

# MEMORANDUM

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## **12 YEARS OF PUBLICATION**

***Due to the absence of the coordinator outside Europe, The Memorandum will not be published until the 06-07-2018***

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## BRUSSELS EU ANNOUNCES €34 MILLION IN HUMANITARIAN AID TO UGANDA AND KENYA

The Commission has released today €34 million in humanitarian assistance for the most vulnerable populations in Uganda and Kenya, with a special focus on displaced populations in both countries.

*"Kenya and Uganda are among Africa's major hosts of refugees, with millions urgently needing assistance. The EU stands in solidarity and is committed to support the most vulnerable refugees. Our new funding will help both those already displaced and the new arrivals into Kenya and Uganda,"* said Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos **Stylianides**.

Out of the funding announced today, €24 million will go to **Uganda**, the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa. The assistance will prioritise emergency situations and new arrivals among displaced populations, with a special focus on the many refugees from South Sudan and the increasing influx of Congolese refugees. EU aid will provide emergency health and food assistance, water and sanitation, as well as protection and education in emergencies through accelerated learning programmes for children whose education has been disrupted by conflict and displacement.

€10 million in emergency assistance will go to **Kenya** to support refugees living in Dadaab and Kakuma camps, providing protection to the most vulnerable, as well as granting access to quality primary education. EU assistance will also support programmes to tackle the consequences of the prolonged drought in parts of the country. The assistance in Kenya comes on top of the €1.5 million released in May to assist the victims of the flooding that wreaked havoc in the country.

### Background

EU humanitarian support in the two countries goes hand in hand with longer-term development strategies to find durable solutions and support the self-reliance of refugees.

With nearly 1.5 million refugees (mostly from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo), Uganda is the largest recipient refugee country in Africa. Refugees in Uganda are free to move and work and are entitled to land to build a home on and grow food. However, Uganda's progressive refugee policy is under increasing pressure due to the scale of the crisis, and services are overstretched while available land is dwindling. In 2017 alone, the European Commission allocated €65 million in humanitarian aid to meet the refugees' basic needs, in addition to €20 million from the EU Emergency Trust Fund to help refugees gain more self-reliance. The funding aims to address both emergency and early recovery needs.

Kenya continues to host more than 450,000 refugees, mostly from Somalia and South Sudan. Additionally, recurrent and prolonged climate shocks cause food and nutrition crises. The EU has allocated over €130 million in humanitarian assistance to Kenya since 2012. (EC 21-06-2018)

## ANGOLA EXPECTS TO PRODUCE 1.5 MILLION BARRELS OF OIL PER DAY IN 2018/2022

Angola's National Development Plan (NDP) for the 2018/2022 period, which prioritises human development and well-being, outlines that oil production will reach an annual average of 580.9 million barrels or 1.5 million barrels per day, the minister of Economy and Planning said on Wednesday in Luanda.

The document presented by minister Pedro da Fonseca also forecasts that the average price of Angolan oil will be US\$56.6 per barrel, according to the Angop news agency.

The nominal Gross Domestic Product projected in the macroeconomic scenario will reach an average of 33.229 trillion kwanzas, with the real average expected growth rate being 3.0%, or 2.3% in 2018, 3.6% in 2019, 2.4% in 2020, 2.6% in 2021 and 4.1% in 2022.

The NDP forecasts that the oil sector will experience an average contraction of 2.0%, with -1.8% for oil and -2.5% for gas, while the non-oil sector will post growth of 5.1%.

Public debt is expected to reach 12.951 trillion Kwanzas in 2018, 14.067 trillion in 2019, 13.476 trillion in 2020, 13.442 trillion in 2021 and 12.889 trillion Kwanzas in 2022.

The NDP for 2018/2022, which contains 25 strategic policies and 85 action programmes, is based on five main pillars: sustainable, diversified and inclusive economic development, infrastructure needed for

development, peace-building, strengthening of the democratic state and law and good governance, state reform and decentralisation.

The document was prepared based on the MPLA party's governance programme (2018/2022), the Angola 2015 strategy, the Law of bases of the General Regime of the National Planning System (Law no. 1/11, of 14 January) and the review of the implementation of the 2013-2017 NDP. (21-06-2018)

## NEW WORLD ATLAS OF DESERTIFICATION SHOWS UNPRECEDENTED PRESSURE ON THE PLANET'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Today, the Joint Research Centre, the European Commission's science and knowledge service, is publishing a new edition of the World Atlas of Desertification, offering a tool for decision makers to improve local responses to soil loss and land degradation.

The Atlas provides the first comprehensive, evidence-based assessment of land degradation at a global level and highlights the urgency to adopt corrective measures.

Tibor **Navracsics**, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, responsible for the Joint Research Centre (JRC), said: *"Over the past twenty years, since the publication of the last edition of the World Atlas of Desertification, pressures on land and soil have increased dramatically. To preserve our planet for future generations, we urgently need to change the way we treat these precious resources. This new and much more advanced edition of the Atlas gives policymakers worldwide comprehensive and easily accessible insights into land degradation, its causes and potential remedies to tackle desertification and restoring degraded land."*

Karmenu **Vella**, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, added: *"The World Atlas on Desertification will help us understand the growing problem of desertification and land degradation, and how we can address the issue. The Atlas shows an EU increasingly affected by desertification, underlining the importance of action on soil protection and sustainable land and water use in policy areas such as agriculture, forestry energy and climate change. That's the approach recommended in the EU Soil Thematic Strategy, and it's our best hope of achieving land degradation neutrality in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals."*

The Atlas provides examples of how human activity drives species to extinction, threatens food security, intensifies climate change and leads to people being displaced from their homes.

