

The strategy is expected to go beyond the objectives of the current Minimum Integration Programme and to fast track the construction of a continental Free Trade Area, building on the Tripartite initiative

The EC representatives offered to share relevant documents and possibly attend preparatory meetings if invited, which was accepted.

5. The main items discussed for the first time within the partnership include the implementation of the African Agribusiness and Agro-industry Development Initiative (3ADI), the Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa (AIDA) and the support for Investment Promotion Agencies; the launch of an AUC study on a model investment code based on best practices; the preparation of the 2012 ministerial conference on industrial cooperation in Africa and the policy dialogue on small and medium enterprises; cooperation on organic farming and geographical indications; the possible cooperation with EuroGeo Services on geological sciences, including for high level training and computerised mapping of concerned countries or regions; the launch of a study on existing EU-Africa agreements, for which South Africa offered to draft terms of reference; the expected adoption of EU legislation on country by country reporting by companies exploiting mining or forestry resources in developing countries (transparency directive).
6. The following on-going activities are particularly underlined: the ongoing implementation of the ten point action plan on internal market policies; the ToRs of a feasibility study on the creation of an African Integration Fund submitted by AUC, following the COMAI V conference in September 2011; the nine areas on customs and trade facilitation challenges (AUC submitted in June 2011 five concept notes), for which it was agreed to consider the consolidation within a framework initiative for customs cooperation.
7. The meeting noted the difficulties mentioned in relation to AUC budgeting procedures, including for example the preparation for the Summit as the theme was decided after the 2011 budget had been adopted. Therefore, financial support was missing for the preparatory studies or meetings.

## **Climate Change and Environment**

A coordination meeting between the African and European co-chairs of the partnership, AUC, FAO (for 1<sup>st</sup> item) and the European Commission, provided the following update on the partnership activities:

- Outcome of Great Green Wall Steering Committee meeting, AA, 26-27/9 launching EU project to support AUC (13 African countries covered in total with FAO) (see separate summary).
- Durban/Joint Declaration – cannot discuss this in this group, needs for EU and African Group of Negotiators to meet and agree. Meeting in of UNFCCC in Panama for one week, starting this w/e.
- Biodiversity Conference for African States, March 2012, AA or Nairobi (with DG ENV funding as discussed at this am VC's) to present outcomes and recommendation of the TEEB study (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) to African States.

Discussions on-going with UNEP, AUC, EUAU, DG ENV & UNEP to prepare conference & ensure synergy with Natural Resources Accounting Initiative of the AUC.

- Disaster Risk Reduction– proposal for €70M to support African strategy implementation in DEVCO Intra-ACP unit's hands. Dialogue with AUC, EUAU, DEVCO, ECHO, UNiSDR& WFP.
- Rio + 20: agreed on need to work together to prepare for the next landmark: June 2012 Rio de Janeiro Global Conference on Sustainable development and Green growth.

Next JEG may take place either in the margin of Durban or in early 2012, in order to benefit from Durban outcomes and progress on various concrete Partnership Action plan initiatives e.g. GGW, AMESD & DRR.

## Science and Technology

On the 10th and 11th of October 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, research policy leaders from the African Union and the European Union and their respective executive Commissions met to prepare a policy agenda for extended cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation between Africa and Europe.

The adoption of the **Lisbon Partnership** in December 2007, with science and technology as a priority focus, boosted scientific cooperation between the two continents. Since then, the European Commission and the African Union Commission have together made substantial progress towards the identification of a broad range of scientific projects and initiatives. These have helped reinforce the African science and technology base and its research systems both in terms of **production and use of knowledge** and of **institutional capacity in science and technology policy**.

African participation in the European Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development has been increasing in recent years. To date, the direct budgetary contribution to African participants is approximately **€120 million** and the amount of European cooperation in science and technology with Africa, which makes this continent the preferred partner of FP7.

In order to maintain this momentum and to further consolidate the scientific cooperation between the two continents, the African Union and European Union agreed to set-up a **High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation** which engages them to **enhance and drive forward cooperation** between the two continents. Proposed by the EU during the AMCOST meeting in Cairo in March 2010 and consequently backed by the African Ministers of Science, this agreement was jointly endorsed by **the Africa-EU Joint Summit of Tripoli** in November 2010. In June 2011 **Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn** and **Commissioner Ezin** agreed to launch the first **Senior Officials' Meeting** of this dialogue at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa.

Held at the level of Directors General and Permanent Secretaries from the EU and African science and technology Ministries, the meeting included, amongst others, interventions from:

- **Jean-Pierre Ezin**, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, African Union Commission
- **Robert-Jan Smits**, Director-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission