

MEMORANDUM

N° 54/2016 | 11/03/2016

The Memorandum is issued daily, with the sole purpose to provide updated basic business and economic information on Africa, to more than 4,000 European Companies, as well as their business parties in Africa.

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MOROCCO: MOGHERINI AIMS TO REASSURE RABAT ON RECENT VISIT

The High Representative Federica Mogherini travelled to Rabat on Friday 4 March 2016, according to an official statement by the Foreign Service's press office, "to take stock of bilateral relations between Morocco and the European Union."

The statement goes on to note that the visit was in relation to a 10 December 2015 decision by the EU General Court that brought into question all agricultural agreements between the EU and Morocco. In reaction to the decision, Morocco "suspended all contact with European institutions, with the exception of planned exchanges."

According to the statement, the High Representative's visit aimed to "provide additional clarifications and assurances to meet Morocco's concerns, so that contacts and cooperation can be fully restored as soon as possible." (EEAS 04-03-2016)

MUGABE ACCUSES FOREIGN FIRMS OF STEALING ZIMBABWE DIAMONDS

President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe has made a brutal swipe at foreign mining firms, accusing them of stealing unquantifiable tons of his country's precious diamonds, leaving Zimbabweans poorer as a result.

Speaking on state-TV Thursday, Mugabe who has ruled Zimbabwe since independence in 1980 laid into companies originating from abroad for fleecing the country white by smuggling an inestimable amount of wealth abroad to the detriment of its citizens.

According to the 92-year-old, his country had not received anything substantial from the wealth generated by the diamond industry, claiming that Zimbabwe had notched just \$2bn from an estimated \$15bn in revenue from the sector.

The firebrand Mugabe also criticized Zimbabweans for playing an active part in the swindling and smuggling racket.

As a result, those expected to be our eyes and ears have not been able to see or hear what was going on" he added.

Mr. Mugabe's statement comes a month after his government announced that it was taking control of diamond mines in the country.

A legislation makes it mandatory for foreign companies to surrender half of their ownership of mines in Zimbabwe to local firms.

Mugabe has dismissed fears that such a move could cause China, a key player in the industry to review its relations with Zimbabwe.

In 2014, Zimbabwe occupied eighth position in the league of nations with the world's largest diamond exports. (APA 04-03-2016)

NIGERIA TO EARN OVER \$25BN FROM NON OIL EXPORT BY 2025

The Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC) has said that the nation's dependence on oil will soon be a thing of the past as the non-oil export revenue of the nation was expected to increase from \$2.7 billion to \$25 billion in 2025.

Nigeria's Vanguard newspaper report said that the Executive Director of NEPC, Mr. Olusegun Awolowo, told a one-day workshop in Benin City, the capital of Edo State on Thursday that the increase would help revive the nation's dwindling economy very soon.

Awolowo, who was represented by Ezra Yakusak, lamented that the fall in the price of oil in the international market had rendered the nation's foreign exchange almost useless and that with the on-going investment in the non-oil sector by the President Muhammadu Buhari administration, the current economic hardship would soon be a thing of the past.

He noted that the council had developed a 'zero oil' plan that will increase by 5 percent, Nigeria's total value of world export in the strategic sector in 10 years time, saying: "The zero plan is a coherent agenda to mobilize the public and private resources towards replacing oil as our number one resource of foreign exchange." (APA 04-03-2016)

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY: "YOU ARE OUR EYES AND EARS ON THE GROUND"

Speaking on Monday 29 February 2016 at the opening of the Cooperation Days, which brought together staff from EU Delegations and EC headquarters, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn noted the importance of their mission and the scale of current challenges ahead.

Addressing the staff under his authority, he said: "You are our eyes and ears on the ground (...) Your work is more important than ever given the many crises and challenges we face".

Hahn added: "This is even more critical as we face multiple, overlapping crises (migration, security, economy etc.), which makes our smart and broad toolbox and our portfolio more important than ever. Let me therefore underline how important it is that we continue to work as a team in HQ and Delegations and continue our very good cooperation with other Commission services and, of course, the EEAS".