The main findings show that population growth and changes in our consumption patterns put unprecedented pressure on the planet's natural resources:

- Over 75% of the Earth's land area is already degraded, and over 90% could become degraded by 2050.
- Globally, a total area half of the size of the European Union (4.18 million km<sup>2</sup>) is degraded annually, with Africa and Asia being the most affected.
- The economic cost of soil degradation for the EU is estimated to be in the order of tens of billions of euros annually.
- Land degradation and climate change are estimated to lead to a reduction of global crop yields by about 10% by 2050. Most of this will occur in India, China and sub-Saharan Africa, where land degradation could halve crop production.
- As a consequence of accelerated deforestation it will become more difficult to mitigate the effects of climate change
- By 2050, up to 700 million people are estimated to have been displaced due to issues linked to scarce land resources. The figure could reach up to 10 billion by the end of this century.

While land degradation is a global problem, it takes place locally and requires local solutions. Greater commitment and more effective cooperation at the local level are necessary to stop land degradation and loss of biodiversity.

Further agricultural expansion, one of the main causes of land degradation, could be limited by increasing yields on existing farmland, shifting to plant-based diets, consuming animal proteins from sustainable sources and reducing food loss and waste.

The Atlas gives a clear overview of the underlying causes of degradation worldwide. It also contains a large number of facts, forecasts and global datasets that can be used to identify important biophysical and socio-economic processes that, on their own or combined, can lead to unsustainable land use and land degradation.

### **Background**

Under the United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda, world leaders have committed to “*combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world*” by 2030. While at global level desertification is addressed by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), land degradation is a problem that concerns the United Nations Framework Convention on Combating Climate Change and the Convention on Biodiversity. The importance of land degradation and desertification led to the adoption of [Sustainable Development Goal 15.3](#) aiming at land degradation neutrality.

At EU level desertification affects 8% of the territory, particularly in Southern, Eastern and Central Europe. These regions – representing around 14 million hectares – show high sensitivity to desertification. Thirteen Member States have declared themselves affected by desertification under UNCCD: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. The EU is fully committed to protecting soil and fostering sustainable land use, and takes these commitments into account when developing proposals on energy, agriculture, forestry climate change, research and other areas.

The new edition of the Atlas published today was created using new data processing methods employed by EU scientists, thousands of high-performance computers and 1.8 petabytes of satellite data. The volume of data corresponds to 2.7 million CD-ROM discs or more than 6 years of 24/7 full high definition video recording. The two first editions of the Atlas were published in 1992 ahead of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and five years later, in 1998, with some additional case studies. (EC 21-06-2018)

[New World Atlas of Desertification](#)  
[Joint Research Centre Factsheet](#)

### **CHINA GRANTS US\$10.9 MILLION IN SUBSIDIES TO SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE IN 2017**

China has granted US\$10.9 million in subsidies for several projects in Sao Tome and Principe in 2017, according to a World Bank document that Macaubub had access to on Wednesday in Sao Tome. The statement is contained in a 120-page document entitled “Analysis of Public Expenditure in Sao Tome and Principe,” to which Macaubub had access through the representative of the World Bank, France’s Olivier Lambert, who is currently visiting the archipelago.

In this document, the World Bank also expects, “an amount of US\$38 million in subsidies to be disbursed by China over five years,” especially for the agriculture, health and energy sectors following a bilateral cooperation agreement signed in May 2017.

China should also “pay out US\$146 million to support infrastructure projects over five years,” as well as a “debt pardon to Sao Tome and Principe estimated at US\$28 million,” adds the World Bank’s January 2018 report.

Citing data from the government of Sao Tome and Principe, the document also refers to the “200 annual internships and scholarships for students and professionals of Sao Tome and Principe,” under specific agreements with Beijing.

The report contains a reference to the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Sao Tome and Principe and the People’s Republic of China in December 2016 and the cut with Taiwan, named by the World Bank as one of the leaders on the list of subsidies to the archipelago with a annual average of US\$15 million.

As part of his visit to the archipelago, the World Bank representative for Sao Tome and Principe announced an amount of approximately US\$ 5 million to finance projects following two financing agreements signed a week ago in the capital. (21-06-2018)

## EIB TO SUPPORT SOLAR PROJECT IN ZAMBIA



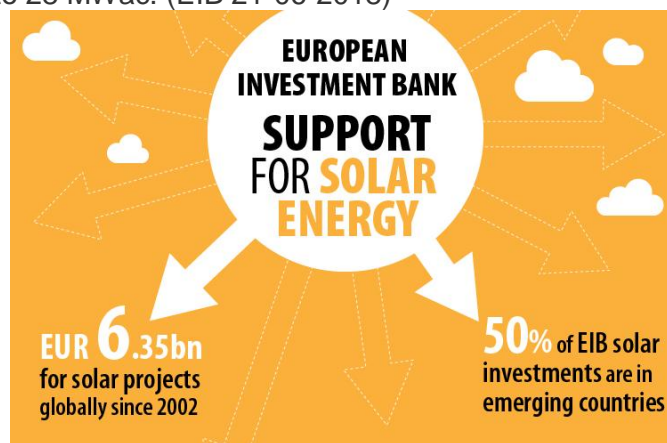
- Up to USD 11.75 million loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB) provided in support of the 34 MW\* Ngonye solar power plant in Zambia
- The project is promoted by multinational energy company Enel and will also be supported by loans from the IFC (World Bank Group) and IFC-Canada Climate Change Program

In a continued effort to back the development of solar power on the African continent, the EIB has signed a loan agreement of up to USD 11.75 million in support of the Ngonye photovoltaic solar plant in Zambia. The project will be built by Enel Group and Zambia's Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and will be located in the Lusaka South Multi-Facility Economic Zone.

EIB Vice-President Andrew McDowell commented: *"The ongoing initiative to standardise both tendering and financing processes is creating economies of scale for solar projects across the African continent, improving economic viability and resulting in the development of solar power in smaller markets and developing countries. After recent support for solar projects in Morocco and Kenya, the EIB is very proud to support Zambia in exploiting this abundantly available resource for the benefit of its citizens."*

Apart from financing by Enel Group itself, the funding involves senior loans of up to USD 10 million from the International Financing Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, and a concessional loan of up to USD 12 million from the IFC-Canada Climate Change Program. The facility, which is expected to produce around 70 GWh per year, is set to help Zambia reduce shortages and diversify its energy generation mix.

\* Dc capacity, equivalent to 28 MWac. (EIB 21-06-2018)



## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE BANK BOOST CHINA'S FOREIGN AID

China's foreign aid has tripled in the past decade and has been boosted in recent years by contributions to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), according to a new study recently conducted by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The study by Naohiro Kitano concluded that Chinese foreign aid in 2016 amounted to US\$5.8 billion, a year in which it increased by nearly US\$900 million, approximately the amount of contributions for the initial capital formation of the AIIB, which are expected to reach a total of US\$29.8 billion.

The same study showed that donations and loans on preferential and other interest-free terms in Chinese foreign aid decreased between 2012 and 2015, remaining at the same level since then. However, multilateral foreign aid is on the rise, from US\$300 million in 2014 to US\$1.4 billion in 2016.

Chinese net external aid rose from just over US\$2 billion in 2007 to close to US\$6 billion in 2016, according to data presented by Kitano.

China's foreign aid is defined in the study as the sum of donations and interest-free loans granted by the Ministry of Commerce and managed by other departments responsible for foreign aid, as well as grants awarded by the Ministry of Education to students from developing countries, interest subsidies on loans, preferential loans managed by the Exports and Import Bank of China as bilateral external aid, and subscriptions and contributions to eligible international organisations as multilateral external assistance.

The AidData research centre at William & Mary University recently reported that Angola was the third-largest destination of Chinese funding abroad and the largest in Africa, amounting to US\$16.556 billion in the period between 2000 and 2014.

Angola ranks fourth in terms of the number of projects funded by China, with 110 projects, overtaken by Cambodia with 168 projects, Pakistan with 121 and Zimbabwe with 120 projects.

AidData researchers also wrote that China donated or loaned US\$354.4 billion to other countries over the 15-year period analysed, approaching the total amount granted by the United States of America, which stood at US\$394.6 billion.

"It can be said that the US and China are now rivals for their financial transfers to other countries," said AidData chief executive Bradley C. Parks. (19-06-2018)

## THE EU DEPLOYS ITS EXTERNAL INVESTMENT PLAN IN MOROCCO

EU-Morocco partnership: first investments in Morocco under the European External Investment Plan to increase business opportunities, enhancing job creation, private sector development and inclusive growth

The European Union and Morocco have launched today the EU External Investment Plan (EIP) in the country to pave the way to a better business environment and foster economic development.

The European Union is strongly committed to supporting Morocco in building a sound, inclusive and sustainable economy. Launched in September 2017 to help boost investment in partner countries in Africa and the European Neighbourhood, the EIP will now encourage investments promoting an inclusive growth, job creation and sustainable development also in Morocco.

Commissioner for Enlargement Negotiations and European Neighbourhood Policy Johannes **Hahn** commented: *"The European External Investment Plan will help leverage significant private funds into key sectors of Morocco's economy. The plan will in turn empower local entrepreneurs and create jobs in the country. This new and innovative approach will also help carry out big sustainable development projects, which otherwise would not have been possible at all or would have been significantly smaller."*

The EU External Investment Plan will build on three pillars:

1. The new **European Fund for Sustainable Development: €4.1 billion** in grants will be made available to support sustainable development in countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the

European Neighbourhood, as well as allowing public and private operators to leverage each other's strengths.

2. **Technical assistance.** This will help improve the quality of projects and mobilise investment from financial institutions, public institutions and private investors.
3. **Additional assistance.** This will be given to public authorities to foster a more favourable overall business environment through better policy making and legislation, in dialogue with the private sector.

The package was announced today at an [EU External Investment Plan](#) (EIP) launching conference in Morocco, in the presence of Michael Köhler, European Commission Director for Neighbourhood South, and Minister of Economy and Finance of Morocco, Mohamed Boussaid. The conference brought together national authorities, private sector companies, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and other stakeholders to discuss investment opportunities and ways to overcome remaining barriers in accessing funds.

## Background

- **Bilateral Support**

Between 2014 and 2017, the EU has allocated €807 million in bilateral assistance to Morocco. EU support focuses mainly on equitable access to social services, democratic governance, the rule of law and mobility, as well as employability and sustainable and inclusive growth. Complementary support for capacity development and civil society is also provided.

- **External Investment Plan (EIP)**

The EU's [External Investment Plan](#) is an innovative and ambitious EU plan that encourages investment in the EU's partner countries in Africa and the European neighbourhood region. It promotes inclusive growth, job creation and sustainable development, so as to tackle some of the root causes of irregular migration. The EIP has been adapted to the specific needs of partner countries and builds on the successful model used within the EU, where the 'Juncker Plan' has already triggered more than €240 billion of investment.

The EIP encourages private investors to contribute to sustainable development in countries outside of Europe. It integrates a new generation of financial instruments - namely guarantees, risk sharing instruments, as well as the blending of grants and loans - into the more traditional forms of assistance such as grants. It also includes a guarantee mechanism to crowd in private investments, where viable business proposals meet social needs, and where limited public funds can attract private money.

Overall, about €44 billion are expected to be mobilised under the EIP from 2017 until 2020 for Africa and the European Neighbourhood. (EC 19-06-2018)

[European Neighbourhood Policy - Morocco](#)

## FEMISE PUTS FORWARD EU-MED REGION PRIORITIES IN ITS ANNUAL INTERNAL COMPETITION

FEMISE has just launched its 2018/19 Internal Competition under the theme "Priorities of the EU-MED region". Members of the FEMISE network who participated as affiliates of FEMISE in the European Commission Call are invited to submit research proposals before 3 September 2018.

Winning proposals will meet the criteria of having a real value added (generating fresh knowledge), using rigorous and sound methodology, and having the potential of offering policy recommendations.

