

EU boosts regional cooperation with 25 African countries

At this occasion, Commissioner **Mimica** said: *“The additional investments I am signing today worth €225 million will strengthen job creation and stability in Eastern, Southern and Indian Ocean African countries, helping deliver on our [Africa-Europe Alliance](#) commitments”.*

The additional cooperation funding will support economic integration and job creation, as well as strengthen the nexus between development and security. Recent developments in the region have generated a need for stronger support in these areas to overcome the growing challenges such as population growth, adverse climate change effects, weak governance and the destabilising effects of international crime.

In concrete terms, three new actions are being envisaged, aiming at job creation and prosperity in Eastern and Southern Africa (€125 million), as well as urban coastal development (€80 million) and maritime security in the Red Sea area (€20 million).

The signing of the new actions takes place in the context of Commissioner **Mimica**'s official visit to Ethiopia where he met Ethiopia Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, African Union Chairperson, Moussa Faki, and the President of Zimbabwe Emmerson Mnangagwa. During this mission the European Commission, the African Union Commission and the International Trade Centre (ITC) set up the [African Union Trade Observatory](#), a key pillar of the African Continental Free Trade Area. Commissioner **Mimica** also visited [neighbouring Eritrea](#) on 8 February, where he met with President Afwerki.

Additionally, Commissioner **Mimica** signed a top-up of €7 million in bilateral funding with São Tomé and Príncipe.

Background

Commissioner **Mimica** signed the additional support with the five regional organisations covered by the regional programme: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

This additional budget brings the overall financial envelope for the regional indicative programme to €1490 million for the period 2014-2020. It focuses on three priority areas: regional economic integration; peace, security and regional stability and regional management of natural resources.

The countries covered by this programme are: Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and

Zimbabwe.

For more information

[Africa-Europe Alliance for sustainable investment and jobs](#)

[Progress factsheet – Africa-Europe Alliance for sustainable investment and jobs](#)

[Photos of Commissioner Mimica in Ethiopia](#)