"Because we are all in this endeavour together. Together, we have no choice but to make our Union a true global actor, and move from being a 'global payer' to being also a 'global player'", said Mr Hahn. "The European Neighbourhood Policy is particularly relevant in this regard", he said, while recalling the fundamental axes of the ENP: "The central objective of this 'new ENP' must be stabilisation (...). Secondly, there will be more differentiation in the new ENP. That means working more pragmatically and effectively with each partner." "The revised ENP is therefore a real opportunity to strengthen our cooperation through an agreed number of joint priorities with partner countries", he said, adding that a "lack of economic opportunities is often at the heart of instability, so economic development is a third key priority". "Let me be clear on one point: We will continue to uphold and promote EU principles and universal human rights", Hahn stressed.

He also mentioned the financial aspects: "Our programming of financial assistance should fully reflect the priorities that we will agree with each of our partners. We will also increase the flexibility of our assistance, to respond better to crises and unforeseen developments. The super-tanker of EU aid must become more flexible!"

In conclusion, Hahn said: "We are not going to solve all problems overnight, but if we continue to work step by step, we will - all of us, all of you - be able to contribute and make a difference." (EC 02-03-2016)

EGYPT DONATES \$1M FOR EMERGENCY FOOD AID IN ETHIOPIA

The government of Egypt has donated \$1 million in emergency aid to the World Food Program to assist drought affected people in Ethiopia, WFP said here in a statement on Friday.

This contribution comes at absolutely critical time when resources are urgently needed to support the enormous efforts of the government of Ethiopia and provide food assistance to millions of drought affected people in the country, John Aylieff, WFP's Country Director and Representative in Ethiopia said.

With this contribution, WFP will be able to buy more than 1,700 metric tons of food to provide family rations of cereals, pulses and vegetable oil to some people hit hardest by the drought in pastoralist areas, the Country Director said.

More than 10 million people in Ethiopia have been affected by one of the worst droughts in decades.

The statement said the emergency aid will reach out to 100,000 people affected by drought in the Somali state of Ethiopia.

WFP is working with the government of Ethiopia to reach out to 7.6 million affected people. WFP said it urgently requires \$350 million to continue food distributions beyond April.(APA 04-03-2016)

SWAZILAND'S EXPENDITURE ON SECURITY FORCES DOUBLE S/AFRICA'S

Swaziland has allocated 11.1 percent of its national budget to security forces, while South Africa (SA) has allocated only 6.5 percent of its national budget to same, media reports here on Tuesday. Analyses made by economists criticize government's prioritization on its spending on security compared to capital projects and agriculture.

This criticism comes in despite facts that the country ranks relatively well in the Global Peace Index and is among the Top 10 happiest countries, according to the World Happiest Report.

The three security forces, the army, the police and Correctional Services got \$143.8million from the \$1.3 billion total budget while SA gave its three security services \$5.4 billion of its \$81.3 billion total budget.(APA 08-03-2016)

WEST AFRICA AND EU PREPARE TOWARDS EPA IMPLEMENTATION

West Africa and the European Union (EU) are gearing up for the finalisation of the signatures for the onward commencement of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

To this end, the Regional Preparatory Task Force (RPTF) and the joint implementation preparatory held meetings on February 5, to February 9 2016 in Brussels to give the desired impetus to the implementation of the EPA.

A statement issued by the ECOWAS Commission, during the meeting, said West Africa presented the updated needs of the region, as expressed in the priority matrix of the EPA Development Programme (EPADP) projects for the period 2015-2020.

It also presented an outline for the establishment of the EPA Regional Fund, which is designed to accelerate the implementation of regional projects.

The statement said the EU reaffirmed its commitment to the EU Council conclusions of March 2014, which committed 6.5billion EURO for the period of 2015-2020 for EPADP related projects.

The RPTF meeting was attended by West African States, the Commissions of ECOWAS and West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), the European Union States, the EU Commission as well as the European Investment Bank (EIB).

The statement said at the talks, the RPTF was the central platform for West Africa and European Union States and Commissions to discuss West Africa's development needs. The RPTF will now act as a transitional framework for dialogue on the implementation of the development dimension of the EPA pending the entry into force of the EPA and the establishment of the managing and monitoring institutional framework.

Relatedly, the joint meeting on the preparation of the implementation of the EPA was attended by ECOWAS, UEMOA and European Union Commissions.

The Parties examined draft texts for the functioning of the joint bodies established by the EPA to monitor the implementation of the Agreement.

These bodies include the Joint Council, the Joint Implementation Committee, and the Special Committee on Customs and Trade Facilitation.

