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NOTE

From : Council
to : European Council
Subject : The EU and Africa: Towards a Strategic Partnership – The Way Forward and Key Achievements in 2006

1. Following approval in Council on 11 December 2006, a draft report entitled “The EU and Africa: Towards a Strategic Partnership – The Way Forward and Key Achievements in 2006” is attached.
2. Council submits the text to the European Council for adoption.

THE EU AND AFRICA: TOWARDS A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
THE WAY FORWARD AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2006

I. The way forward

In 2006, substantive progress has been made in many areas of the EU Africa Strategy, showing that the European Union remains determined to honour all the pledges made in the EU Africa Strategy's ten-year framework in view of helping Africa to reach the Millennium Development Goals. At the same time, more needs to be done. The EU needs to continue to implement its commitments with diligence and take new bold steps. To build on, and consolidate progress made in 2006, the European Council is therefore recommended to endorse the following priority actions for 2007:

1. Strengthen the strategic partnership with Africa:

- Reinforce the Political dialogue with the African Union and the Sub-Regional Organisations and expedite the work towards the holding of the *EU-Africa Summit* in Lisbon in the second half of 2007.
- Work towards a *Joint EU-Africa Strategy*, building on the principles of ownership and mutual accountability, to be worked out with the involvement of civil society and other stakeholders and to be adopted by the EU-Africa Summit.
- Increase the coherence and effectiveness of all EU external policies and promote *policy coherence for development* on the basis of the rolling PCD work programme for 2007. As one concrete measure, enhance the EU presence to the African Union in Addis Ababa.

- Implement and monitor the collective commitment in *scaling-up of our aid* to 0.56% of GNI by 2010 and 0,7% of GNI by 2015¹. Improve effectiveness of EU aid through aligning operations with African partner countries' policies, priorities and systems, using various instruments in a coherent, coordinated and flexible manner, including with other donors, and implement and monitor agreed measures such as joint multi-annual programming and division of labour building on existing processes whenever possible.
- Launch the global *Development Cooperation Instrument* with almost 17 billion € and the European *Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument* worth over 11 billion € for the period 2007-13 to which Africa will remain an important beneficiary, in addition to the 22,7 billion € for the ACP countries agreed over the 2008-13 period under the 10th *European Development Fund*.
- Pursue as soon as possible a structured trilateral dialogue on Africa with China as agreed in the 9th *EU-China* Summit, in support of common interests and Africa's own commitment to poverty reduction and sustainable development underpinned by peace and security, human rights, good governance, democracy and sound economic management.
- Agree to *review progress* in relations with Africa in December 2007 and on an annual basis thereafter. This review should be based on an in-depth discussion in the relevant Council Working Groups on the implementation of the EU Strategy and on lessons learnt.

¹ The full text, accompanied by the relevant minutes statements, is set out in the Conclusion of the Council of 24 May 2005 (Ref. 9266/05).

2. SUPPORT AFRICA'S QUEST FOR PEACE AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:

- Intensify dialogue, cooperation and partnership on the challenges of conflict and insecurity with the African Union (AU) and Sub-Regional Organisations (SROs). Step up support for African capacity building for conflict prevention, management and resolution, closely geared to further concrete progress in developing the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). This will include targeted assistance to the African Standby Force, including structured and cohesive EU training assistance, and support for logistics requirements. This will be closely coordinated with the African side and other international partners. We will continue to provide financial and technical contributions to African peace support operations and will enhance overall coherence of EU support through greater co-ordination of activities undertaken by Member States individually or collectively, by the Commission and the Council General Secretariat.
- Continue to work towards a comprehensive peace in Sudan and work with the African Union to find a sustainable political solution in *Darfur*, including through support to the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), and an increased role of the UN in line with the conclusions of the high level meeting in Addis Ababa on 16th November. Continue to engage in the Sudan as a whole, particularly as concerns support and evaluation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The regional dimension, especially Chad and Central African Republic, shall be taken into account.
- Work with African partners to consolidate stability and improved governance in the *Great Lakes* region, in particular with regard to the DRC and Burundi. Specific focus will be given to the envisaged EU coordinating role in the field of security sector reform and the follow-up to the transition in the DRC.
- Actively strive to prevent and combat the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in Africa.

