

(3)

AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP

ON

TRADE, REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

RATIONALE

Enhanced trade and deeper regional integration are essential contributions to development, economic growth and employment, and ultimately the eradication of poverty. Further efforts shall be made in particular to enhance the African integration agendas, both at the regional and Pan-African levels, and to strengthen African capacities to meet rules, standards and quality requirements which are essential to enable effective access to regional and international markets.

Africa has adopted socio-economic and political integration as a key development strategy. The EU has undergone a successful process of integration and can usefully share its experience with Africa.

The EU and Africa are determined to remove all obstacles to market access. Capacity building initiatives in this area will focus, in particular, on sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures. Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa are key actors to facilitate these harmonization and capacity enhancement processes.

Priority action 1: Support the African integration agenda

Objective

- The socio-economic and political integration of the continent in line with the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (Abuja Treaty).

Expected outcomes

- An accelerated integration process with the participation of all stakeholders, including those in the informal sector;
- Improved coherence and convergence of the integration processes between the AU Commission and the RECs;
- Enhanced African capacities to implement the integration agenda;
- Synergies between African integration processes and the EPAs, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, and bilateral trade agreements.

Activities

- Implement the Minimum Integration Programme for Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
- Ensure that the EPAs support Africa's regional integration efforts;
- Conduct the Study on the Quantification of Scenarios within the context of the rationalisation process;
- Enhance the role of the AU in the monitoring of the EPAs and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership involving North African countries;
- Enhance the capacity of the AU Commission, the RECs, and African countries to effectively coordinate and implement the integration agenda (including training in trade policy and negotiations);
- Engage other stakeholders such as the private sector, civil society and cooperating partners, to participate and support the integration process;
- Implement the African Charter on Statistics and exchange statistical and other information between the EU and the African side.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, Pan African Parliament, RECs;
- European Commission, EU Member States, European Parliament;
- Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA);
- Pan African organizations, such as United Cities and Local Government-Africa, African Institute on Governance, Alliance for a Renewed Governance in Africa;
- Civil society, private sector, local authorities, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), AfDB and other interested actors.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI and DCI;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States;
- AfDB, European Investment Bank (EIB).

Priority action 2: Strengthen African Capacities in the Area of Rules, Standards, and Quality Control

Objectives

- Enhanced capacity of administrations, producers and exporters at all levels to meet the regulatory requirements of export markets within Africa and the EU, thus allowing

diversification away from simple processed products;

- Enhanced competitiveness of African agriculture and agri-food industry through particular attention to Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Standards (SPS).

Expected outcomes

- Better informed producers and exporters capable of complying with the rules and regulatory requirements of export markets;
- A sufficient number of trained inspectors and customs officials to efficiently facilitate exports;
- A sufficient number of well-equipped and accredited laboratories, possibly to be shared amongst countries, for testing and certifying exports;
- Mutual recognition agreements on certain standards;
- A network to share information on market access, technical rules and regulations
- Diversification of exports;
- Progress towards the elimination of intra-regional non-tariff barriers to trade.

Activities

- Provision of training, in particular in the areas of inspection techniques, standards, quality assurance, accreditation, metrology, maximum residue levels, for inspectors and customs officials handling exports;
- Rehabilitation and modernization of African testing and certification laboratories, some of which could be shared by several countries, to empower them to perform more effectively;
- Negotiation of mutual recognition agreements as necessary on certain standards;
- Creation of a platform to share information on relevant issues and developments, including market access, rules and regulations;
- Improve technical knowledge to ensure that food and feed inspection services are operating efficiently and transparently;
- Strengthen risk-based animal health, plant health and food safety systems;
- Support the participation of African countries in SPS standard setting organizations.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, Pan African Parliament, RECs;
- European Commission, EU Member States, European Parliament;
- Civil society, private sector, ECA, AfDB and other Interested other actors;
- SPS standard setting organizations.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI and DCI;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States;
- African Development Bank, European Investment Bank.

Priority Action 3: Implement the EU-Africa Infrastructure Partnership

Objective

- Improved and sustained African infrastructure and services.

Expected outcomes

- Enhanced continental and regional integration and trade through better interconnectivity;
- Improved infrastructure networks and services;
- Strengthened African capacities in infrastructure management and policy development;
- Increased participation of the private sector in infrastructure development, including through Public-Private Partnerships;
- Increased and sustainable investments in physical infrastructure;
- Improved management of shared water-course systems.

Activities

- Implement the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure signed in Addis Ababa on 24 October 2007, including through the operationalization of the Partnership Steering Committee;
- Support the implementation of the AU/NEPAD Infrastructure Initiatives, including the Pan-African Infrastructure Development Fund;
- Improve the legal and regulatory environment for Public-Private Partnerships;
- Build capacities in the field of safety standards and regulations, in particular for air and maritime transport.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, Pan African Parliament, RECs;
- European Commission, EU Member States, European Parliament;

- Civil society, private sector, ECA, AfDB and other interested other actors.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI and DCI;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African States
- African Development Bank, European Investment Bank;
- Private Sector.