

Angola and the EU strengthen their multidimensional partnership



On EU side, the meeting was also attended by Executive Vice-President of the Commission for An Economy that Works for the People and interim Commissioner for Trade, Valdis Dombrovskis and Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen. On the Angolan side, the Minister of Economy and Planning Sérgio dos Santos and the Minister of Industry and Trade Victor Fernandes took part in the meeting.

The meeting covered a broad range of topics that include political and security issues, the upcoming EU-AU summit, the COVID impact and response, the future of EU-Angola bilateral cooperation and trade and investment relations.

A roadmap on Security and defence

As the fourth biggest economy of Sub-Saharan Africa, and with its geographical position – straddling central and southern Africa – Angola has an important role to play to contribute to regional stability and promoting democratic values in a region where several neighbouring countries are facing domestic challenges and where persistent drivers of conflict are present.

During the meeting, the EU and Angola agreed to launch a roadmap aiming to establish a partnership on Security and Defence. The initial focus will be on consolidating the global rules-based order in support of the UN and the African Union, on possible Angolan participation in EU CSDP (Common Security

and Defence Policy) missions and operations, and on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea.

Diversifying its economy and attracting investment

Angola has faced serious recessionary pressures, linked to a combination of factors including a severe reduction in oil revenue and the COVID-19 pandemic. President Joao Lourenço, elected in 2017, has dedicated his leadership to modernizing the economy, improving the business and investment climate and deepening the democratic system.

The EU is actively supporting this reform dynamic. As an act of solidarity, Commissioner Urpilainen has announced an additional € 20 million funding to support Angola's Covid-19 socio-economic response including economic restructuring. A business event focused on specific value chains will be organised in the coming months. One of the concrete actions that is already being launched in Angola is the development of coffee production, processing and marketing, developing a resource that can generate jobs and added value for the country.

In the near future, both parties are exploring the possibility of having an EU-Angola investment agreement focusing on investment facilitation, on top of the possibility for Angola to join the EU-SADC EPA (Economic Partnership Agreement).

Background on EU-Angola cooperation

In Angola, the EU is funding programs in areas that are essential for the population's well-being, supporting the fight against poverty and education. The areas of the cooperation include State capacity building to foster Angola's stability; job creation to build a viable future for the youth; and economic diversification to make the economy more resilient. Among other programmes, projects in sustainable agriculture, water and sanitation as well as technical/vocational training and higher education are also being implemented.

For more information: [5th Angola-EU Ministerial Meeting – Joint Way Forward](#)

[Press release: EU deploys a reinforced Election Expert Mission t](#)



General elections have been set for 18 October in Bolivia, following a second postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In line with the European Union long-standing commitment to accompany and support peaceful, credible, inclusive and transparent elections in Bolivia, Josep Borrell, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, has decided to deploy a reinforced Election Expert Mission.

High Representative and Vice President Josep Borrell stated: *“The organisation of genuine and credible elections is of paramount importance for the Bolivian people, who stand ready to reaffirm their commitment to democratic values and restore the country’s much-needed stability. Despite the difficult context in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led us to suspend or cancel the deployment of some EU Election Observation Missions, we continue to stand by Bolivia’s side, to help achieve their objective, including with a reinforced Electoral Expert Mission.”*

Member of the European Parliament and former Chief Observer of the Election Observation Mission to Bolivia Isabel Santos declared: *“The deployment of this mission reflects the unfailing commitment of the European Union to support democratic elections in Bolivia, while at the same time ensuring people’s health in a context where all countries, including in Europe, are still struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic. I am confident that the Election Expert Mission will provide an important contribution to democracy in Bolivia.”*

This technical mission will be composed of 5-6 experts who will conduct a comprehensive analysis of the electoral process until its end. The mission will draft a report analysing how the elections were implemented according to international and national laws as well as best practices for democratic elections and will provide a set of recommendations to improve future elections. The report will be made public at the end of the process.

In addition to this mission, the European Union is providing under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace a €2m support to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal in Bolivia to ensure that elections abide by international principles for democratic elections. Moreover, the European Union is

supporting under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and for a budget worth €600,000 the efforts of Bolivian civil society organisations to conduct a national observation of the process.

The European Union is a key partner of Bolivia and is committed to support a constructive and consensual approach via national dialogue as basis for democratic elections in Bolivia where Bolivians can exercise their right to vote despite COVID-related challenges.

Article – LUX Award: audiences and MEPs to choose the winning film

LUX - the European Audience Film Award

European films that address European values

How the audience and MEPs choose the winner*



AUTUMN

Selection panel composed of cinema professionals decides on the nominated films



DECEMBER

Nominated films announced at the European Film Awards



MARCH

LUX Audience Week
Simultaneous screenings and debates across Europe



DECEMBER - APRIL

Watch and vote
In cinemas and online
Films subtitled in 24 official EU languages



APRIL

Winner announced
Award ceremony in the European Parliament



MAY

Europe Day winner screenings
The winning film is adapted for the visually and hearing impaired

* the audience and MEPs each have 50% of the vote



By the European Parliament and the European Film Academy, in partnership with the European Commission and Europa Cinemas



The film award, created 13 years ago by the European Parliament to support the distribution of European films, is being made over. From now on, audiences will be directly involved in choosing the winner and the revamped LUX Award joins forces with the European Film Academy to reach a wider audience.

New voting, new branding, new partners, new calendar

To mark that change, the prize gets a new name: LUX European Audience Film Award . More films (five) will be subtitled in the 24 official EU languages. Exceptionally, this year, due to the impact of covid on the film industry, only three films will be in the running for the award.

“So far, the message of the LUX Prize was ‘The European Parliament is committed to culture’ and we can be proud of this achievement,” said Sabine Verheyen, chair of Parliament’s culture committee, at the 77th [Venice International Film Festival](#) when unveiling the new prize. “From now on, we want to share our journey with new partners. We want to share our LUX Prize with more and more Europeans,” she said.

The full title of the LUX Award reflects the enhanced partnerships: LUX – the European Audience Film Award by the European Parliament and the European Film Academy – in partnership with the European Commission and Europa Cinemas.

[Recovery Plan: powering Europe's strategic autonomy – Speech by President Charles Michel at the Brussels Economic Forum](#)



BEF speech by President Michel – Part 1
BEF speech by President Michel – part 2

Thank you to everyone watching and listening. And thank you, Paolo (Gentiloni), for inviting me to this forum – a major event for European economic debate.

In July, European leaders reached a deal on our next budget and our Recovery Plan. It wasn’t easy, but it was a success. In fact, it was such a success that requests for me to speak have multiplied by twenty!

Of course, this achievement belongs to the European leaders. And most

importantly, to Europe as a whole. This agreement was a major step to our vital objective: European strategic autonomy.

Before the Summit, many people were sceptical that a deal was possible. But I was determined to make it happen. I was so determined to reach a deal that when journalists asked me how many days the summit would last, I told them: If necessary, I'm ready to ask the Belgian Prime Minister to close all the Belgian airports! After 4 days and 4 nights, we reached a deal. And no airports were closed.

Why was success at this first Summit so critical? We had to act quickly and decisively. Because uncertainty is damaging.

Think back to commentary before the summit. It's true, European leaders had divergent views. Some challenged the Union's borrowing on financial markets to support Member States with grants. Some thought the amounts were too high. Others thought they were too low. And at the start of the pandemic, Europe was criticised for reacting too slowly.

In fact, the reality was quite the opposite. Compared to the great financial crisis, Europe took charge with exceptional strength and speed. Precisely because we learned the hard lessons of that crisis. And decision-makers – both at national and EU level – recognised the urgency and took the difficult decisions.

Europe's overall economic response has been far superior to the stimulus packages of the United States or China. This bold European response was fundamental to protect our citizens and safeguard our businesses. The financial markets have also recognised our comprehensive action.

But let's remember the atmosphere back in June and July. Enormous expectations were rising. The pressure was building. And so were the doubts and uncertainty. And while uncertainty is a political risk, it is also an economic one. We know that the impact of economic shocks can last long after their causes have been addressed – for example, depressing the labour market and eroding skills associated with prolonged unemployment.

But there are other ways a crisis can undermine long-term growth. Such as undermining confidence. As companies lose trust in the future, their appetite for risk decreases. So does their appetite for investment in key areas like innovation. And employees are less keen to develop new skills.

It was therefore crucial to act quickly. But also with strength and with unity. That's exactly what we did in July, with one, strong, clear response to this unprecedented crisis...in the spirit of our founding fathers.

In fact, this was a "first" for Europe in many ways. The first time the European Union will borrow to invest and to reform; The first time such a jaw-dropping amount – over 1.8 trillion Euros – has been negotiated for Europe; The first time a major part of the EU budget is linked to our climate ambitions; And the first time our budget will be linked to the rule of law.

