to have excess staff that leads to a situation where the company is no longer sustainable," said the minister, who recalled that in this particular point Cabo Verde has commitments to international partners.

Gonçalves added that these partners are already "worn out" with the restructuring of TACV, a process that has dragged on for more than 20 years, so now want a solution, especially as TACV depends on these lenders. (08-11-2016)

EU-UNCTAD AGREEMENT TO CUT CENTRAL AFRICA TRADE COSTS WILL HELP COUNTRIES IMPLEMENT WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

[UNCTAD](#) is set to support Central African countries cut the costs of their cross-border trade, after signing a three-year \$420,000 deal with the European Union in Brussels last week.

The grant enables UNCTAD to help countries comply with various trade regulations, including the Trade Facilitation Agreement, a World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement, that will streamline import, export and transit procedures between the WTO's 162 members. The agreement could increase the value of global merchandise exports by up to \$1 trillion a year, according to the WTO.

The [Trade Facilitation Agreement](#) is likely to come into force in 2017 when two-thirds of signatories have ratified it. Bangladesh became the 94th member of the WTO and 12th Least Developed Country (LDC) to do in September 2016.

"This European money will help developing countries to get ready for implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement," UNCTAD Deputy Secretary-General Joakim Reiter said. "This is an essential part of the UNCTAD role, and we are grateful to Europe for this donation, which will be a significant boost for the individual countries concerned."

Trade costs in developing countries are an estimated average 1.8 times higher than in developed countries, with the highest trade costs incurred by African countries.

The European funding was announced after a session of three EU-Africa Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Joint Parliamentary Assembly committees, and signed by Reiter and Denis Redonnet, head of the strategy division in the Directorate General for Trade in the European Commission.

UNCTAD research has shown that [trade facilitation](#) must link to investments in transportation infrastructure, information and communications technologies, and broader trade-supporting services. Many trade facilitation solutions are regional, and so they are best implemented at regional level too, for example, by the Economic Community of Central African States.

“Trade facilitation implementation is particularly relevant for the participation of developing countries in global value chains, trade in manufactured goods and regional integration,” Reiter said. “Small and medium-sized enterprises, the consumers and producers of perishable, time-sensitive and intermediate goods, Least Developed Countries, and landlocked developing countries will all benefit from the reduction of transaction costs and times.”

The project will run for three years, starting in January 2017. (UNCTAD)

AFDB APPROVES \$600M BUDGET SUPPORT FACILITY FOR NIGERIA

The African Development Bank's (AFDB) Board of Directors has approved a \$600m loan for Nigeria's budget support.

The loan, approved on Wednesday, is meant to help Nigeria plug its budget deficit as the West African country grapples with its economic recession.

According to local media reports, the loan is the first tranche of a total \$1bn budget support package.

The second disbursement of \$400m would be disbursed next year after the implementation of its reform programmes, according to the bank's Nigeria country director Ousmane Dore.

The President of AfDB, Dr. Akinwunmi Adesina, had in September said the bank was working on giving Nigeria loan facilities of \$4.1bn between now and next year for critical sectors of the economy. (APA 03-11-2016)

The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, AHEAD-GLOBAL, Business Council for Africa, Corporate Council on Africa, ELO - Portuguese Association for Economic Development and Cooperation, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, HTTC - Hungarian Trade & Cultural Centre, NABA - Norwegian-African Business Association, NABC- Netherlands Africa Business Council, SwissCham-Africa and other organisations.

The Memorandum is also made available by AHEAD-GLOBAL, BCA, Chamber of Tenerife (by posting it at the Africa Info Market), CCA - Canadian Council on Africa, CCA - Corporate Council on Africa (USA), ELO,HTTC ,NABA,NABC (by posting selected news) and SwissCham-Africa to their Members.



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