- Support African efforts to strengthen the ***governance*** performance of African states and regions, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, and promote civil society and other non state actors through bilateral programs and the Governance Initiative. Support the fight against corruption, human trafficking, illegal drugs and organized crime. Cooperate more systematically in the field of democracy promotion, ***human rights*** and gender through a reinforced political dialogue. Collaborate with other international and regional organisations with experience in the field of governance. Remain strongly committed to the implementation of the UNSC resolution 1325 in post-conflict and reconstruction countries. Ensure the mainstreaming of gender issues in all EU policies and actions. Deploy European Union Election Observation Missions to key elections. Consider other forms of EU electoral support and monitoring where feasible.
- Improve governance in the field of environment and sustainable management of resources. In particular, conclude agreements under the EU Action Plan for ***Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade*** (FLEGT) with 6 African countries, continue the work of the ***Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative*** (EITI) to allow 5 more African countries to report against EITI criteria and implement the ‘***Kimberley Process Certification Scheme***’ for diamonds.

3. **BOOST BROAD-BASED ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

- Encouraged by the recent re-starting of informal negotiations on the ***Doha round*** urge all countries to work hard and show the necessary flexibility for an ambitious, pro-development outcome of the negotiations.
- Finalise in partnership with the ACP the formal and comprehensive ***Economic Partnership Agreements*** (EPAs) review in accordance with the joint ACP-EU declaration and the Cotonou Agreement. Conclude negotiations on EPAs as instruments for development that promote regional integration by the end of 2007. The institutional arrangements to be established should include the setting up of an appropriate and transparent monitoring mechanism.
- Strive to reach the target of €1 billion from Member States and €1 billion from the EC in support of the ***aid for trade initiative***, by 2010. To this effect, agree on a Joint EU Aid for Trade Strategy as set out in the Council Conclusions of October 2006.

- Reach agreement on revised **Rules of Origin** under the Generalised System of Preferences as well as other preferential schemes of the EU, based on the principle that these be as simple, transparent and development friendly as possible, following the Review currently underway.
- Continue and accelerate the implementation of the comprehensive EU Action Plan on **agricultural commodity dependency** and the cotton action plan including on the Price Management operation.
- Note the Declaration adopted at the EU Africa **Business Forum** held on 16-17 November and the idea of the second Forum in the second half of 2007.
- Facilitate interconnectivity at inter-regional and continental level through bilateral programs and EC Aid, for example the EU-Africa Partnership on **Infrastructure**, including through the operationalisation of its Trust Fund. Promote clean energy, energy efficiency, access to energy and sustainable use of resources, including through the implementation of the Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund for Africa.
- Promote broad-based economic and pro-poor growth and opportunities for **decent work** for all.
- Pay increased attention to **food security** and agricultural productivity growth.
- Work with Africa to face the challenges of sustainable development and environmental degradation including desertification. Accelerate action on **climate change, including adaptation**, by building on the review of the EU Action Plan on Climate Change and Development that will take place in 2007. Support partner countries through clean development initiatives and capacity building on sustainable resource management. Increase the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and environmental issues in development programs.
- Accelerate efforts to provide clean **water** and adequate sanitation including by reinvigorating the 2002 EU Water Initiative.

