



MISSION PERMANENTE DE L'UNION AFRICAINE

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The Permanent Mission of the African Union in Brussels presents its compliments to all the Embassies of the Member States of the African Union and the Representations of the Regional Economic Communities in Brussels and has the honour to invite them to participate in the Conference which the Mission organizes, in cooperation with the African Group of Ambassadors in Brussels, on the following theme: **“Role of the European External Action Service (EEAS) in the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy(JAES)” on Tuesday 19 April 2011 from 9.30 to 1.00 p.m** in the Hotel Metropole (31 Place de Brouckère, 1000 Brussels).

The Mission is organizing this Conference to better grasp the role of the EEAS in the political dialogue between Africa and Europe in general and the implementation of the Joint Strategy in particular. This event is a follow up to the Conference on the Lisbon Treaty and its repercussions on the relations between the EU and Africa, organized by the Mission in April 2010, during which participants had expressed the wish to pursue the discussions on the this event as a follow up to the Conference it had organized in April 2010 on the Lisbon Treaty and its impact on cooperation between EU and Africa, whereby the Group of African Ambassador in Brussels had expressed the wish to further discuss the new institutional architecture of the European Union, particularly the role of the EEAS.

The Conference will be moderated by H. E. Mr. Hanno Burkhard Rumpf, Ambassador of Namibia, Current Chairman of the African Group of Ambassadors in Brussels. Mr. Nicholas Wescott, Managing Director for Africa in the EEAS, will address the institutional and organisational aspects of the steering and implementation of the Joint Strategy. Messers René Kouassi and Klaus Rudischhauser, respectively, Director of the Economic Affairs Department of the Commission of the African Union and Director of Relations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States of the European Commission will make presentations on the aspects relating to the financing of the Joint Strategy.

The Embassies and the RECs Representations will kindly find attached hereto an Aide-Memoire on the Conference and the related Programme.

The Mission would like to request Their Excellencies the Ambassadors and the Minister Counsellors or First Secretaries to kindly grace this important Conference through their personal presence.

The Permanent Mission of the African Union in Brussels avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all the Embassies of the Member States of the African Union and the Representations of the Regional Economic Communities in Brussels the assurance of its highest consideration.



Brussels, 7 April 2011

**To All the Embassies of the Member States
of the African Union and the Representations
of the Regional Economic Communities in Brussels**

AFRICAN UNION

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UNION AFRICAINE

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CONFERENCE

THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE (EEAS)
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT EU-AFRICA STRATEGY AND ITS ACTION
PLAN

TUESDAY 19 APRIL 2011

HOTEL METROPOLE, BRUSSELS

AIDE-MEMOIRE

AIDE-MEMOIRE

Conference on the role of the European external action service (EEAS) In the implementation of the joint EU-Africa Strategy (JAES) and its action plan

Tuesday 19 April 2011
Hotel Métropole, Brussels

I. Background

The Lisbon Treaty was signed by 27 EU member states on 13 December 2007 and entered into force on 1 December 2009. It created the European external action service (EEAS), with the view to make the EU's external action more coherent and efficient, thereby increasing the European Union's influence in the world.

On 19 November 2009, Baroness Catherine Margaret Ashton was appointed the EU's first High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. She is also the Vice-President of the European Commission in addition to heading the EEAS. Article 27, paragraph 3, of the Lisbon Treaty constitutes the legal basis for the organization and the functioning of the EEAS¹.

The EEAS has become operational since the end of 2010, after adoption by the Council of all the legal instruments required for its organization and functioning². According to Baroness Ashton, the EU will be at the forefront in the area of development cooperation, through the EEAS. Although the development policy and its financial instruments will remain the responsibility of the Commission, any proposal or change in the EU development policy (European development funds and other development cooperation instruments), will be jointly done by the EEAS and the Commission. This joint programming seeks to foster harmonization between foreign policy, security and development policy. While it means that the EEAS plays a significant role in international cooperation and development policies, it still raises three fundamental questions over its role in the implementation of the JAES:

1. How can the EEAS goals on development cooperation be reached, given the fact that its means of action in this particular area seem limited?
2. What will be the place of the JAES in the action of the EEAS?

¹ Available on : <http://www.europaforum.public.lu/fr/dossiers-thematiques/2010/seae/index.html>

² On 26 July 2010, the Council adopted the Decision establishing the organization and functioning of the EEAS.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:201:0030:0040:EN:PDF>

On 17 November 2010, the Council adopted final legal acts for making the EEAS operational. Consult:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/117746.pdf

3. Who will be the main interlocutor of the AU Commission in the political dialogue between Africa and Europe, considering the fact that the partnership between the EU and Africa is broad and includes various areas of development cooperation?

II. Objectives

The AU permanent mission in Brussels is organizing a Conference on the role of the EEAS in the implementation of JAES in order to answer the aforementioned questions. With the recent adoption of a new Action Plan for 2011-2013 under the JAES, and the launch of the EU Green Paper on development policy, the question of the role of the EEAS in the implementation of JAES Strategy cannot be overemphasized. It should also be recalled that during the Conference on the Lisbon Treaty and its implications for the cooperation between EU and Africa organized by the Mission in April 2010, the participants had expressed the wish to further discuss the Lisbon Treaty, particularly the role of the EEAS. Therefore, this activity is a follow up to the Conference on the Lisbon Treaty and its overall objective is to deepen and broaden the debate on the EU-Africa partnership.

The specific objectives of the Conference are to exchange views on:

- The role and added value of the EEAS in development cooperation, particularly in the implementation of the JAES ;
- The existing and/or possible collaboration modalities between the EEAS and African stakeholders (AU Commission, African Group of Ambassadors in Brussels, etc.), in the implementation of the JAES.

III. Expected results

- 1) A clear understanding of the roles, responsibilities and areas of intervention of the EEAS in the implementation of the JAES ;
- 2) Identification of practical modalities that will enable the EEAS, the AU Commission and the African Group of Ambassadors in Brussels, to work in close collaboration for the implementation and follow up of the JAES.

IV. Participants

The Conference is being organized for the African Group of Ambassadors in Brussels and their collaborators, Africa's various partners and the African Diaspora in Europe.



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CONFERENCE ON THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE (EEAS) IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT AFRICA-EU STRATEGY (JAES) AND ITS ACTION PLAN

Tuesday 19 April 2011
09.30 a.m. to 1.00 p. m
Hotel Metropole, Brussels

PROGRAMME

8:00-9:00 : Arrival of participants

9:30-10:00 : *Welcome remarks*

Mr. Cheikh Niang, Officer in charge, AU Permanent Mission in Brussels

H.E. Ambassador Hanno Burkhard Rumpf, Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia, Chairman of the African Group of Ambassadors in Brussels and Moderator of the Conference

10:00-10:15 : *The Place of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy in the action of EEAS?*

Speaker: Mr. Nick Westcott, Managing Director for Africa, European External Action Service.

10:15-11:00 : Exchange of views: Questions and Answers

11:00-11:45 : *The financing of the JAES: constraints, issues at stake and prospects*

Speakers: Dr. René Kouassi, Director of the Economic Affairs Department, Commission of the African Union; **Mr. Klaus Rudischhauser**, Director General Affairs and Relations with ACP countries, European Commission.

11:45-12:30 : Exchange of views: Questions and Answers

12:30-13:00 : *Synthesis and Closing of the Conference*

13:00 : **Lunch Buffet**

2011-04-07

Conference on the Role of the European External Action Service (EEAS) in the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) and its Action Plan

Permanent Mission of the African Union in Brussels

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