And that's not all ... We also committed to creating new own resources during

the next budgetary period. A few words about this. Establishing these new resources is of the utmost importance. Not only because creating new substantial revenues will be an irreversible step in strengthening the Union's capacities. Not only because environmental taxation will make a pivotal contribution to our carbon neutrality goal for 2050. It's more than that.

We will not accept that environmentally substandard goods unfairly compete with European products, while at the same time damaging the planet. We are ready to establish a carbon border adjustment mechanism in line with an improved Emission Trade System to protect our level playing field. If foreign companies want access to our market, we expect them to be on the same footing as our European companies. We are sending a message not only to our citizens, but also to the rest of the world: Europe is a world power. We are ready to firmly defend our interests. This is what we showed in July.

But important steps remain to get this agreement over the finish line: the European Parliament's consent, and the ratification by Member States. And then comes the hard work. Because this recovery plan is not just a simple stimulus plan. It's much more than that. It's a transformation strategy that will lead us to the Europe of the future. This is a Copernican moment.

This strategy will build on its two main pillars – the Green Deal and the Digital Agenda – reinforced by an industrial plan for a more independent Europe. And to make this strategy sustainable, we will modernise our fiscal rules. And we never forget what underpins these plans – our unique set of European values. It's the "why" behind all our actions to make our societies stronger, fairer, and more resilient.

The Green Deal will protect our planet and our quality of life, while creating wealth and increasing our well-being. Europe's Digital strategy will unlock the promise of technology. And improve the lives of our citizens, while respecting their fundamental freedoms. Our industrial strategy will foster greater independence. And make sure we have access to all the necessary resources to ensure the prosperity of our citizens. This includes, for instance, greater autonomy in producing processors, vital medicines, and other essential products.

Finally, our fiscal rules. These rules give Member States the capacity to act in hard times. Covid-19 has shown the pivotal role of the State in protecting livelihoods and businesses. But we must remain vigilant. There's no magic money. As we implement our recovery plan, every euro must be used thoughtfully and efficiently.

Europe's recovery plan is not a three- or seven-year strategy. It's a thirty-year strategy. Our prosperity will be founded on democratic and human values. And for this to work, we need trust.

As a Law student at the Free University of Brussels, I was strongly influenced by a professor. Her name was Nelly Schmitz. She offered a 'Schumpeter workshop', as part of her political economy class. I never forgot her words: innovation and progress go together.

We all know that confidence is the key to democratic legitimacy. Confidence is also key to transforming our economies and our social model, vital to making a success of our climate and digital transitions.

We believe in our future. And we are sending one clear message: Europe is united and confident. Anchored in our values, Europe projects power. And we are ready to act to transform our economic and social model. With one constant goal: greater benefits for our citizens.

European strategic autonomy – these are not just words. The strategic independence of Europe is our new common project for this century. It's in all our common interest.

70 years after the founding fathers ... European strategic autonomy is goal number one for our generation. For Europe, this is the real start of the 21st Century. Thank you.

[2020 User Satisfaction Survey – latest results are out!](#)

September 08, 2020 [About the EUIPO](#)

2020 User Satisfaction Survey – latest results are out!



The results of the [2020 User Satisfaction Survey](#) are now available on the EUIPO website. One of main feedback mechanisms used by the EUIPO, this survey aims to measure user satisfaction with our products and services, identify areas for improvement and facilitate change in line with evolving customer needs and expectations.

As in the last survey of 2018, the overall level of satisfaction with our core services is sustained at **88%**. Satisfaction with our RCD and Register services score particularly well, at 93% and 91%, respectively. EUIPO Key Users (at 92%) and representatives (at 93%) also report high levels of overall satisfaction, the latter regaining its former high of 2015 while businesses filing directly with us continue to be less satisfied. Further improvements include satisfaction with the service provided by the EUIPO's examiners and with the Key User Programme, both of which report 2% increases on the last survey (at 86% and 83%, respectively).

Overall, EUIPO customers are satisfied to a high degree and the EUIPO is considered to be more accessible, efficient and transparent. We are delighted that the customer-driven actions inspired since the last survey have led to these positive outcomes.

Of course, there is room for improvement. Improvements related to the quality of Office products such as consistency in decisions will remain a priority and will be based on different feedback sources including the satisfaction survey and SQAP (Stakeholder Quality Assurance Panels) and the results of the internal quality checks. Based on the segmented approach as established in the newly launched SP2025, future actions envisage making our products and services more customer-centric, more adapted to the specific needs of our many different customer types. To keep satisfaction high we will continue to count on customer feedback as the motor to drive progress.

A big 'thank you' to the 2252 customers that took part in this survey! We commit to using your feedback and insights to improve our future services.