

ROUND TABLE

A new framework for investment and trade through a Partnership with Africa

In cooperation with the independent High Level Group on Trade Policy Innovation
www.highlevelgroup.eu

Brussels, Monday 6 May 2019

Venue
University Foundation
Francqui Meeting Room
Rue Egmont 11
1000 Brussels

Introduction

A real partnership between the African and European Unions can bring significant mutual benefits. However, it will not come without mutual efforts.

The first round table on the need of an updated AU-EU trade and investment framework, on 6th November 2018 in Johannesburg, concluded that a more innovative and inclusive approach is required to support Africa's sustainable economic growth. In coordination with the Compact for Africa, an AU-EU Partnership will require a paradigm shift to build the framework conditions which the private sector needs to create employment and welfare.

Experts and participants from the public and private sector agreed that innovative processes need to be fostered, in particular in the small and medium business sector, in order to develop products and services which the market, whether in Africa, Europe or globally, can take up. An inclusive approach is needed, linking research and innovation policy, entrepreneurship and capacity acceleration, and trade policy, and to make these the three pillars for sustainable economic growth.

Current trade agreements, such as the Cotonou Agreement and the Economic Partnership Agreement, are not effective enough to deal with this interdependence and to address future opportunities. The real basis of better integration of African economies in global value chains and for trade in added value goods in today's globalised economy will be the CFTA. This should be given priority in the new Partnership which the European Union promised to Africa.

The second round table, in Brussels on 6 May 2019, will build on this three pillar concept and explore how an AU-EU Partnership requires fundamental innovation in the trade and investment frameworks currently existing or under negotiation.

Program

09.30 – 10.00 - Welcome Coffee

10.00 – 11.00 - Opening & Key note speeches

- **Dr. Len Ishmael**, former chair of the ACP Ambassadors
Chairperson
- *The need to new thinking and change in the Africa-Europe relationship*
 - **Ambassador Awad Sakine Ahmat**, Permanent Representative of the African Union to the EU
 - **Günter Nooke**, Special Advisor of the German Chancellor

11.00 – 12.00 - Session I - New economic realities require new policy thinking

- *The future global, digitalised economy, the new context of trade*
Steven Pope, Vice-President Customs & Regulations, DHL
- *From development thinking to economic partnership*
Prof. Paul Collier, University of Oxford

Q&A

12.00- 13.00 - Session II - Making framework agreements work in the 21st century

- *Re-thinking Cotonou and EPA in the light of the CFTA, re-organising policy mechanisms in the EU*
Ambassador Dr Kaire Mbuende, chair of the ACP Ambassadors
- *New challenges and a more holistic approach to trade agreements*
Hans Peter van der Woude, deputy director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands

Q&A

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch

14h.30 – 16.00 - Session III - Global values chains and Africa's enterprises

- *Economic growth from a global perspective, through integration of local companies in GVCs of European companies.*
Prof. Davide Castellani, Henley Business School
- *Economic growth in Africa from a continental perspective, opportunities for local enterprises.*
Prof. Thembela Hillie, Pretoria

Q&A

16.00 – 16.30 - Session III - A new departure by the EU

- **Prof. Stefan Schepers**, secretary general of the High Level Group on Trade Policy Innovation

Q&A

16.30 Conclusions - The way forward to a real Partnership