All proposals have to be submitted in consortiums as follows: at least one affiliate member from the North AND one affiliate member from the South. Each consortium should have one Team Leader who will send the proposal on behalf of the consortium and will be responsible for the project (in terms of its executing, deliverables and admin process).

The total budget envelope for all selected proposals in this fourth round of the internal competition will be approximately €64,000.

This fourth call for internal competition completes the research agenda for FEMISE for the four years Scientific Programme (2015-2019) by setting the Priorities of the EU-Med region.

**FEMISE** is an Association that receives EU-funding, aiming through its activities 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. (FEMISE 20-06-2018)

FEMISE – [website](#)

## ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA AGREE JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF FOUR SEAPORTS



*The port of Berbera*

Somalia and Ethiopia have announced plans to invest in “four key seaports” and an international highway network as a way of attracting foreign investment.

The agreement was reached after a meeting in Mogadishu between President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo of Somalia and Ethiopia’s newly installed prime minister Abiy Ahmed.

Officials did not say which ports would be developed. A joint technical team is to be formed immediately to outline proposals. The text of the agreement can be seen [here](#).

The development is being viewed as part of the complicated politics of the region, which is in the shadow of the struggle between the Gulf states on one side and Turkey, Qatar and Iran on the other, as well as Ethiopia’s difficult relations with Eritrea and the position of the breakaway Republic of Somaliland.

In recent years Ethiopia has been moving closer to the UAE, and the announcement follows a pledge from the UAE to give it \$3bn in aid. Under the terms of that deal, the money will be used as capital investment in construction projects.

Ahmed Shide, Ethiopia’s communication affairs minister, said the money would significantly further the country’s development goals.

The UAE is thought to be interested in investing in industrial parks, which have become an important part of Ethiopia’s strategy of building up an export-oriented manufacturing sector, as well as healthcare and hospitality projects.



One billion dollars will be deposited in Ethiopia's central bank to ease its foreign currency shortages. These have become [so severe](#) that the government has been considering the privatisation of Ethiopia Airlines, Africa's fastest growing carrier.

State-owned Ethio-Telecom, which has more than 65 million subscribers, has also just been split in two.

The UAE and Ethiopia have been growing closer in recent years, and Ethiopia was instrumental in facilitating DP World's \$440m investment last year in the port of Berbera in the Republic of Somaliland.

This move caused diplomatic difficulties with Somalia, which claims Somaliland as its territory, and which [passed a law](#) making the investment illegal. The UAE's investment in Ethiopia, and Ethiopia's warming relations with Somalia, may improve the situation. (GCR 20-06-2018)

### **INFLATION IS HITTING THE RICH HARDEST, STATS SOUTH AFRICA'S FIGURES SHOW**

Inflation surprised economists by slowing in May to 4.4% from April's 4.5%.

Inflation was expected to continue its rise from a low of 3.8% reached in March, with an economists' consensus that average price increases would rise to 4.6%.

"While we expect inflation to increase, we do not foresee a climb to above the Reserve Bank's 6% upper target range for inflation over the next three years," Nedbank's economics team said in a note e-mailed after Statistics SA released May's consumer price index (CPI) report.

"This relatively benign inflation outlook and the still weak economy will probably convince the monetary policy committee to delay hiking rates for as long as possible. We forecast that rates will remain unchanged into the second half of 2019 before a mild upward cycle commences."

The food component of CPI showed annual inflation of 3%, down from 3.7% in April, helped by average fruit prices falling 6.4% and bread and cereals getting 4.1% cheaper over the year.

May's fuel inflation came in at 9.4% from the same month in 2017.

The drop in fruit and cereal prices helped mitigate 7.8% inflation in meat prices and 6.8% inflation in fish prices.

Statistics SA reported on Wednesday that May's consumer price index (CPI), which was set to 100 points in December 2016, was 107.2 points.

This was 4.4% higher than 102.7 points in May 2017 and 0.2% higher than April's 107 points.

According to Stats SA, the price of cellphones and other telecommunications equipment fell by a substantial 15.8% over the year.

Stats SA provides average inflation for the country's population split into 10 income brackets. According to these figures, the rich are suffering higher inflation than the poor.

South Africans in the lowest "expenditure decile" had inflation of 2.1%. This rose to 4.7% for people in the richest segment. (BD 20-06-2018)

### **NIGERIA'S MUHAMMADU BUHARI SIGNS RECORD BUDGET**

Nigeria's president signed a record 9.12-trillion naira (\$29bn) budget for 2018 into law on Wednesday but said he would use a supplementary spending plan to seek changes, creating uncertainty about the final details of his growth strategy.

Muhammadu Buhari is pushing to foster growth in Nigeria, which has West Africa's biggest economy, before an election next February in which he will seek a second term.

Nigeria's parliament, the National Assembly, passed the budget last month.

The total sum is higher than the 8.6-trillion naira spending plan presented to parliament by Buhari in November, which legislators said was due to an increase in the assumed oil price to \$51 per barrel from \$45.

Buhari was critical of changes made by the National Assembly, which he said cut a total of 347-billion naira for 4,700 projects submitted to it for consideration.

In addition, legislators introduced 6,403 projects of their own amounting to 578-billion naira. He cited examples of funds being cut, including 8.7-billion taken from a housing programme, and said legislators added projects that were not properly assessed. Buhari also said parliament increased its own budget from 125-billion naira to 139.5-billion naira.

"I have decided to sign the 2018 budget in order not to further slow down the pace of recovery of our economy," said Buhari in a speech after the signing. "It is my intention to seek to remedy some of the most critical of these issues through a supplementary and/ or amendment budget, which I hope the National Assembly will be able to expeditiously consider," Buhari said. (Reuters 21-06-2018)

## **CLIMATE DIPLOMACY WEEK: EU STEPS UP INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

[Climate Diplomacy Week](#) is a time, where EU Delegations around the world reach out to communities and partner organisations, highlighting positive global action and collaboration on climate change.