4. INVEST IN PEOPLE

- Support African partner countries to ensure that all children complete good quality primary schooling by 2015. Promote predictable financing to long term national *education* sector programmes. Foster regional centres of excellence for research and higher education, inter-alia through the Nyerere Programme, a new student exchange scheme across Africa.
- Provide further, also on a long-term predictable basis, robust financial and technical support to African countries in their efforts to deliver decent health care and to confront *HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis* noting the EU is likely to provide more than 65% in 2007 of the total contributions of the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria. Step up EU support to the development of new preventive technologies such as vaccines and microbicides and demonstrate strong leadership with respect to the need to reach out to vulnerable groups with prevention and treatment and care. Implement the EU action plan on recruitment of health workers. As concerns other communicable diseases, Member States will continue to provide considerable support to the WHO and also subscribe to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, the African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control, the Medicines for Malaria Venture, the international finance facility for immunisation (IFFIm) and the International Drug Purchasing Facility (UNITAID).
- Make *migration* work for development while combating trafficking, minimising adverse effects such as brain drain and strengthening the protection of refugees, through the implementation of the declarations and actions plans adopted at the EU Africa Ministerial Meeting in Tripoli of 22-23 November and at the regional Ministerial Euro-African Conference in Rabat of 10-11 July. The EU recognises the role played by migrants and diaspora communities in the development of their countries of origin and destination.

II. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU AFRICA STRATEGY

Africa has remained at the top of the political agenda in Europe and the Strategy has proved to be a useful common framework for united European progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The following summarises the key achievements in relation to the main objectives of the 2005 Strategy. (A report on the implementation of the Strategy by the Commission and the SG/HR has already been provided to the GAERC in October).

1. DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION

One of the most positive developments since the adoption of the Strategy is the intensification of the EU's cooperation and dialogue with the pan-African institutions, notably the African Union (AU). The EU Africa Ministerial Troika Meeting in Bamako in December 2005 welcomed the then newly adopted EU Africa Strategy and agreed to progressively develop a "**Joint EU/Africa Strategy**". Preparatory work on this Joint Strategy has begun in July 2006. In addition to that, a consultation process, involving important stakeholders on both the European and African side has been agreed by the EU Africa Ministerial Troika Meeting in Brazzaville in October 2006. This process is set to start in January 2007. Taking into account the outcome of these consultations, a draft Joint Strategy will be prepared and submitted for adoption by a second EU/Africa summit to be held under the Portuguese Presidency of the EU in 2007.

There has also been progress in deepening the cooperation and partnership between the European Commission, the Council General Secretariat and the AU Commission as part of the EU/Africa dialogue. A third **meeting of the two Commission Colleges** was held on 2 October 2006 in Addis Ababa, with the participation of President Barroso and a number of other Commissioners as well as a senior level representative of SG/HR Solana. A concrete outcome of the meeting was the agreement on an institutional support programme of €55 million for the AU and the launching of an inter-institutional exchange programme for officials and trainees. A number of Member States have also provided significant assistance to further the **institutional development** of the AU and Africa's Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Discussions are currently underway concerning donor basket funding mechanisms once adequate financial systems are in place, and several Member States are willing to scale up support once progress has been made in this area.

2. PEACE AND SECURITY

One important topic for this dialogue is African capabilities and efforts to prevent, manage and resolve conflict and to keep peace in their own continent. The Presidency, SG/HR Solana and the Commission have been in regular contact with their AU counterparts, as have several individual Member States and the AU. Discussions and cooperation have focused both on crisis and conflict matters and on support for the establishment of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), including the establishment of the African Standby Force (ASF).

In many cases this dialogue has led to common political approaches, strategies and actions. In some cases the EU has also provided direct financial support to African-led peace support operations. A key example is *Darfur* where the EU has provided a total of €242 million from the African Peace Facility (APF), as well as bilateral financing and a significant number of military and civilian police personnel, for the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS). Many Member States as well as the Commission have also been heavily engaged in humanitarian assistance and reconstruction support including in the South. Together with other partners, four EU Member States recently opened a joint donor office in southern Sudan to coordinate this support. The APF has also been used to fund the CEMAC-led FOMUC-operation in the *Central African Republic* and to – complemented by a Member State's bilateral support of €740,000 – support a short-term AU-led mission in the *Comoros* during the election period in the spring of 2006.

To allow for a continuation of the EU support to African-led operation, it was decided to increase the short term funding of the APF by €50 million and to provide an amount of €300 million for the APF from the 10th EDF for an initial three-year period.

In other conflicts and peace processes, AU/EU cooperation has taken place within the context of a UN framework. This was for example the case for the deployment of the military force EUFOR which was done at the request of the UN Security Council, and welcomed by the AU. EUFOR helped to protect the electoral process in *Democratic Republic of Congo* complementing the efforts of the UN's MONUC mission. Several Member States were also heavily involved in this process, including through provision of military personnel, equipment and financial resources for MONUC and EUFOR, as well as through considerable support to the electoral process and reconstruction efforts, and involvement in the wider political process in the Great Lakes region.

In addition, the EU played a major role in the efforts to restore peace and stability in *Somalia*. The Commission and a number of Member States are members of the international contact group for Somalia and the EU as a whole has over the last year provided considerable development assistance focussing on governance, security, emergency humanitarian relief and assistance to service delivery, as well as de-mining activities. In the *Ivory Coast*, several Member States have provided humanitarian assistance and supported UNDP to carry out programmes for DDR activities. One Member State and the Commission have also provided financial support to the Office of the Special Representative of the UNSG for the elections. At EU level, cooperation took place within the framework of the International Working Group (IWG) tasked to monitor the peace process. The EU and also its Member States have invested in the peace process between *Ethiopia and Eritrea*. One Member State has reported a provision of €5 million to the UN Trust Fund for the Support of the Peace Process (2004-06) and another has provided €520,000 of non-operational support.

To *strengthen Africa's own capacity to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts*, Member States remain active through bilateral instruments and programmes. Examples include targeted financial support for the implementation of the AU's Peace and Security Agenda, assistance in the build-up phase of the African Standby Force and for the strengthening of the AU Commission's Peace and Security Department. Many also assist the peace and security frameworks of regional organisations such as IGAD, ECOWAS and SADC. Several Member States conduct training courses for African officers and provide financial and technical support for African peacekeeping schools, including African Centres of Excellence. In some cases, the financial support is focused on vulnerable groups, such as programmes for child-soldiers in Burundi, Rwanda and the DRC, while other programmes target women and children associated with fighting forces and groups and disabled ex-combatants.

As a response to the emerging African Peace and Security Architecture, the Council General Secretariat and the Commission in June 2006 jointly presented a proposed "**European Union Concept for strengthening African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts**". The Concept aims at better combining EU and Member States resources and instruments in a coordinated, coherent and consistent manner. This approach has already been successfully applied during the EU's financial and technical support for the efforts of the AU and the SROs to draw up a concept for the future African Standby Force. To identify potential areas for further support under the capacity building envelope of the APF, the AU Commission, with the support of the Commission and the CGS, in 2006 launched an assessment of long-term African needs in the field of peace and security. The needs-assessment should lead to a comprehensive support programme for the AU and relevant SROs.

Progress has also been made in the area of post-conflict reconstruction and considerable attention and resources have been devoted to the strategically important area of **Security Sector Reform (SSR)**. The EU has now adopted a policy framework for support to SSR that combines to the extent possible the potential of Community and CFSP/ESDP instruments (Council Doc 9967/06). ESDP involvement with SSR in Africa has taken place in the DRC through the EUSEC and EUPOL missions. The Commission has also provided support to SSR in 26 African countries through capacity assistance to the building of law enforcement agencies and key ministries in the areas of justice reform, rule of law and civilian oversight. Finally, in 2006 the Finnish Presidency launched an initiative of defining the role of the EU in **Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)**.

3 HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Human rights issues are integral to the EU's work with individual countries in Africa, covering dialogue and support programmes for human rights, children's rights, democracy and governance. For the ACP countries these issues are addressed through the political dialogue, in accordance with **Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement**, supported by practical approaches such as support to the consolidation of civil society, the strengthening of parliaments, and decentralisation. Much attention has also been paid to reinforcing public administration structures, with many Member States focusing their bilateral aid programmes on strengthening local authorities and improving public financial management.

EU *Election Observation missions* (EOM) have been deployed in the DRC, Uganda, Zambia Mauritania and EU electoral experts were sent to Madagascar. Member States have supported targeted interventions in related areas such as providing voting material, civic education and encouraging freedom and independence of press in partner countries, notably through support to local media, and programmes to strengthen national parliaments.

Where political dialogue has failed to prevent or adequately address situations of serious violations of human rights, the rule of law or democratic processes, such violations have continued to be addressed through consultations under *Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement* with Liberia, Guinea, Mauritania, Togo and Zimbabwe. Following consultations, normal political dialogue and full cooperation was resumed with Liberia, while progress was observed in Guinea, Togo and Mauritania.

The EU Strategy places specific emphasis on the management of natural resources as a specific aspect of good governance, notably because of the close link between this and peace and stability in many countries. Key actions in 2006 included active participation in the *Kimberly Process* and the *Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative* (EITI); the implementation of the 2003 *EU Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)*, and support to the *Diamonds for Development* (D4D) initiative in Liberia. One Member State was engaged in the programmes for sustainable use of resources in the fisheries (NAUTA Programme) and energy (oil and gas) sectors, and provided €1 million to UNEP for the generation of sustainable forestry in Kenya.

Last but not least, the Commission has adopted the *Communication "Governance in the European Consensus on Development - towards a harmonised approach in the EU"* (COM 2006(421)). This "Governance Initiative" includes an incentive mechanism that will give ACP partner countries access to additional funding according to their commitments to achieve concrete results in their democratic governance reform programmes. €2.7 billion from the 10th European Development Fund will be reserved for such incentives, which also will include political and financial support for the African Peer Review Mechanism. On 16 October 2006 the Council adopted Conclusions to welcome this approach, to emphasise that governance is a central element in the EU relations with partner countries, including development cooperation, and to guide activity forward.

4. REGIONAL INTEGRATION, TRADE, PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERCONNECTIVITY.

Negotiations for *Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA)* have progressed with the four African EPA regions. A lot is at stake in these negotiations for both sides, and a number of important issues still need to be addressed. However, the EU is confident that solutions can be found and that the deadline for the conclusion of the agreements by the end of 2007 will be met. A number of Member States have financed studies to further support the EPA process. Several are also in the process of developing specific regional programmes to address cross-border challenges and provide targeted support directly to RECs to be able to better engage in the negotiations. Member States are also committed to provide further support for *Aid for Trade*, in addition to the existing programmes financed with EDF resources. The target is €1 billion from Member States and €1 billion from the EC by 2010, of which a substantial share should be devoted to ACP countries.

Member States remained engaged in *infrastructure development* via numerous international initiatives, including the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa. In particular, assistance was provided for the water sector, where several Member States are key players in the global sector dialogue taking place for example in the Global Water Partnership, the World Bank Water and Sanitation Program-Africa (WSP-AF), the UN Water Board and the UNEP Dams and Development Project. Several Member States also support cooperation between regional river-basin organizations. Other bilateral support programmes for infrastructure development included technical assistance to the African Development Bank, support for the program for Biomass Energy Conservation in Southern Africa and support to the World Bank (e.g. to the West African Program for Traditional Energy (RPTES) and the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program).

The Community will set up an EU-Africa **Partnership on Infrastructure** (COM(2006) 376 final, 13 July 2006). The Partnership, a joint EU effort, responds to the development goals of the AU and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). It aims at substantially increasing the EU's investment in African infrastructure and to support programmes that facilitate interconnectivity at a continental and regional level: identify and address missing links in existing networks, harmonise transport policies, develop integrated water management, develop cross-border and regional energy infrastructure and promote efforts to bridge the digital divide. A total amount of up to €5.6 billion from the 10th EDF will be allocated to support the African Infrastructure. Efforts will be supported by a **new financial fund for infrastructure in Africa**, implemented jointly with the European Investment Bank (EIB). This Fund is an innovative way for the Community and interested Member States to co-finance projects with the EIB and other European and African financial and development institutions. On 16 October 2006 the Council adopted Conclusions on the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure, wherein it has underlined the EU's belief that infrastructure is a key driving force for economic and human development in Africa.

The EU Africa Strategy underlines the need of much more **foreign investment** to promote economic growth. Several Member States also support the Investment Climate Facility for Africa. and some operate bilateral investment funds and investment organisations, some of which have a particular focus on micro-finance while others focus on the promotion of public-private partnerships (PPPs). At EU level, the Investment Facility of the EDF (€1.2 billion from the 9th EDF) is a major source of financing for the private sector and for supporting the creation of PPPs. To give more visibility to the African private sector and to improve its chances of creating business opportunities, a **first EU-Africa Business Forum**, was organised in November 2006 in Brussels, demonstrating considerable interest by the private sector from both continents to engage further in this dialogue.

5. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Migration has become one of the key topics of the EU/Africa dialogue. A regional Euro-African Conference was organised in Rabat on 10-11 July and an *EU/Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development* took place in Tripoli on 22-23 November 2006. The Tripoli conference resulted into a joint EU-Africa declaration on Migration and Development which provides a strong basis for further cooperation between the two continents. Dialogue on Article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement has been initiated with Mauritania, Mali and Senegal and will be extended to other countries. The EU aims to work in partnership to make best possible use of the opportunities that migration offers. Complementary measures of Member States in support of this policy included the signing of protocols of bilateral targeted cooperation agreements with selected African states, aiming at the training of officials as well as the support of the respective law making processes on migration. Another measure is the establishment of an observatory of migration movements with these countries, to promote a better knowledge of the migratory realities in the countries involved, through legislative and statistical information, studies in the field of migration and asylum, and the creation of a contacts network. One Member State has developed a specific set of policies in place to address brain drain of key workers coming to its borders, including a code of practice on international recruitment, in particular for health workers.

6. OTHER KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

The Community and almost all Member States remained involved in the support to the *education sector*, at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. In primary education, many strongly support the Education for All initiative. Many also support networks between universities such as the Development Partners in Higher Education (DELPHE) initiative, research cooperation with European universities, support to the African Association of Universities and specific support to various African institutions with a sub-regional task for tertiary education in various themes. Some Member States also provide scholarships for African students. At EU level, and in addition to substantive support via the bilateral aid programmes, discussions are taking place on modalities for Community support to the AU in setting up the *Nyerere Programme* (a student exchange programme between African universities and research institutions), and an *"ACP window" in the Erasmus Mundus programme* is likely to be provided for 2007 to enable more African students to take part in post-graduate courses in Europe.

As concerns the *fight against HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases*, Member States and the Community continue to be heavily engaged. At the global level, the EU action comes via participation in the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. In 2006/2007 the EU is likely to provide more than 65% of total contributions, which represents a considerable increase. Not including Member States' additional bilateral efforts, the EU contribution to the Fund in 2006 amounts to €90 million (out of which €62 million comes from the EDF and €28 million from the EC budget). Member States are also running targeted programmes with individual partner countries and with regional organisations such as ECOWAS and EAC. Examples are activities financed via the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) and the Hope for African Children Initiative (HACI).

Many Member States and the Community were strongly involved in the *food security* sector, primarily as an integral part of country programmes and through support to the FAO and the WFP as well as for regional early warning systems. One Member State intends to establish a specific Hunger Task Force, drawing together its public and private sector expertise to support international efforts to reduce hunger. Several Member States provide support to agricultural and livelihood research, working closely with partners such as ASARECA (Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa), CORAF (West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development) and FARA (Forum for African Agricultural Research). The Commission is currently finalising the programming for 2007-2010 of its Thematic Programme on Food Security, with a special emphasis on Research and Technology on Global Public Goods, supporting continental and regional approaches to food security, promoting innovation to fight food insecurity, improving food security response strategies through better linking information and decision making and supporting advocacy, harmonisation and alignment.

