

THE STATE AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN AFRICAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS



Dear Readers,

It is now twelve months ago that we started with the preparation work for the first Europe Africa Business Summit to be held in Europe. This event will be the first of a planned biannual series of conferences focussing on the European African potential for business cooperation. It will take place from the 5th to the 9th of November in Hamburg. The said event is intended to provide a unique platform to increase understanding of the multiple trade and investment opportunities available across the African continent, highlighting the advantages of creating partnerships to tap into these opportunities and serve as promotional opportunity for organizations and individuals looking to establish credible business links in Africa.

We are working beyond rhetoric by building on the momentum already generated by the last G8 Summits, where Africa featured prominently – but also mean that we need the implementation that will help bring these ideas and plans to fruition to the last frontier “Africa”. Therefore we will have to see what will be in for Africa at the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm at the beginning of June.

As we are approaching the hot phase of preparation, this newsletter will inform you regularly of the progress and should also be a good vehicle to pass the message on to other interested stakeholders. We are keen to promote a new concept of Europe-African business partnership which can lead to a successful story.

Dr. James M. Kajete
Nepad Council European Representative

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Status of Programme and Organisation

The programme of EABS was updated in March 2007 to take account of the present priorities in the discussion of economic topics between Africa and the world at the moment. The date of the summit is now shifted to 5th to 9th of November (previously 6th to 10th) to accommodate different schedules of stakeholders to the event. It is planned to have several plenary sessions during the three days of the conference and a total of eighteen workshops/tutorials. Some side events may add to that

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A year ago, when the preparation for this big event started, our idea was to have a unique conference together with an exhibition and a gala event which would be a landmark in the business relations between Europe and Africa. We contacted several partners in this area of activity all over Europe and so far, it can be stated that we have been successful in positioning the event in the minds and hearts of all relevant partner organisations especially in Germany and Africa. We have also contacted several stakeholders in other European countries and the response is always very encouraging.

In Africa, the expectations are high to have such a prominent event for networking, matchmaking and presentation of African topics of importance.

In December, a meeting with all African embassies represented in Berlin was organised by the German Federation of Chambers, Commerce and Industry (DIHK) and the EABS concept was presented and discussed. Specific issues arose and it was agreed to have a constant exchange among the parties to be sure to keep track of the planning of all the necessary steps. A

similar event will take place to follow up on this first contact.

Likewise, the organising committee has been in contact with several organisations like the EU commission, DEG and KfW, the Afrika-Verein, the German Association of Industries (BDI), the Nepad Secretariat, the Investment Climate Facility (ICF), MPs, the Ministry of Economic Cooperation (BMZ), the Ministry of Economy (BMWi), Business Action for Africa and many others, to inform and to secure support for this event. The next steps will now be to confirm the participation of African and European companies, organisations, government delegations and other interested parties to this outstanding event.

On the organisation side, Interplan AG is serving as the event manager and the CCH Congress Center in Hamburg is the event venue. The exhibition will be organised by Global Fairs and the benefit concert by Africa Festival. The event is on schedule and for your information, you will find the updated programme on the last page of this newsletter. For more information see: <http://www.eabs.info>

NEPAD Council in Accra

From 11th to 14th of January 2007, the NEPAD Council vice chairman, Dr. Amichia Biley, was in Accra as part of the delegation of the German President, Prof. Horst Köhler. It was the first partnership forum of the German President's partnership initiative with Africa to be held in Africa (Accra, Ghana). It was co-chaired by President Köhler of Germany and President Kufuor of Ghana. Several other presidents, ministers and delegates from Europe and Africa were in attendance.

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“Two generations, one future” was the theme of the second conference of the “Partnership with Africa” initiative of the German President. The conference in Accra was part of a venture to build up a network of young leaders under the umbrella of the initiative to work on common strategies and suggestions. The event was prepared with a conference that was held at the end of November 2006 in Wittenberg in Germany, to prepare the associated fifty young leaders from Africa and Germany to get acquainted to each other and to enable them to finalise their papers related to their working groups in Accra. There the discussions took place in four working groups focussing on the topics: 1) environment and the natural habitat, 2) violence in everyday life and

armed conflicts, 3) educational and employment opportunities and 4) political participation in society.

NEPAD Council vice chairman, Dr. Amichia Biley, had the honour to moderate the working group on environment and to chair the high level discussion with the participation of President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, the German Minister of Economic Cooperation, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, several other representatives from politics, economics and the young leaders of this working group. The discussion was very active and fruitful and the results contributed to the final plenary session on the next morning with all participants reporting about a good atmosphere of collaborative solution seeking in their respective groups.

