

# EU and African Union Commissions step up their cooperation to support young people, jobs and peace



This 9th Commission to Commission meeting of the two organisations was co-chaired by the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude **Juncker** and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa **Faki Mahamat**, with the participation of all African Union Commissioners and 16 European Union Commissioners.

The two sides had agreed on a set of priorities at the [November 2017 AU-EU Summit in Abidjan](#) and today the two Commissions took stock of progress made to chart the way forward.

At this occasion, European Commission President Jean-Claude **Juncker** said: *“We met today to translate words into concrete action. We launched programmes worth €400 million to support, amongst others, African youth – which is all the more important, as 60% of Africa’s population is under 25 years old. The future of the world depends on the good cooperation between Europe and Africa.”*

African Union Chairperson Moussa **Faki Mahamat** added: *“Multilateralism is the only response to today’s global challenges in an increasingly polarised world. The AU-EU partnership is based on shared values and shared responsibilities and offers a unique platform to address common challenges linked to peace, security and sustainable development on both our continents.”*

## **Key outcomes of the meeting:**

The two commissions discussed their cooperation to enhance resilience, peace, security and governance, including support to African peace initiatives such as the G5 Sahel joint force. In this regard, the two sides signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** reinforcing the existing cooperation in the area of peace and security. In addition, they agreed to continue and consolidate the important work made by the **AU-EU-UN task force on migration**.

The parties committed to **invest in economies and people** by stepping up existing cooperation on agriculture and agribusinesses and the digital economy, and dedicated themselves to continue the active engagement with

youth in the Africa-EU partnership in innovative and meaningful ways.

In the context of the AU-EU partnership, the EU made available an additional **€400 million** towards **continental and regional projects**. These include support to institutional capacity building of the African Union Commission and regional integration on the continent, as well as **support to young people**. The assistance will facilitate the continental mobility of young people, for example through reinforcing exchange programmes among African universities, and enhancing the recognition of qualifications and the harmonisation of higher education in Africa.

## **Background**

The EU and Africa have progressively built a solid strategic and political partnership, whereby they go beyond donor-recipient relations towards reciprocal commitments. The two Commissions of the European Union and African Union are committed to be active players and real engines of this Partnership, which is today more relevant than ever in a fast evolving global environment.

This partnership is based on shared values and interests, enshrined in the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES, 2007). At the 5th AU-EU Summit last November African and European leaders have demonstrated their mutual commitment in a stronger relationship adapted to a rapidly changing global landscape, and have identified strategic priorities for 2018-2020.

## **For More Information**

[Factsheet 'European Commission and African Union Commission step up their cooperation to support young people, jobs and peace'](#)

[Pan-African Multiannual Indicative Programme](#)

[Factsheet 'EU's key partnership with Africa'](#)

[Joint Africa-EU Strategy](#)

[Africa-EU Partnership](#)