Furthermore, the parties exchanged views on the establishment of other bodies such as the Joint Parliamentary Committee and the Joint Consultative Committee.

The meeting also considered the establishment of the Competitiveness Observatory, which will also monitor the implementation of the EPA, as well as assess the economic and social impact of the Agreement.

Considering the work now done, West Africa and the European Union continue to prepare for the implementation of the EPA (pending its signature by all member states) by putting together the necessary texts for the institutional bodies and instruments envisaged under the EPA, in order that the Agreement becomes operational immediately upon entering into force.

The WA – EU EPA is a Free Trade Agreement between West Africa and the European Union. The regional agreement covers trade in goods and development-cooperation. It also contains rendezvous clauses for future negotiations on trade in services and other trade-related issues. Negotiations of the Agreement were concluded on 30 June 2014 with the initialing of an agreed text by WA and EU Chief Negotiators.

After years of negotiations, the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government endorsed the EPA and opened it up for signature by Member States in July 2014 (GNA 17-02-2016)

NIGERIA TO OUTSOURCE AIRPORTS TO CONCESSION HOLDERS

The Nigerian government says it intends to concession the maintenance and building of some airports across the country in order to maintain high standards and efficiency in the management of the airports.

Nigeria's Minister of State for Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika told the Technical Delegation from the Turkish Embassy in Abuja, which called on him in his office that the government was strongly committed to providing the enabling environment for investors to thrive in the aviation sector with rules and regulations to make the industry economically attractive.

The Minister added that the government has also made concerted effort on the improvement of security in the country in view of the security challenges the nation is facing and that the issue of insurgency would soon be a thing of the past.

The Minister welcomed the interest of the Turkish government and Turkish firms in Nigeria's aviation industry and assured them of the federal government's openness and preparedness to work with all serious minded and sincere investors.

Earlier, the leader of the Technical Delegation and the Commercial Counsellor, Turkish Embassy in Abuja, Ahmed Zafer Gulsen, pledged the unflinching and continued partnership with Nigerian Government in the development of its aviation industry. (APA 04-03-2016)

CAMEROON BANANA EXPORTS RECORD MINOR FALL

The export of Cameroon's dessert banana fell by 341 tons in January 2016, compared to the 26,366 tons recorded during the same month last year, according to the latest figures provided by the country's banana association (ASSOBACAM).

The downward trend is expected to continue throughout 2016, according to the Cameroonian Development Corporation (CDC), one of the three largest local exporters having announced the shelving of its activity on the off-standard banana, generally intended for the local market and which could affect its total production.

Apart from CDC, ASSOBACAM consists of the Société des Plantations du Haut Penja' (PHP) and the Société des Plantations de Mbanga' (SPM), which altogether produced 267,502 tons of bananas in 2014, over half of which is intended for export.

According to figures from the Ministry of Finance, the banana was the ninth export product and represented 1.5 percent of the total exports in 2014, when production had also increased by 7.3 percent. (APA 08-03-2014)

STARBUCKS TO LAUNCH FIRST SHOP IN SOUTH AFRICA NEXT MONTH

In the middle of last year, US-based coffee company, Starbucks, announced its planned entrance into the African market in 2016. The coffee giant is set to launch two shops in South Africa; the first store in the upmarket of Johannesburg, while the second will be opened in Mall of Africa, downtown Johannesburg. Both are scheduled to be opened in the month of April.

The coffee shops are meant to cater to South Africa's growing coffee market, a development which shows the extent to which global brands pay attention to, and have taken interest in the continent's growing middle class population. As Kris Engskov, a Starbucks Executive, [puts it](#), "the coffee market here is vibrant and growing fast – we want to be part of that growth..."

Yesterday, Carlo Gonzaga, the Chief Executive of Taste Holdings, Starbucks' local licensee, said the South African market is ready for Starbucks' expansion across the country. "We think the South African market can, right now, take about 150 Starbucks stores," he said. However, Gonzaga did add that the expansion will be a gradual process, seeing about 12 to 15 outlets opened by the end of the next two years.

