



Conference

EU's Africa Foreign Policy after Lisbon

Brussels, 18 October 2011
 Fondation Universitaire
 08.15-18.15

PROGRAMME



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
 Federal Public Service
 Foreign Affairs,
 Foreign Trade and
 Development Cooperation



Délégation aux
 Affaires stratégiques

EU's Africa foreign policy after Lisbon

Lisbon and its consequences for Africa – EU relations

Until the implementation of the Lisbon treaty, Europe was represented in Africa by its EC delegations and the Member States. But now, in the post-Lisbon transitional environment, the previous division of labour between the Council and Commission has to be re-examined. The institutional innovations derived from the treaty will create new opportunities for developing the EU into a fully-fledged international actor, while shaping a new diplomatic profile for the EU in the coming years. The creation of the European External Action Service (EEAS) in particular will likely have a strong and long-term impact on the EU's relations with the African continent, regional organisations and states.

On a strategic level, the enhancement of EU-Africa relations will require decisive political leadership, in clear coordination with influential and established initiatives such as the Francophonie or Commonwealth Summits. Coordination and cooperation within EU bodies and between the EU and its Member States will remain central. As a bridge between the Commission and Council, the EEAS is in a strong position to substantially increase EU external influence. One of the key challenges for the EEAS will be to find a balance between overarching and underperforming tendencies, to negotiate the scope of its own work alongside the African policies of Member States, and to find pragmatic burden sharing formats.

In the period 2011-2012, Africa has and will continue to face serious challenges in terms of democratic transition and consolidation, with major countries holding elections including Nigeria, Sudan, DRC and Senegal. Potential knock-on effects of recent transformations in North Africa and the Middle East should also not be underestimated. Meanwhile, the recent events in Côte d'Ivoire have demonstrated the fragility of so-called 'post-conflict' societies, despite strong international – and EU – support for the elections. Key security issues are still undermining continental stability and are often directly linked to EU security interests (such as in the Sahel and Horn of Africa). Moreover, Africa's geopolitical importance is increasing, as indicated by the growing interest of powers like Brazil, India and China in the continent. African elites have also demonstrated their willingness to engage with these new partners.

Within this context, the EU's reformed institutions are likely to set a new agenda for the EU's Africa foreign policy, as well as rejuvenate intercontinental dialogue. The conference will address the following questions: How has the EU engaged Africa in the post-Lisbon context? What lessons can already be drawn after almost a year of implementation? How are EU regional strategies designed and implemented in a post-Lisbon environment? Will the EU increasingly speak with one voice in Africa and can policy coherence towards the continent be enhanced?

Methodology

The conference will address these issues through the examination of concrete case studies (country and regional specific, as well as thematic policies). It will adopt two complementary approaches.¹

- Analysing the current and future concrete working modes of EU foreign policy actors.
- Analysing concrete case studies of EU's engagement in specific African regions, countries and crises on the basis of existing and future strategies and policies.

4 cross-cutting issues will be dealt with in each case study:

1. EU Coordination both at an inter-institutional level (within Brussels organisations) and between the EU delegations/representations and Brussels organisations.
2. Priorities and interests articulated in EEAS policies between Member States
3. The relevance of regional (AU) and sub-regional (RECs) frameworks for the EU Africa foreign policy
4. Engagement with other international actors (US, BRICs, Canada and Turkey) and international organisations (UN, Arab League, OIC)

The conference is part of a two-year research project on 'Ensuring peace and security in Africa: Implementing a new EU-Africa partnership' launched in 2009 by the IAI, Chatham House, and EUISS. Two conferences have already been held in 2009 (http://www.iai.it/pdf/Convegno/Africa-EU_091007-9.pdf) and 2010. This conference is organised within the framework of the Observatoire de l'Afrique by the EUISS in collaboration with Chatham House, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and the Open Society Foundations (OSF).

Practicalities

Date : 18 October 2011, 08.15-18.30

Registration starts at 08.15 – Meeting starts at 08.45.

Event venue

Fondation Universitaire
Rue d'Egmont, 11
Brussels

Working languages will be French and English (without translation). Chatham House Rule applies.

¹ Although of both great interest and importance, EU trade policies with Africa will not be addressed in this seminar, since trade remains outside the scope of the EEAS and the topic deserves a seminar in itself.

08.15 – 08.45	Registration
08.45 – 09.00	<p>Welcoming Address</p> <p>Damien Helly, Senior Research Fellow, EUISS</p>
09.00 – 09.30	<p>Opening Address</p> <p>Nicholas Westcott, Managing Director for Africa, EEAS</p>
09.30 – 11.00	<p>EU regional strategies: Sahel and beyond</p> <p>Chair: Alex Vines, Chatham House Panel: Manuel Lopez Blanco, EEAS Massaer Diallo, Institut d'Etudes Politiques et Stratégiques Alain Antil, IFRI Discussant: Damien Helly, EUISS</p>
11.00 – 11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30 – 13.00	<p>Engaging with African emerging regional players: Nigeria, South Africa and Ethiopia</p> <p>Chair: Geert Laporte, ECDPM Panel: Daniel BACH, CNRS Chris Alden, SAIIA / LSE Andebrhan W. Giorgis, Revival Africa Initiative Discussant: Paul-Simon Handy, ISS</p>
13.00 – 14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.30 – 16.00	<p>Democracy promotion beyond elections: DRC, Zimbabwe and Kenya</p> <p>Chair: Denis Tull, SWP Panel: Kris Berwouts, EurAC John Stewart, NOVASC Binaifer Nowrojee, OSIEA Discussant: Marta Martinelli, OSI</p>
16.00 – 16.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.30 – 18.00	<p>Crisis Response and Lessons Learned: the cases of Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast and Somalia</p> <p>Chair: Walter Stevens, CMPD Panel: Cristina Barrios, FRIDE and Ola Bello, FRIDE Mathias Hounkpe, OSIWA Roger Middleton, Chatham House Discussant: Nicoletta Pirozzi, IAI</p>
18.00 – 18.15	<p>Conclusions</p> <p>Damien Helly, EUISS Alex Vines, Chatham House Gianni Bonvicini, IAI</p>