In the declaration of the Accra Conference covering the aspects of all four working groups, the young leaders worked hard and expressed their views and expectations from the “not so young” leaders in power. This declaration has meanwhile been distributed to heads of states and governments in Africa, Europe and the G8.

In his final remarks, President Kufuor underlined the boldness of the initiative and the will of African countries to take over their destiny with the aim to develop

steadily in the framework of NEPAD and with the support of their partners.

President Köhler stated that Africa was on the right path and still had a huge potential for a better future. He confirmed that he would stay committed to his initiative with the continent and asked the

young leaders to build up on the results of the conference by sticking to their engagement and continuing to develop networks of cooperation and solidarity.

To view more details, please have a look at: <http://www.partnerschaft-mit-afrika.de/content/index.php?id=23>

Partners and Stakeholders

As already stated above, we have been successful in contacting and mobilising several partners and stakeholders from Europe and Africa for the preparation of EABS 2007. As these should not stay anonymous, we will from time to time give you a presentation of selected partners we are working with in the preparation of this outstanding event, and their statements, as well as the contacted stakeholders.

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Wittenberg Center for Global Ethics

The Wittenberg Centre for Global Ethics (WCGE) as a strategic partner of NEPAD Council is an American-German initiative with world-wide impact. Their goal is to identify common ethical core principles that enable peace, justice, and prosperity in an emerging world society. Globalization, world economy, and competitive markets need to be utilized for the common good and the sustainable advantage of all people and they pursue ethics of leadership responsibility.

Based in the world-known historic city of Wittenberg, WCGE stimulate a global dialogue with current and future leaders from politics, business, and civil society. WCGE provide orientation for personal development and social competence. In order to realize WCGE's vision, they undertake projects aiming at world-wide inclusion

by global cooperation and its our pleasure to work with the Centre on different issues including the preparation of EABS 2007.

Europe-SADC States Bridge (ESSB)

All economies are driven by the private sector; the developing countries can not be an exception. Our consulting company would like to play a leading role in promoting private sector development in Africa through foreign direct investment (FDI) and trade facilitation between Europe and sub-Saharan Africa.

The EABS poses an important platform for interaction between African and European entrepreneurs enabling them to forge sustainable partnerships and boost economic development both in Africa and in Europe, for mutual benefit.

Dr. Alawi Swabury

University of Fort Hare (South Africa)

On behalf of myself and Prof Jan Raats, may I wish you a very prosperous 2007 and good fortune with the organisation of such an important venture as the Summit of November 2007 in Hamburg. We are currently busy organising the participation from the side of the University of Fort Hare and its partners in the MOU we have with NEPAD Council. There is great interest and we wish to ensure that everything we endeavour comes to fruition. We will be hosting a pre-summit conference in due course and it is great to see the recognition the University gets as a partner to the summit.

Lategan, Francois

European Commission

"I shall certainly take the opportunity to discuss the arrangements for the EU-Africa Business Summit more fully with my German counterparts in the coming weeks in order to best synchronise our respective efforts to give the private sector doing business in Africa a stronger voice and greater impulse"

Commissioner Louis Michel

African Commission

"Through closer collaboration and coordination of activities, both institutions will be able to achieve greater and more meaningful impact in the various private sector and business-related activities. In this way, we shall accomplish our common objective of rapid economic development of the African Continent"

Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba
 (Commissioner for Economic Affairs)

Africa Human Resources (AHR)

Africa Human Resources (AHR) is a German based recruiting company and a platform where companies and organizations with direct or indirect **interests in Africa** can meet professionals, managers and students. AHR is targeting mainly African talented and skilled professionals, students with international background who are willing to go back and work in Africa. AHR considers the African continent as a market with a huge development potential, more and more demanding for competent and skilled **persons**. AHR is committed to "brain return" and wants to play a major role in building human resources capacity for the African continent and we are proud to be part of the Europe Africa Business Summit taking place between 5th and 9th of November in Hamburg, Germany.

NEPAD News

In this section, you will find news from NEPAD secretariat and the network of civil society organisations working around the new partnerships idea, which are relevant to our audience.