The Starbucks chain has over 22,000 outlets worldwide, but are present in only two other African countries, Egypt and Morocco, and now SA. The company's presence in SA will mean a [fierce competition with already existing](#) local coffee brands and vendors. The company said the new stores will serve coffee sourced from Africa in Starbucks original Espresso Roast blend and other coffees from around the world. (04-03-2016)

SWAZILAND'S 20 PERCENT SUGAR TAX HIKE GOOD NEWS FOR DIABETICS

The Diabetes Swaziland Association (DSA) and Ministry of Health have welcomed the 20 percent sugar tax increase as a good strategy of cutting down on sugar intake, local media reports on Saturday. Dr Vusi Magagula, the Director of Health Services says the tax hike will affect Swaziland in a positive way with regards to people reducing sugary foods and preventing diabetes.

"Sugar is a leading contributor to obesity both in children and in adults and can cause insulin resistance, a step towards metabolic syndrome and diabetes," says Dr Magagula.

DSA Director Dumsile Mavuso says as a member of the International Diabetes Federation they are advocating for any law that will cut down on the use of sugar. (APA 05-03-2016)

CAMEROON ANNOUNCES RECORD 2M COFFEE SEEDLINGS

Revitalizing the culture of coffee is a central concern of the Interprofessional Council of Cocoa and Coffee (CICC), which has announced the launch this year of the special stimulus emergency program to grow coffee (PURC-Cafe) with the provision of over two million plants to producers.

The Council (CICC) puts at the producers' disposal all the inputs needed to create plantations, from the setting up of the nursery to post-harvest treatments, that is to say, sheaths, strings, plant material, pesticides, fertilizers, and small farm equipment. •

The plants, which will also cover the 2016 - 2017 coffee season, will be mainly used in the large production areas of the East, Costal and West regions, before their distribution to other regions of the country.

Initially, the PURC-Cafe Program was aimed at creating 600 hectares of new plantations per year, representing 1, 800 hectares over a three-year period, in the three special production areas.

This goal could not be achieved in the first year of implementation of the program, since there were not enough plants for producers.

According to CICC, which had urged the National Seeds Program to put aside a batch of 780,000 coffee plants, only 75,000 plants were put at the disposal of PURC-Café, representing barely 10 per cent of the original request. (APA 08-03-2016)

MEDITERRANEAN: INVESTMENT AND GROWTH

In a statement issued on Monday 7 March 2016, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), ANIMA, the cooperation platform for economic development in the Mediterranean and iesMed, the cooperative platform to boost Mediterranean social economy, announced that they are organising a seminar dealing with inclusive investment in the Mediterranean, to be held in Barcelona on 14 and 15 March 2016.

The seminar will “revolve around the launch of two UfM projects - EDILE and EMIPO - two Euro-Mediterranean initiatives aimed at developing investments that contribute to inclusive growth in the Mediterranean”, said UfM. (UfM 07-03-2016)

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1102441261779&ca=2c1d6919-28d8-40b0-819b-468869f70b83#veng>

ANGOLA PAYS INTEREST OF ALMOST 17 PCT FOR 364-DAY FINANCING

Public debt securities in the form of Treasury bills placed by the National Bank of Angola (BNA) in the week ended 4 March will pay almost 17 percent in their longest maturity, according to information provided by the central bank.

The BNA, as the State's operator, last week placed 36.600 billion kwanzas in treasury bills at rates of 14.21 percent, 15.52 percent and 16.99 percent for maturities of 91, 182 and 364 days, with increases of 0.06, 0.02 and 0.41 percentage points, respectively, over the previous week.

Overall, the Angolan central bank placed treasury bonds amounting to 49 billion kwanzas, 12.4 billion of which in the form of Treasury bonds with maturities of 2 and 5 years, paying rates of 7.00 percent and 7.75 percent, respectively.

The National Bank of Angola also carried out the sale of foreign currency in the amount of 115.3 million euros for the acquisition of raw materials and equipment for the manufacturing sector, government sector programmes, telecommunications and airlines. (08-03-2016)

SISI UNVEILS EGP10BN DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SINAI

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said that his government is working with the military on a range of development projects aimed at raising the socio-economic condition of people in the Sinai Peninsula.

You do not have enough information about what is going on in Sinai.

A year ago, I tasked Lt. Gen. Osama Askar, commander of the eastern troops, with EGP10 billion (1\$=7.78EGP) for Sinai's development, the president told media host Amr Adib during a phone-in with Al-Youm satellite channel on Monday.

Sisi revealed a range of projects currently underway to lift the economic condition of the peninsula and provide job opportunities for the inhabitants, with a particular focus on young people and Bedouins.

Among the projects he listed are new transport links and industrial and farming projects.

