



# INFRASTRUCTURES AT THE HEART OF THE AFRICA-EU COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EU-AFRICA ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STAKEHOLDERS' NETWORK

European Economic and Social Committee, JDE 63  
2 March 2021, Brussels – **Public event (web streamed)**

**14.30-18.30 Brussels time (GMT+1)**

## Programme



14.00-14.30 **Connection test – platform INTERACTIO**

14.30– 14.35 **Introductory remarks by Carlos TRINDADE, president of the ACP-EU Follow-up Committee**

14.35 – 15.40 **Session 1 – COVID-19, a new priority for the partnership**

**Moderator, Jacqueline MUGO, Executive Director of the Federation of Kenya Employers**

- Impact of the pandemic in Africa from the perspective of the organised civil society of the African Union (AU), **Denise A.O.KODHE**, Presiding officer – African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU ECOSOCC), Director General – Institute for Development and Leadership in Africa (IDEA)
- “The COVID-19 pandemic in Africa and the coordinating role of the WHO”, **Dr Matshidiso MOETI**, Regional Director for Africa, World Health Organization
- The European Union (EU) support to Africa in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, **Gabriella FESUS**, Head of Unit – Social Inclusion and Protection, Health and Demography, Directorate General INPA (former Dg DEVCO) of the European Commission

- Médecins sans frontières (MSF) and the EU on global COVID-19 response/access to COVID tools, **Inma VAZQUEZ**, representative to the EU and NATO and MSF COVID-19 experience in Africa, **Salha ISSOUFOU**, Director of operations MSF West and Central Africa

*Debate with contributions from participants*

15.40 – 16.45

## Session 2: Green Deal: modelling partnership for development and growth in Africa

Moderator, **Lutz RIBBE**, EESC member

- Presentation of the High-level economic and green investment forum EU-Africa (22-23 April) by **Bernardo Ivo CRUZ**, Counsellor for Cooperation Africa, Portuguese Presidency of the Council
- SMEs and circularity as a tool for sustainable economic growth, **Jocelyne LANDRY TSONANG**, African Circular Economy Network
- An example of contribution to the great green wall of the Sahara and Sahel, **Anaïs AMAZIT**, cluster of Environment and Climate Change, AU-EU Youth Hub
- "All decentral! Energy supply, financing and ownership without hierarchies", **René MONO**, Solaris Offgrid

*Debate with contributions from participants*

16.45– 17.00

*Break*

17.00 – 18.05

## Session 3 – The role of the AfCFTA in Africa's economic integration

Moderator, **Thomas WAGNSONNER**, EESC member

- The EU's support to the AfCFTA: Political support, financial support and trade policy support, **Ewa SYNOWIEC**, Director responsible for sustainable development, European partnership agreements, Directorate General for Trade of the European Commission
- Free trade in Africa, implementation conditions for the benefit of workers and people, perspectives from workers, **Anselme AMOUSSOU**, Secretary General of the Confederation of Autonomous Trade Unions of Benin (CSA-Benin) and member of the Economic and Social Council of Benin.
- The role of the African Continental Free Trade Area in the continental economic integration, **Amadou SAKO**, External advisor for Africa, International Organisation of Employers
- The integration of the African airspace, **Bayla SOW**, Syndicat de l'aviation civile du Sénégal

*Debate with contributions from participants*

**18.05 – 18.15** Final exchanges and conclusion in view to preparing the final declaration, Carlos TRINDADE, president of the ACP-EU Follow-up Committee

**18.15** End of seventh meeting

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