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G8 APF and the Role of Civil Society Organisations

The G8 African Partnership Forum (APF) will take place on 22nd and 23rd May in Berlin. In preparation of the G8 APF, there have been series of meetings like the NEPAD/African Partnership Forum Civil Society in Johannesburg 17&18 of April 2007. There will be the G8 APF Civil Society meeting on 20th of May 2007 in Berlin organised by the Gender, Parliamentary Affairs & Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) unit of NEPAD Secretariat, the South African National NGO Coalition (SANGOCO), African Monitor and the Centre for African Policy & Peace Strategy (CAPPS) to enable the members of the CSOs to share and learn as well as participate in the preparatory process of the 8th and 9th sessions of the APF and the upcoming Heiligendamm G8 Summit. As a member of the NEPAD Secretariat's Gender, Parliamentary Affairs & Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) unit, NEPAD Council (NC) has and is participating in all these preparatory meetings.

The African Partnership Forum (APF) was born in the wake of the Evian G8 summit in 2003. The role of the Forum is to catalyze actions and to coordinate support behind Africa's priorities and NEPAD. In this regard, it identifies commitments that African countries and Africa's development partners have made to address the continent's development needs, including the NEPAD and African

Union (AU) programs, the Kananaskis G8 Africa Action Plan and follow up commitments made at Gleneagles and diverse UN commitments including the MDGs.

As you are aware, the relationship between Africa and its partners continues to be shaped by the Civil Society perspectives and within the context, NEPAD's engagement with G8 is geared towards achieving human centered development that can deliver social transformations in the 21st century. While the G8 has continued to welcome this initiative by integrating Africa into its annual summit agendas, its dialogue with key African leaders has lately considered the important role played by CSOs. This engagement, initiated in Kananaskis in 2002, was broadened and strengthened in November 2003 in the wake of the Evian G8 Summit.

Over the past three years, the APF has become a key forum at a senior political level for discussing and monitoring policy issues priorities and commitments in support of Africa's development and for promoting mutual accountability between African government and their partners. It meets twice each year and is co-chaired on an alternating basis by representatives of the African Union and NEPAD, and by G8 and non-G8

OECD member countries. The APF membership now includes 25 African countries, the NEPAD steering committee as well as Africa's major non G8 bilateral and multilateral developments partners.

This year, the Federal Republic of Germany assumes the chair of G8 and the presidency of the European Union. Germany has identified its priorities for G8 during its chairmanship including Responsible Investment, Gender, Climate Change, Good Governance and HIV & AID. These priorities are of key importance to Africa and NEPAD secretariat has already initiated the process of influencing the G8 Agenda for

2007, and is developing position papers in these priority areas within the APF framework.

So far, in conjunction with the APF-support unit, the secretariat has convened four Expert group meetings on Gender, Investment/trade, Peace & Security and Climate change to prepare the papers for discussion during the APF.

In order to ground the discussion in the priority areas, the Secretariat has created a platform for the Civil Society organizations to share their views ahead of the 8th and 9th APF and the 2007 Summit of the G8 and present recommendations.

On the road to Heiligendamm

The G8 Summit, chaired by Germany, will be held from 6th to 8th June in Heiligendamm. A lot of conferences and meetings have already occurred and the final meeting to prepare for this event will be organised in May. In this section, we will review the political and economic progress made so far and we will try to answer the question what can be expected from the German presidency of the G8 and the EU with respect to NEPAD.

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Big promises

G8 is the group of seven industrial states including Germany, the USA, Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan Canada plus Russia. Once a year their heads of states and governments meet. This time in June under the German chairmanship in Heiligendamm, help for Africa will feature on the agenda. Already in 1999 at the previous German G-8 summit in Cologne, a determining impulse was given for debt relief to the poorest countries of the world. Under

the British G-8 presidency it was decided in 2005 in the Scottish Gleneagles to speed up the debt relief and to double the development aid by the year 2010 worldwide to 50 million dollars. At least half of this should be to Africa.

Before the last summit, Sir Bob Geldof and Bono organised an international concert series under the title Live 8 to which about 1.7 million people came. Also Berlin was present.

In the matter of Africa, the MDGs of the United Nations are also important since the year 2000. One of the MDGs is to reduce the number of people who live on less than one dollar per day to a half by the year 2015. Very important is also the role the 2001 Doha Development Round of World Trade Organization negotiations plays, its aims to lower trade barriers around the world, permitting free trade between countries of varying prosperity. As of 2006, talks have stalled over a divide between the developed nations led by the European Union, the United States and Japan and the major developing countries (represented by the G20 developing nations), led and represented mainly by India, Brazil, China and South Africa.

Therefore before we know where we are going, we have to know where we are as we shall start in this issue by reviewing the political and economic progress so far made and we will try to answer the question what can be expected from the German presidency of the G8 and EU with respect to NEPAD.

What did G8 promise Africa?

- Debt relief
- Primary School Education for all
- Increase Development Aid
- Help with laying down the infrastructure for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment

What will happen when the G8 keeps its promise by the year 2010?

- 290 Million people would be free of their debts
- 85% of the people living in Malaria Zones would be supplied with medicines resulting in saving about six hundred thousand lives of children per year
- 9 Million needy people infected with HIV/AIDS would receive treatment.
- 12 Million orphans would be supported
- All children would get access to free primary education and
- Africa would receive p.a 25 Billions US-Dollar more as Development Aid

What are the main expectations from Germany?

- The world has welcomed the pronouncement of Chancellor Angela Merkel and her Government to put Africa on top of the agenda during the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm in June and this should translate into concrete progress on what has been promised
- It is now expected that the G8 under German leadership puts on the table concrete and monitorable implementation plans on how the promises can be realised by 2010.

Updated Programme of EABS 2007

Monday, 5th November 2007

(The exhibition in the foyer of the plenary hall will be opened at the same time starting from 08:30 AM)

08:30	Arrival and Registration throughout the day
12:30 - 14:00	Plenary Luncheon
	Opening of the Plenary & Welcoming Addresses
14:00 - 16:00	"Europe and Africa Trade and Investment Relations"
16:00 - 18:00	Plenary Session 1: Policy
18:00 - 19:30	Networking Break
19:30 - 22:00	Opening Reception
21:00	"Framing the Issues"
	Registration Closes

Dinner entertainment will include performances by African and European Artists.

Tuesday, 6th November 2007

07:00	Registration Open
07:00 - 08:00	Coffee
08:00 - 09:30	Plenary Session 2: Investment climate
09:30 - 10:00	Networking Break
10:00 - 12:00	Workshops in Parallel Session (See Workshop Agenda)
12:00 - 12:30	Press Conference with Heads of States
12:30 - 14:00	Plenary Luncheon
14:00 - 15:30	Plenary Session 3: Project Finance
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 - 17:30	Workshops in Parallel Sessions (See Workshop Agenda)
17:30 - 18:30	Plenary Session 4: Sustainable Development
18:30 - 19:30	Presentation of results of the various workshop sessions
20:00 - 22:00	Gala Reception

Wednesday, 7th November 2007

07:00 - 08:00	Coffee
08:00 - 09:30	Plenary Session 5:
	"Africa's Emerging Markets: Developing a Roadmap for Globalisation, Competitiveness and Integration"
09:30 - 10:00	Networking Break
10:00 - 11:30	Plenary Session 6:
	"Strengthening International Investment in Africa as poverty reduction strategy"
11:30 - 12:30	Plenary Session 7:
	"Africa's mass market and the growing middle-class"
12:30 - 14:00	Plenary Luncheon
14:00 - 15:30	Plenary Session 8:
	"Risk and Security Management in Africa's Trade and Investment"
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 - 18:00	Face-to-Face Business Meetings and Workshops in parallel

Thursday, 8th November 2007

08:00 - 09:00	Plenary Session 9:
	"Real and Sustainable Partnerships"
09:00 - 10:00	Closing Remarks
10:00 - 12:30	Face-to-Face Business Meetings and Excursions in parallel
12:30 - 14:00	Closing Luncheon
14:00	Summit Adjourned

The exhibition will continue until 18.00 on the 9th

1. All speakers are subject to final confirmation. Alterations to be reserved.
2. The conference language will be English.
3. Information stands of various countries will be available to the members of the summit in the foyer next to the plenary hall during all the conference.
4. Personal meetings between African ministers and decision makers from Europe can be arranged upon special request.

Imprint

Publisher:

NEPAD Council International Office Europe
 Am Weissen Steine 14
 37085 Göttingen, Germany
 Tel: + 49 (0) 551 3076916 / - 3077161
 Fax: + 49 (0) 551 3077140

Editorial Team:

Editor in Chief: Dr. Amichia Biley
 Members: Dr. Sam Essiamah;
 Raphael Fiagbomeh
 Layout: Dr. Amichia Biley
 Pictures: NEPAD Council