This year, governments and stakeholders from all over the world are getting together to assess how far we have come since the Paris Agreement on climate change, signed in 2015, and to look at solutions and possibilities to enhance action under the 'Talanoa Dialogue'. Taking place throughout 2018, this process (inspired by the Pacific tradition of 'talanoa', an open and inclusive dialogue) is the first opportunity since Paris to look at our collective efforts so far, as well as opportunities to increase global ambition.

The European Union is committed to climate action and has a strong track record on domestic emissions reductions and support to others. The EU is working towards cutting domestic greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. Also, it will continue to work together with all partners to enhance climate action in the EU and globally, through for example policy dialogues and capacity-building projects.

The EU, its Member States and the European Investment Bank contributed € 20.2 billion in public climate finance towards developing countries in 2016. The EU remains committed to the collective goal of mobilising USD 100 billion a year in climate finance by 2020 and through to 2015 from a variety of sources to support action in developing countries.

2018 will see two Climate Diplomacy Weeks: the first one from 18-24 June and the second one from 24-30 September 2018. To emphasise the significance of this week, there are planned several major meetings in the EU. (EC 21-06-2018)

[Climate, Peace and Security: The Time for Action](#)

## **VITOL-LED CONSORTIUM TO BUY NIGERIA'S OIL AND GAS ASSETS**



A consortium led by the Netherlands-based oil trader Vitol is planning to acquire stakes in Nigerian offshore fields, which are held by Brazil's Petrobras and its partners

As reported by Reuters, the consortium includes Vitol, Vancouver-based Africa Oil and Delonex Energy, Africa-focused oil and gas company, backed by private equity fund Warburg Pincus and the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The assets are valued at about US\$2.5bn, said the source.

The deal is expected to provide the Vitol-led consortium with a stake in some of Nigeria's oil and gas assets. The company is set to shove the big chunk of the investment, spending an amount of US\$1bn, reinforced the source.

A number of international players including Glencore bid to acquire Petrobras' African oil and gas assets. Petrobras launched the sale of Petrobras Oil & Gas BV, in which the company has 50 per cent stake, following plans to offload US\$21bn in assets through 2018, according to the source.

The source further added that Scotiabank is advancing the sale process with Evercore.(OR 19-06-2018)

### **SOMOIL RENEWS 300KM CRUDE OIL PIPELINE IN ANGOLA**

The Angolan Oil Company (Somoil) has renewed 300km of crude oil pipeline network in Soyo Municipality, situated in the northern Zaire Province



Angola set to develop oil and gas infrastructure in the country

This has been announced by José Maria, director for operations at Somoil.

Speaking to *Angola Press*, Maria explained that the company replaced the old pipelines network with a new one, aiming to avoid the leaks recorded earlier.

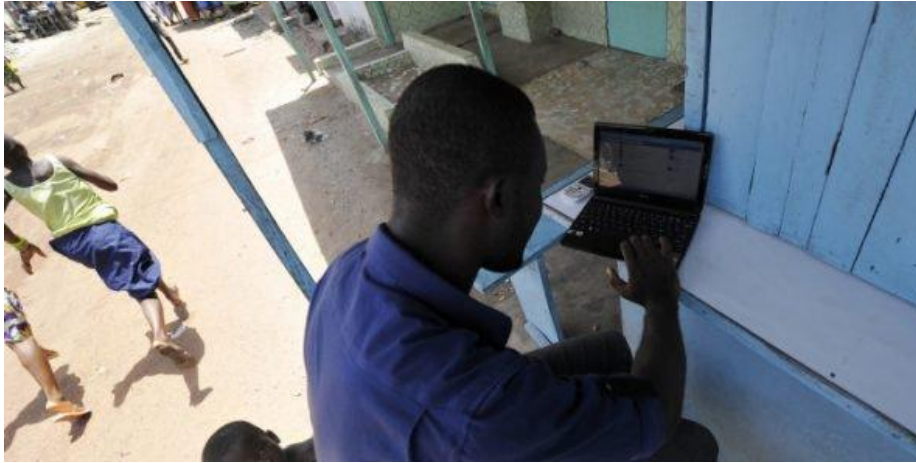
The company aims to renew the old pipelines to improve the operation levels, protect the environment and safeguard the population, he stressed.

Maria further disclosed that Somoil has signed deals with a number of national and foreign companies for the inspection of the Somoil's crude oil transportation pipelines, the network of which is about 700km.

Recently, Somoil has announced hopes to recover 30,000 barrels of crude oil split at the Kinfuquena oil base in Soyo municipality, said the source. According to the company, the crude oil split was contained in two tanks which were destroyed during the armed conflict that hit Angola in that period.

Somoil aims to explore oil and gas on onshore Angola, the areas formerly operated by France's Total.(OR 21-06-2018)

### **COTE D'IVOIRE : VICTIME DE SABOTAGES, ORANGE SUSPEND LE DEPLOIEMENT DE SON RESEAU DE FIBRE OPTIQUE**



Un jeune travaille sur son ordinateur portable avec une connexion wifi

Durant les mois d'avril et mai, plusieurs équipements de fibre optique ont été sectionnés et déterrés, entraînant des interruptions du haut débit chez des clients de l'opérateur Orange, qui chiffre le préjudice à 6 milliards de francs CFA.

Après l'incendie de l'un des centres névralgiques d'Orange, le 30 avril, suite auquel [l'entreprise a déposé une plainte contre X pour « sabotage »](#), l'opérateur de télécommunications numéro un du pays dénonce des attaques récurrentes de son réseau de fibre optique. En avril et mai, plusieurs équipements de la fibre optique ont été sectionnés et déterrés, indique Orange, entraînant des interruptions du haut débit chez des clients, surtout les grandes entreprises qui se sont retrouvées handicapés pendant plusieurs jours.

Pour limiter les dégâts, l'opérateur, qui chiffre à 6 milliards de francs CFA (9,15 millions d'euros) le préjudice subi, a décidé de suspendre jusqu'à nouvel ordre le déploiement du réseau de la fibre optique dans à Abidjan.

Des discussions devraient avoir lieu avec les autorités ivoiriennes pour la sécurisation des sites et installations de l'opérateur. Ce ne sont pas les raccordements domestiques et dans les entreprises qui sont concernés, mais toute nouvelle extension du réseau, a précisé à Jeune Afrique [Mamadou Bamba, le directeur général de Orange Côte d'Ivoire](#), qui attend de « faire le point de la situation » avec les autorités.

### Plan d'investissements

La filiale du groupe français totalisait à fin mars 2018 plus de 13,7 millions d'abonnés de mobile, soit environ 42 % du marché local. Dans l'internet hors haut débit, Orange Côte d'Ivoire est le leader avec 83 871 abonnés, un chiffre en baisse de 38,08 % par rapport aux 138 868 de fin 2017. Cette régression est due à fois à la hausse des connexion via les smartphones et à la migration vers la fibre optique, initialement [réservée aux nantis et aux entreprises du fait de son coût onéreux](#), qu'Orange Côte d'Ivoire a démocratisé en 2016.

Pour consolider sa position de leader dans le secteur, Didier Kla, le directeur technique d'Orange Côte d'Ivoire, a annoncé en mars dernier un planning d'investissements de 200 milliards de F CFA en deux ans pour le renouvellement de ses infrastructures et la modernisation de sa plateforme de rechargement de crédit téléphonique.

En 2016, Orange Côte d'Ivoire avait déjà annoncé un investissement de 100 milliards de francs CFA pour financer le déploiement d'un réseau de 5 000 kilomètres de fibre optique dans le pays, la capacité installée à ce jour pouvant permettre de connecter 30 000 ménages et entreprises. (JA 19-06-2018)

## SENEGAL : EIFFAGE ET L'ÉTAT RENEGOCIENT LES PEAGES AUTOROUTIERS

Lors du dernier Conseil des ministres, le 11 juin, Macky Sall a demandé au gouvernement d'accélérer la finalisation, avant fin juin 2018, du processus de renégociation des tarifs de péage de l'autoroute Patte d'Oie-Aéroport international Blaise Diagne (AIBD).



Autoroute à péage à la sortie de Dakar

Au Sénégal, les tarifs pratiqués sur la première autoroute à péage du pays, qui relie la capitale au [nouvel aéroport Blaise-Diagne \(AIBD\)](#) – 3 600 FCFA (5,49 euros) -, suscitent la grogne. « Ils sont parmi les plus chers du monde, et ne correspondent pas aux revenus des Sénégalais », estime ainsi Bachir Fofana, porte-parole du Collectif citoyen des usagers de l'autoroute à péage.

Ce collectif réclame également davantage de sécurité et d'éclairage sur l'axe Dakar-AIBD, après deux accidents mortels provoqués par des animaux errants, dont celui qui a causé la mort de Papis Baba Mballo, du groupe de rap Gelongal, en mai dernier.

Le chef de l'État a donc saisi le Conseil des ministres du 11 juin de cette question, et a demandé au gouvernement de mettre en place un dispositif cohérent et performant de régulation et de suivi-évaluation de l'exploitation des autoroutes à péage, dans l'ouverture prochaine des autoroutes Ila-Touba, AIBD-Thies et AIBD-Sindia-Mbour.

Un comité de réflexion pour la renégociation des prix a été mis sur pied au sortir de ce conseil. Il regroupe des agents du ministère des Infrastructures, des Transports terrestres et du Désenclavement, du ministère de l'Économie des Finances et du Plan, du Fonds souverain d'investissements stratégiques (Fonsis), de l'Agence de promotion des investissements et des grands travaux (Apix) et [des représentants d'Eiffage](#).

### **31 % des recettes pour l'État**

Ce comité, qui s'est réuni pendant deux jours à l'hôtel Pullman de Dakar, a transmis les résultats de ses travaux le 14 juin au [ministre en charge des Infrastructures, Abdoulaye Daouda Diallo](#), qui l'a remis à son tour au président Macky Sall. Selon ce rapport, 31 % des recettes générées par l'exploitation de l'autoroute à péage revient à l'État, 25 % à Eiffage, qui doit faire face aux différentes charges liées à la gestion de l'autoroute (paiement des agents, entretien de l'autoroute...), et 44 % va au remboursement des dettes contractées par l'État auprès des bailleurs de fonds (Banque mondiale, BOAD, BAD).

Aucune information n'a en revanche filtré sur les nouveaux prix proposés. Didier Payerne, directeur de l'exploitation d'Eiffage en charge de l'autoroute, estime qu'un accord pourrait intervenir d'ici le milieu de semaine. Mais Bachir Fofana se félicite déjà du mouvement impulsé par le président de la République. « Il a donné des instructions pour que la baisse des prix intervienne avant la fin du mois de juin ».

Le Collectif citoyen des usagers de l'autoroute à péage plaide pour une réduction de moitié des tarifs pratiqués au niveau de chaque poste de péage. Il réclame en outre « la publication du contrat de la concession entre Eiffage et l'État du Sénégal pour mieux apprécier son exécution ». Le porte-parole du Collectif regrette également de ne pas être convié à la table du comité de réflexion pour la renégociation des prix des péages. (JA 19-06-2018)

## **GABON : POURQUOI L'AGENCE MOODY'S A DEGRADE LA NOTE DU PAYS**

L'agence de notation justifie l'abaissement de la note souveraine du pays - de B3 à Caa1 - par la récurrence des retards de paiements de l'État, soulignant ses difficultés de trésorerie et ses faiblesses institutionnelles.



Vue de Libreville

Moody's a dégradé le 8 juin dernier la note souveraine de l'État gabonais de B3 à Caa1 et a fait passer les perspectives de « négatives » à « stables ». Selon la définition de l'institution, « les obligations notées Caa sont considérées de mauvaise qualité et présentent un risque de crédit très élevé ». L'agence de notation justifie cette dégradation par le fait que le gouvernement a des retards de paiements récurrents auprès de ses créanciers et de ses fournisseurs.

