



EU-Africa trade relations: towards new partnerships

Monday, January 10, 2022

Given the evolution of the health context, we are not in a position to welcome the audience in person. The entirety of the discussions will be livestreamed from our website, in a manner that will for the audience to interact with the panelists.

This international conference aims to highlight - a few weeks before the EU-AU summit - the priority of reshaping the European partnership with Africa when it comes to trade and investment. Organized in several roundtables, the conference will first discuss the current stakes and state of play of the EU-Africa's economic and commercial partnership. Then, the potential and perspectives of trade and investment relations between the EU and African countries will be addresses, through the prism of existing trade agreements in North Africa on the one hand, and in sub-Saharan Africa on the other hand.

Planning of the event

09h30 – Opening of the conference

- **Franck RIESTER**, Delegate Minister for Trade and Economic Attractiveness.
- **Valdis DOMBROVSKIS**, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission.
- **Betty Chemutai MAINA**, Cabinet secretary for Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise development of Kenya.
- **Ryad MEZZOUR**, Minister for Industry and Trade of Morocco.

Session 1

State of play and the current stakes of the EU-Africa's economic and commercial partnership

➔ 10:20 AM to 12:00 – Round table: State of play and current stakes of the EU-Africa's economic and commercial partnership

Opening of the roundtable

- **Overview:** Sandra KRAMER (*Director Africa – DG INTPA, EU Commission*).
- **Covered issues:** Status report and economic / trade stakes of the relations between the EU and the African continent.

Roundtable

- **Moderator:** Lionel FONTAGNE (*Economic professor, scientific advisor to the Centre d'Etude Prospectives et d'informations internationales*)
- **Guests:**
 - Kanayo AWANI (*Managing Director, Intra African Trade Initiative, Afreximbank*);
 - Valérie LEVKOV (*Senior Vice-President Africa and Middle East of EDF*);
 - Samira RAFAELA (*European MP, Renew Europe Group, member of the Committee on International trade*);
 - Christian YOKA (*Director of the Africa department of the AFD*).
- **Q&A with the remote audience**
- **Covered Issues:**
 - Outlook for the implementation of the "Post-Cotonou" agreement;

- Obstacles to regional and continental integration;
- the specificity of the EU's support to the African continent (including as an example of regional integration) as compared to other international donors;
- Evaluation and perspectives.

Session 2

What potentials and perspectives for the future of trade and investment relations between the EU and African countries?

→ 02:00 PM to 03:45 PM – Round table: Focus on trade relations between the EU and Northern Africa

02:05 to 02:15 - Keynote speech: Jean-Louis BORLOO (*former French minister, President of the « Energies pour l'Afrique » foundation*).

Opening of the roundtable

- **Overview:** Nasser KAMEL (*Secretary general, Union for the Mediterranean*).

- **Covered issues:** assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership at the time of strategic autonomy, with a focus on trade and Northern Africa.

Roundtable

- **Moderator:** Dorothee SCHMID (*Researcher, French Institute of International Relations*).

- **Guests:**

- Mohamed Sami AGLI (*President of the Algerian Confederation of Citizen Employers - CAPC*);
- Patricia AUGIER (*Professor, Aix-Marseille University*);
- Léon DELVAUX (*Principal adviser to the director general of the DG Trade, acting director E of the DG Trade*);
- Mohamed EL KETTANI (*CEO of Attijariwafa Bank*).

- **Q&A with the remote audience**

- **Covered Issues:**

- Evaluation (benefits, remaining obstacles) of the EU's trade relations with North African countries and the possible future sectors for their deepening;
- Opening on possible vectors to ensure a new momentum in trade relations;
- Development and revival of Euromed relations as a response to the need for strategic autonomy and security of supply chains through the shortening of value chains.

→ 04:00 PM to 05:30 PM – Round table : Focus on trade relations with Sub-Saharan countries

04:00 to 04:10 - Keynote speech: Olivier LAOUCHEZ (*Trace TV*).

Opening of the round table

- **Overview:** Maria MARTIN PRAT (*Delegate director general, DG Trade, EU Commission*).

- **Covered issues :**

- Trade regimes (Economic Partnership Agreements and Generalized System of Preferences) and negotiations with sub-Saharan African countries;
- State of play of the taking into account of sustainable development in trade regimes (EPAs and GSP).

Round table

- **Moderator:** Lionel ZINSOU (*former Prime Minister of Benin, economist, President of Terra Nova*).

- **Guests:**

- Jean Omer BERIZIKY (*Madagascar's Ambassador to Belgium and Representative to the European Union and international organizations in the Benelux area*);
- Abou DOSSO (*Côte d'Ivoire's ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and the European Union*);
- Aissata LAM (*Director general of the Mauritanian Investment Promotion Agency*);
- Phumzile LANGENI (*Presidential Investment Envoy, Chairman of Afropulse Group*);
- Patrick POIRRIER (*Vice-president Cocoa of the Cemoi group, President of the French chocolate syndicate, President of Alliance 7 – multi-professional food union*).

- **Q&A with the remote audience**

- Covered Issues:

- Renewal of trade relations with sub-Saharan Africa: broadening and deepening of EPAs - what trends to take into account and what benefits to expect?
- Coherence and complementarity of bilateral agreements with African countries in relation to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA);
- Taking into consideration sustainable development in trade agreements, the Generalized System of Preferences and the development of in-depth cooperations on due diligence (including the sustainable cocoa initiative in West Africa);
- Barriers and levers encountered by European companies to trade and invest in Africa.

05:45 PM – Closing ceremony speech

Mr. Jean-Yves LE DRIAN, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs