

Africa-European Union Strategic Partnership



Established in Cairo, Egypt in 2000 between the African Union Commission and the European Union Commission, the Africa-European Union partnership forged its current structure after agreeing upon a Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES). JAES was adopted at the 2nd Africa-EU Summit in Lisbon, Portugal in December 2007. The JAES represents the strategic political reference for Africa-EU relations setting out the vision, values and principles both parties are committed. Three further summits have been held in Libya, Tripoli (November 2010); Brussels, Belgium in April 2014 and most recently in Abidjan for the 5th EU-Africa Summit in November 2017.

The European Union operates as a single market with 28 countries whose aggregate economy generated a GDP of over US\$16.566 trillion in 2012, which according to Eurostat makes the EU the largest economy in the world if treated as a single economy. The European Union (EU) is also represented as a unified entity in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

With just 7% of the world's population, the EU's trade with the rest of the world makes it a major global trade player alongside the US and China. The EU in 2018 accounted for 15.2% of global exports and 15.1% of global imports. This in spite about two-thirds of EU countries' total trade being conducted with other EU countries. Despite the fact that EU trade has been hit by the global recession and marginally by the US- China Trade War and uncertainty with regards to Brexit, the EU remains the world's largest importer accounting for 16.4% of global imports. In comparison, the US contributes about 15.5% of all imports and China contributes about 11.9%. The EU is also the world's largest exporter, accounting for 38% of all exports – compared with 15% for China and the 7.7% for the United States.

The objectives of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) include:

- Improving the AU-EU political partnership
- Promoting:
 - Peace, security, democratic governance and human rights
 - Basic freedoms, gender equality
 - Sustainable economic development, including industrialization
 - Regional and continental integration
 - Ensuring that all Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are met in all African countries by 2015
- Supporting effective multilateralism
- Forging a people-centered partnership

During the 4th Africa-EU Summit which was held April 2014 in Brussels, it was agreed that the 2014-2017 Roadmap should focus on the following priority areas:

1. Peace and Security
2. Democracy, Good Governance and Human Rights
3. Human Development
4. Sustainable and Inclusive Development and Growth and Continental Integration
5. Global and Emerging Issues

The Summits of European Union and African Union Heads of States and Governments take place traditionally every three years and alternate between Africa and Europe. These Summits take stock of the progress being made in implementing commitments and provide political guidance for further work.

The 5th African Union-European Union Summit was held on 29-30 November 2017 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire – 10 years after the adoption of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. Under the central theme "Investing in youth for a sustainable future", African and European Heads of State and Government gathered together alongside the Presidents of the European Council, the European Commission, the African Union and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

Together, they adopted a joint declaration outlining common priorities for the future of the Africa-EU partnership:

- Investing in people – education, science, technology and skills development
- Strengthening Resilience, Peace, Security and Governance
- Migration and mobility
- Mobilising Investments for African structural and sustainable transformation

AU and EU leaders also adopted a joint statement on the migrant situation in Libya condemning the inhuman treatment of migrants and refugees by criminal groups.

Other important EU support initiatives of the AU include:

- The African Union Support Program (AUSP) – Through the AUSP, the EU has allocated Euros 55 million to support capacity building of the AU institutions, notably the AUC and assist in the institutional reform process. The support has enabled the AUC to effectively play its role as driver of the African integration process and to facilitate the deepening of the partnership between Africa and Europe. With support from the fund, the AUC presently has no less than 70 experts paid for under the programs and supporting programs such as PIDA, CAADP, AIDA and AGA.
- The African Peace Facility (APF) – The APF is the operational tool of the Africa-EU Partnership on Peace and Security. Through this instrument, the EU supports the AU and other African regional organizations in finding "African solutions to African problems". The missions financed by the Facility are led and staffed by Africans. Since the creation of the APF in 2004, the EU has committed more than Euros 1 billion. The two ongoing peace support operations are AMISOM (AU Mission in Somalia) and MICOPAX (Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic). At the EU Foreign Affairs Council on 17th January 2013, the EU announced that Euros 50 million would be provided under the APF to support the AFISMA (African-led International Support Mission to Mali).
- The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) – The objectives of the APRM are to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices that led to political stability, economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration through experience sharing and reinforcement of successful and best practices, including identifying deficiencies and assessment of requirements for capacity building. The European Commission has contributed Euros 2 million to the UNDP-managed Trust Fund to support the APRM Secretariat.
- The Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) – The EU has provided Euros 15 million to support African institutions (AUC, NPCA, RECs) in the implementation of the CAADP process at continental, regional and national level. CAADP is an African-led initiative working to boost agricultural productivity in Africa based on four pillars: 1) Sustainable Land and Water management, 2) Market Access, 3) Food security, and 4) Hunger and Agricultural Research.
- The EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund (ITF) and the Neighborhood Investment Facility (NIF) – The ITF aims to increase European and African investment in infrastructure and related services. It blends grants and loans to increase the total funding available for large-scale regional infrastructure projects across Africa. A total of 70 grant operations for Euros 342 million were approved across Sub-Saharan Africa as of December 2012, representing close to Euros 4.4 billion in total infrastructure investments. Additionally, the European Commission has also earmarked a total amount of Euros 745 million

for the Neighborhood Investment Facility (NIF) in North Africa which, along with Member States' contributions, contributed Euros 417 million to infrastructure and private sector projects, leveraging a total of project investment of more than Euros 14 billion.

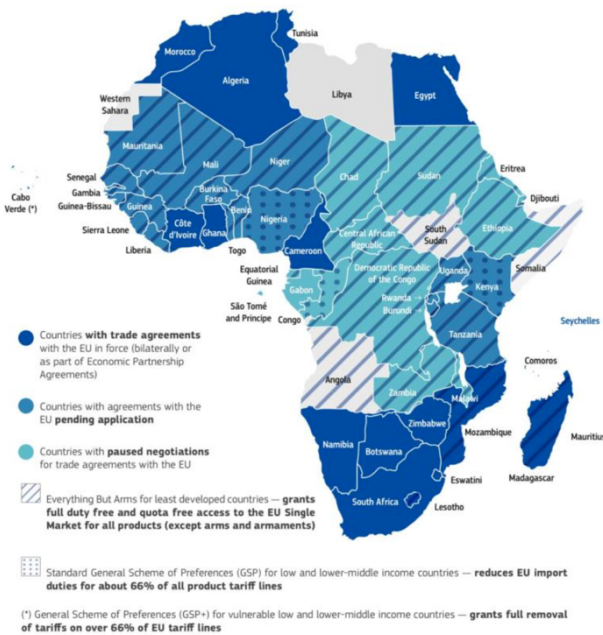
- contributed to supporting the JAES).
- The European Investment Bank (the EIB finances several types of projects, notably through the Africa EU Infrastructure Trust Fund, which supports Africa-EU Infrastructure partnership).

The infographic below highlights the EU, Africa Partnership: Trade agreements, arrangements and schemes in place between Africa and the EU: Currently, 52 African countries benefit from a trade agreement with the EU, an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) or a trade arrangement. These agreements cover all forms of commodities (these include everything but arms and the two Generalised Scheme of Preferences, Standard GSP and GSP+) with the EU to grant privileged access to its market. These countries pay fewer or no duties on exports to the EU, giving them vital access to the EU market and contributing to their growth.

According to the EU Commission, the European Union is Africa's largest trading partner, with trade between the two continents totalling €265 billion in 2018, while the EU's total foreign direct investment in Africa stood at €261 billion in 2017. Official development assistance from Europe to Africa amounted to €239 billion.

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Forthcoming facilities and initiatives include:

- Social Affairs Support – the Social Affairs Department of the AU has secured a Euro 20 million support package from the EU.
- African Union Support Program II – Another round of support, Euros 30 million facility, has been approved from the EU for the period 2014-2017 along the same line of activities as the AUSP I program
- Pan-African Program – a Euro 850 million facility has been agreed upon with the EU, and with some contribution expected from Africa, the facility is to be operational from 2017 subject to some conditions being met from the African side as well as an approval from the EU parliament.

Beyond these funding initiatives, other key facilities of the EU in support of Africa include:

- European Development Fund
- Development Cooperation Instrument – covering notably South Africa (Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement -TDCA)
- European Neighborhood Policy Instrument (which has supported project on deployment of renewable energy in the Mediterranean region)
- Instrument for stability
- European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
- 7th Framework Program for Research and Technological Development (FP7) (it is a program mainly oriented to support internal European policy, but it also has substantive external policy component that has