For several decades, Sinai has been suffering from a lack of government attention in terms of development projects and assistance.

More recently, Egyptian authorities made efforts to win over tribal communities in the peninsula, a mission deemed of key importance due to the ongoing Islamist insurgency there.

North Sinai has become a haven for Islamist militants, with hundreds of police and army personnel killed there since the ouster of the Muslim Brotherhood government in 2013.

According to Sisi's statement, the government is seeking to simultaneously battle the insurgency with military firepower and tackle the socio-economic issues that contribute to the problem.

Some of the projects described by the president are linked to the Suez Canal Area Development Project, with its associated industrial zones, while others appear to be independent of the canal.

In the next two years, the Suez Canal governorates of Ismailia and Suez will each have two new motorway tunnels linking them to Sinai, said the president.

A new railway line will be constructed in each of the provinces, which sit on the western flank of the peninsula.

We are connecting Sinai to Egypt, Sisi stated.

We are currently working on the East Port Said Harbour, which will be one of the biggest in the Middle East. So far, 600 fish farms have been established, and there will be 20,000 within a year, he noted.

Two thousand housing units have been finished in Arish. Three thousand more in Arish and 5,000 in South Sinai will be finished within a month. We are planning for 3,000 units to be constructed within a year or a year and a half, said Sisi.

Within the coming two years, a planned network of roads will also be completed, which will help add new regions in Sinai that can be reconstructed, as the president put it.

The president also pointed out plans for 27 "Bedouin centers" in North and South Sinai that will be implemented within the coming two years.

The centers, he explained, comprise housing units accompanied by farmland and wells.

Egypt's military will also contribute to marble factories to provide young people with work and investment opportunities within a year or 18 months.(APA 08-03-2016)

ALGERIA: "YOUTH AND EMPLOYMENT: PERSPECTIVES OF COOPERATION"

The EU-financed Youth Employment Support Programme (Programme d'appui jeunesse emploi - PAJE) held its first regional seminar on 24 February 2016 in the province wilaya of Khenchela, the EU Delegation in Algeria reports. Held under the theme "Youth and employment: perspectives of cooperation", the meeting gave PAJE National Manager Abderezzak Boucheir the opportunity to present "the strategy of intervention and the modus operandi of the programme".

Members of the Programme Support Unit and teams of experts working on its operational implementation outlined the various planned activities, the Delegation said. It underlined that 4 million euros of subsidies will be dedicated to community development. A call for proposals is to be launched. (EEAS 07-03-2016)

http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/algeria/press_corner/all_news/news/2016/seminaire_paje_khenchela_fr.htm

GOLD MINE IN MOZAMBIQUE WITH EXPECTED REVENUE OF US\$245 MILLION

Xtract Resources, a company listed in London that has acquired a gold mine in Manica, Mozambique, from Australia's Auroch Minerals, said the project could provide an EBITDA income of US\$245 million over 12 years.

The company, issuing an update on the Manica project, also reported that the mine over 12 years of useful life should provide a profit of US\$70 million, 20 million more than in the previous evaluation.

These figures consider a price per ounce of gold of US\$1250 and commercial exploration of the Manica mine is expected to begin in the fourth quarter of 2017.

The company warned shareholders that these values, among others, are based on internal estimates and had not been verified by any independent entity, and may be subject to alteration as the definitive feasibility study is being performed.

Xtract Resources paid about US\$11 million to Auroch Minerals for the mine, both in shares and in cash, assumed the payment of capital gains tax to the Mozambican Tax Authority in the amount of US\$700,000 and committed to paying a 6 percent tax on revenues to the Mozambican treasury.

The acquisition of 100 percent of the Manica gold mine was formally approved by the government of Mozambique some days ago, according to a statement released by Xtract Resources on 1 March. (08-03-2016)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Chad, Cote d'Ivoire - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2016/pr1668.htm>

Chad - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2016/pr1674.htm>

Mauritania - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2016/pr1669.htm>

Mauritius - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2016/pr1665.htm>

Mauritius - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2016/pr1679.htm>

Nigeria, Togo - <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=43688.0>

Nigeria - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2016/pr1675.htm>

Nigeria - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2016/pr1672.htm>

Tunisia - <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=43696.0>

Tunisia - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/speeches/2016/022216.htm>

Tunisia - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2016/pr1687.htm>

The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, AHEAD-GLOBAL, 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, and other organisations.

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