Cette situation démontre le renforcement des difficultés de trésorerie que connaît l'État gabonais et souligne ses faiblesses institutionnelles, selon Moody's. [Les arriérés aux crédateurs](#), qu'ils soient auprès des prêteurs bilatéraux et multilatéraux ou des banques commerciales sont estimés par Moody's à 2 % du PIB à la fin du mois de mars 2018.

L'accumulation d'importants retards de paiements reflète de la faible capacité institutionnelle du Gabon. Bien que l'Etat ait réglé ses arriérés aux bailleurs internationaux à la fin 2017, un peu avant la première revue du FMI, dans la cadre de l'accord élargi de crédit de 642 millions d'euros sur trois ans, il a récemment commencé à accumuler les retards de paiements.

De plus, les difficultés à lever des recettes publiques non-pétrolières en 2017 ont pesé sur le budget de l'État. En conséquence, des coupes importantes dans les dépenses d'investissement. « Le programme du FMI a prévu des revenus fiscaux à 11,5 % du PIB en 2017, un niveau plus élevé que les 9,7 % qui ont été effectivement réalisés » écrit Moody's. « De fait, le gouvernement a coupé les dépenses en capital, en particulier pour les projets d'investissement financé par l'extérieur », poursuit l'agence de notation.

Enfin, « l'accumulation d'importants retards de paiements reflète de la faible capacité institutionnelle du Gabon et dénote des faiblesses particulières en matière de gestion de trésorerie ».

### **Cercle vicieux**

« Moody's s'attend à ce que le gouvernement prenne des mesures de consolidation budgétaire mais avec un impact limité en 2018 », indique l'agence de notation. Pour Moody's, les tensions en termes de liquidité ainsi que l'accumulation des arriérés devraient se poursuivre. Il s'est en effet mis en place un cercle vicieux, dans lequel le cumul des retards de paiement vient peser sur la croissance économique, qui a son tour limite la collecte des impôts et rend plus difficile le remboursement des arriérés.

En jugeant les perspectives « stables », Moody' considère cependant que ces risques sont contrebalancés par le soutien technique et financier du Fonds monétaire international qui, bien que possiblement retardé, va rester en place. L'agence estime également que la dette publique va certainement continuer à être considérée comme soutenable par le FMI. Sur la base des projections de l'agence de notation, « la dette publique va rester globalement stable, autour de 60 % du PIB ».

Moody's avait déjà dégradé la note souveraine du Gabon en juillet 2017 de B1 à B3 sur la base de « la détérioration des finances publiques en raison de la faiblesse prolongée des prix du pétrole et d'une faible capacité d'ajustement des politiques » et déjà, « des tensions intenses sur la liquidité de l'État, telle que démontrée par l'accumulation de retards de paiements.

Fitch avait fait passer sa notation de B+ à B en octobre 2017 tandis que le Gabon avait demandé à Standard & Poor's d'arrêter de noter ses titres publics en avril 2016.

L'économie gabonaise a durement été touchée par la baisse du prix du pétrole, avec [un ralentissement de la croissance de 4,4 % en 2014 à 2,1 % en 2016](#), tandis que la dette publique avait progressé de

34,1 % du PIB en 2014 à 64,2 % en 2016. Du fait de cette dégradation de la situation économique, le pays est rentré dans un programme FMI en juin 2017.

### Apurer la dette intérieure

Le pays a lancé le 9 février 2018 une initiative afin de régler ses arriérés de paiements. L'objectif était d'apurer 310 milliards de Franc CFA de paiements en souffrance, représentant environ deux tiers de la dette interne.

« Il s'agit pour l'ensemble des PME d'être réglées de l'ensemble des arriérés dus par l'État gabonais. Toutes les entreprises qui auront des créances inférieures à 2 milliards de francs CFA dus seront intégralement payées d'ici les dix prochains jours », expliquait Brice Laccruche, le directeur de cabinet du président gabonais.

L'initiative a cependant pris du temps à ce mettre en place. Dans un entretien à *Jeune Afrique* fin mai 2018, le Premier ministre gabonais confiait : « Affiner ces procédures a pris du temps. Et c'est maintenant à la banque qui a été retenue [BGFIBank] de mobiliser les fonds. Mais ces retards ne sont pas de nature à compromettre cette initiative. »

Reste que pour le FMI, le compte n'y est pas encore. Après une visite les 25 et 26 mars 2018, Abebe Aemro Sélassié, directeur Afrique du FMI expliquait qu'il est « nécessaire [...] de mettre en place un plan crédible de règlement des arriérés intérieurs et extérieurs ». Selon l'institution financière internationale, il est également primordial « d'opérer des réformes dans les finances publiques afin de réduire les dépenses non essentielles, d'accroître la transparence des dépenses et de protéger les dépenses sociales ». (JA 19-06-2018)

## TUNISIE : LE TOURISME REPART A LA HAUSSE



Le tourisme repart à la hausse en Tunisie en 2018, avec le retour des touristes européens.

Le tourisme, à l'arrêt depuis les attentats de 2015, connaît une forte hausse en 2018, dépassant même les chiffres de 2010. De quoi confirmer la relance amorcée en 2017, et donner confiance aux professionnels du secteur, qui espèrent un retour à l'activité de l'avant-révolution.

« C'est l'année de la vraie reprise », s'est réjouie [Salma Elloumi Rekik, la ministre du Tourisme](#), lors de l'annonce des chiffres officiels du secteur pour l'année 2018, durant une rencontre au siège du gouvernorat de Monastir.

Avec 8 millions de touristes attendus, et une croissance de 32 % des recettes sur les cinq premiers mois de l'année, les professionnels du secteur veulent croire à une relance pérenne. En 2017, le tourisme, pourvoyeur de 500 000 emplois, a représenté près de 7 % du PIB. Une manne cruciale pour l'économie du pays.

Et le ministère n'a pas lésiné sur les campagnes de communication, jusqu'à prévoir des affichages dans les rues de Moscou, à l'occasion de la [Coupe du monde 2018](#). Les professionnels du secteur espèrent une véritable renaissance, trois ans après le coup de frein des attentats de 2015, qui ont fait [22 morts au musée du Bardo](#), 38 dans un [hôtel à Sousse](#) et 12 morts chez les agents de la garde présidentielle.

Les recettes liées au tourisme sont passées de 1,131 milliard de dinars en 2016, à 2,690 milliards de dinars en 2017

## De meilleurs chiffres qu'en 2010

La relance amorcée en 2017 se confirme. Déjà l'an dernier, les recettes liées au tourisme ont représenté 2,690 milliards de dinars, soit 881 millions d'euros, contre seulement 1,131 milliard de dinars en 2016, soit 370 millions d'euros.

Selon le bilan du ministère, le nombre d'entrées a dépassé les 2,3 millions, au 20 mai 2018, soit une hausse de 21,8 % par rapport à la même période en 2017 et de 5,7 % par rapport à la même période en 2010, année de référence.

Nombre d'arrivées : +45 % de Français, +42,4 % d'Allemands et +17,4 % d'Algériens...

Le retour des marchés européens traditionnels, [boosté par celui des tour-opérateurs comme le britannique Thomas Cook et l'allemand TUI](#), s'accompagne de la fidélisation de nouveaux marchés cibles, comme la Russie, et de la constante augmentation de la clientèle algérienne, premiers clients. Et les chiffres du ministère sont bien au-dessus des attentes en ce qui concerne les arrivées : +45 % de Français, +42,4 % d'Allemands et +17,4 % d'Algériens, ainsi qu'une forte croissance du marché chinois et russe, en tête avec des taux respectivement de +56,9 % et +46,4 %.

« Tous les hôtels affichent complet à Djerba, à Hammamet, à Sousse et à Mahdia » pour la saison estivale, a également annoncé la ministre. De quoi réjouir la députée de Nidaa Tounes, [Zohra Driss](#), également propriétaire de quatre établissements de la chaîne Marhaba Hôtels, dont trois à Sousse et un à Monastir, qui affichent complet pour l'été.

Les hôtels Sangho sont réservés à 85 % pour le mois de juin

Son hôtel Imperial Marhaba – depuis rebaptisé « Kantaoui Bay » – à Sousse, avait été la cible de l'attentat de Sousse en 2015. « Un choc émotionnel et économique », qui a provoqué la mort de 38 touristes et le départ des tour-opérateurs européens, ainsi qu'un « travel ban » britannique (mesures restrictives s'appliquant à des citoyens) levé en 2017.

À présent, l'hôtelière, qui avait dû fermer son établissement d'octobre 2015 à avril 2017, est confiante.

La gestion de deux de ses hôtels a été confiée à l'allemand Steigenberger. « Mes chiffres sont très bons pour 2018. Le retour des tour-opérateurs anglais après trois années d'absence était inattendu », souligne-t-elle.

Même son de cloche pour Hosni Djemalli, PDG des hôtels Sangho, dont trois en Tunisie (Sfax, Zarzis et Tataouine), réservés à 85 % pour le mois de juin.

La police est bien plus présente aux abords des sites touristiques », affirme Zohra Driss

## Une stratégie de communication et de sécurité

« Les autorités européennes ont envoyé des équipes cette année pour constater que la sécurité en Tunisie était aussi importante qu'en Europe », affirme la députée Zohra Driss, qui a fait installer portiques et caméras de surveillance dans tous ses établissements. « La police est également bien plus présente aux abords des sites touristiques », assure-t-elle.

Les autorités ont tenté de faire face. « Ils ont bien réfléchi en s'adressant aux marchés d'Europe de l'Est, moins fragiles à la situation politique que les Belges, les Français ou les Italiens », analyse le patron des hôtels Sangho, qui s'est adapté à cette nouvelle clientèle en formant ses employés à la langue russe. L'Office national du tourisme a également misé sur la communication digitale après 2015. En 2017, la Tunisie a reçu le prix de la meilleure vidéo pour le tourisme en Afrique, décernée par l'Organisation mondiale du Tourisme.

## Les maisons d'hôtes encore à la peine

Si la reprise semble bien se confirmer pour le tourisme de masse, ce n'est pas le cas pour les hébergements alternatifs, comme [les maisons d'hôtes qui ont connu un boom](#) depuis 2011 pour atteindre près de 200 à 300 établissements sur l'ensemble du pays. « Le ministère aime promouvoir la diversification dans ces plans de communication, mais en réalité nous ne sommes associés à aucune stratégie », regrette Sabri Oueslati, président d'Edhiafa, l'association tunisienne des maisons d'hôtes créée en 2011, et qui rassemble une cinquantaine d'hôteliers.

Ce Belgo-Tunisien, propriétaire de Dar Sabri dans la médina de Nabeul, au Nord-Est du pays, accuse « un manquement grave des autorités » et plaide pour « un autre type de tourisme », sur le modèle marocain, plus diversifié.

Concernant la reprise, Sabri Oueslati ne crie pas non plus de joie, avec une amélioration de seulement quelques pourcents de ses réservations cette année. Sa clientèle, à 80 % étrangère en 2011, est à présent majoritairement locale, suite au frein de 2015. Le Belgo-Tunisien a dû adapter son business model : baisse des prix, plus de marketing, communication orientée vers la clientèle tunisienne.



« Les maisons d'hôtes pourraient attirer une clientèle étrangère avec un pouvoir d'achat plus important que ceux de l'hôtellerie all inclusive, si seulement les billets d'avion étaient moins chers », assure-t-il. L'hôtelier espère une implantation rapide de [l'accord sur l'Open Sky entre la Tunisie et l'Union européenne](#). (JA 14-06-2018)

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