



SUMMIT BACKGROUND NOTE

4th EU-AFRICA summit Brussels, 2-3 April 2014

Following the previous summits held in Cairo, Lisbon and Tripoli, the fourth EU-Africa summit will take place in Brussels, Belgium, on 2-3 April under the theme "Investing in People, Prosperity and Peace".

The EU will be represented by President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy and President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso. The summit brings together the Heads of State and Government of the European Union and the African continent, together with the EU and African Union institutions. A range of high-ranking international observers will also be associated.

The summit will illustrate how EU-Africa relations have evolved over the past years, will highlight the results achieved by the Continental Partnership and will frame cooperation for the years to come. The Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) adopted at the 2nd EU-Africa summit in Lisbon in 2007 established a partnership of equals going beyond development to tackle issues and challenges of common interest. In that spirit, both continents are committed to seize further cooperation opportunities and expand their political, economic, investment and trade ties.

The summit will discuss ways to deepen cooperation under the three areas identified in its theme i.e. people, prosperity and peace.

- People are at the centre of the EU-Africa partnership. Leaders should discuss how to foster human capital through education and training including women and youth, in providing them with skills and knowledge to better qualify for the labour market. The summit may also address issues such as mobility and the fight against human trafficking.
- Prosperity is also key for the two continents. Both Africa and Europe need sustainable and inclusive growth to ensure their socio-economic development and consolidate the recovery from the economic and financial crisis. Leaders will discuss how to create additional incentives for investment and find ways of stimulating growth that will create jobs in particular for young people, unlocking their productive and entrepreneurial potential. The promotion of agricultural development may also be part of the summit discussions.
- Peace is a precondition for human development and the safety of the people. Cooperation in this area between the two continents has shown some significant results so far in a number of regions – the Horn and the Sahel for example – and the summit will look at ways of enhancing EU support for African capacities to manage security on the continent.

P R E S S

The summit will also give the opportunity to take stock of ongoing and future cooperation in the various fields covered by the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and to look into ways to enable more effective and streamlined implementation. Important global issues such as climate change, the post-2015 development frameworks may also enter discussions.

The summit is expected to adopt a political declaration which will cover all topics pertaining to EU-Africa relations. It should also adopt an implementing document shaping continental cooperation taking place in the framework of the JAES for the three years to come. It could also endorse other documents if deemed relevant.

Accompanying events

Ahead of the summit, accompanying events are foreseen to involve a variety of European and African players in the debate and reflection on EU-Africa relations. Besides strengthening the relationship between stakeholders, these events are expected to produce recommendations that are elaborated by the different players in their field of expertise, and will be presented to the Heads of State and Government during the Summit.

- The fifth edition of the Africa-EU Business Forum (Brussels, 31 March-1 April). European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and Vice-President Antonio Tajani, together with Commissioner Andris Piebalgs and Commissioner Karel de Gucht, and AU Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini will take part in the Forum. This 5th edition of the forum will bring together about 500 participants including private sector representatives, business leaders from across Europe and Africa and government officials from both continents. The forum will provide thus a unique opportunity for African and European companies to network and exchange views on EU-Africa business and investment relations. Official website: euafrica-businessforum.eu
- The third Pan-African– European Parliamentary Summit (Brussels, 31 March -1 April). As was the case in Lisbon and Tripoli, the two continental parliaments will meet to prepare and convey the parliamentary input to the summit discussions. The event will bring together 23 members from each Parliament to discuss the most pressing topics of EU-Africa relations as well as ways to improve the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy in the near future. The Presidents of both institutions should take part in the discussions.
- The third Africa-Europe Youth Summit (Brussels, 31 March-1 April). The event should bring together around 70 youth representatives from both continents to develop a common "youth vision" and identify specific youth initiatives to be followed up and possibly implemented in the coming years.
- The second Africa - EU Civil Society Forum (Brussels, 23-25 October 2013). The forum was attended by 32 African and 36 European civil society organisations (CSO). It was a space to develop ideas and review the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy with a focus on ensuring full participation of the civil society. Written recommendations adopted at the forum are available [here](#)