In the field of *environment* Member States are providing support for the Global Environment Facility, the High Seas Task Force on illegal fishing, the implementation of the G8 commitment to help Africa benefit fully from the Global Climate Observing System and to the emerging strategic approach to international chemicals management. The Commission is closely involved in discussions with the AU on issues such as desertification, sustainable water and forest management, climate change, environmental security and environmental monitoring through observatories. The decision to fund the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) programme (€21 million) that will be implemented and coordinated by the AU is a first step in increasing the use of Earth Observation data in natural resource management and in moving towards a continental approach to cross-border issues.

The cooperation with African authorities regarding *Avian Flu* has been stepped up. During the Beijing conference, the Community and its Member States pledged a total of €210 million in response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), out of which €10 million is financed from the MEDA programme and €30 million from the EDF. A further €30 million come from the 6th Research Framework Programme.

A dialogue is ongoing between the EU and African partners to identify mutual benefits and needs for cooperation in the area of *Science, Technology and Research*. In addition to numerous activities within previous framework programmes for research (in particular, the management of natural resources, food security, environment and the currently implemented "European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership, EDCTP, which is a research programme for development of new vaccines and drugs to tackle major communicable diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria), the 7th EU Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7), which will come into force in 2007, is open to participation by third countries for research activities in all areas of the framework programme.

As concerns the promotion of *labour markets and decent work*, the Commission hosted a major international conference on the subject in December, to promote further dialogue among key stakeholders. Efforts via bilateral channels include support to the Youth Employment Network (for example the establishment of a Youth Employment Unit for West Africa in Senegal) and to the ILO's Decent Work Country Programmes which will link to national plans in Africa as well as financial support to trade unions and promotion of social dialogue.

7. MORE AND BETTER AID

The EU remains on track to achieve its initial collective 0.39% ODA target by 2006 and its intermediate collective 0.56% ODA target by 2010, and to ensure that half of the envisaged collective aid increases as of 2006 will be allocated to Africa. Today 51% of EU ODA is allocated to sub-Saharan Africa and seven sub-Saharan countries are among the top ten recipients of EU aid.

The bulk of the financial support provided by Member States and the Community was channelled through the regular and long-standing cooperation programmes with individual countries and regions. The Commission has in 2006 progressively sought to align its planning and tools for dialogue with partner countries with the principles and priorities of the EU Africa Strategy. The main vehicle is the *10th European Development Fund* with €22.7 billion for the period 2008–2013, out of which approximately €20 billion will be allocated to Sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa). The other main instrument for translating the Strategy into practice at EU level is the *European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument* (ENPI). The support under the ENPI for partner countries in North Africa for the period 2007–2013 is currently being programmed. Africa will also remain an important beneficiary of other budget funded *external actions instruments* covering the period 2007-2013 such as the new Development Cooperation Instrument, the new Stability Instrument and the new Instrument for the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights. ECHO will also continue to provide humanitarian and emergency aid. All in all, those instruments will add at least another €4 billion to the Community's support to Africa.

For Member States with a long-standing cooperation with Africa, the Strategy has become one of several sets of commitments to Africa in addition to existing national policy and implementation frameworks. It is interesting to note that as concerns the Member States who joined the EU in 2004, the EU Africa Strategy has greatly helped shaping the emerging policy frameworks for cooperation with Africa and has encouraged these countries to intensify the cooperation with Africa. The EU Strategy has in this context been seen as a helpful tool in selecting priority countries for aid programmes, in linking aid activities to the Millennium Development Goals and in combining aid activities with political, economic and social relations with African countries. Several of the new EU Member States have also, since the adoption of the EU Africa Strategy, placed greater emphasis on addressing the security concerns of our African partners and assisting them in development of pan-African regional instruments of crisis prevention, early warning and crisis management.

Last but not least, the EU has fully endorsed the commitments on *aid effectiveness* set out in the March 2005 Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness. In 2006 the EU has developed a number of concrete measures for immediate implementation of the commitments such as a format for Country Strategy papers and principles towards joint multi-annual programming and a mandate to make further progress on complementarity. Joint programming is being prepared in countries such as Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, Somalia and Ethiopia.
