



MEDIA ADVISORY

Special session of the “Fridays of the Commission”

Theme: “Making EU-Africa Relations Future-Proof”

- What:** Special session of the “Fridays of the Commission”
- When:** Friday 28th, February 2014, from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Where:** Plenary Hall of the Old Conference Building of the African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Who:** The session is being hosted by the Department of Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM); and supported by the JAES Support Mechanism, which is a mechanism put in place to support the implementation of the existing JAES Action Plan.
- Objectives:** To provide an informal platform of dialogue between African and European actors on progress around the partnership, as well as identifying enabling and blocking factors shaping it;
Provide an informal platform of dialogue on key priorities of Africa-EU relations that would contribute to a future-proof partnership;
Contribute to the debate on increasing the relevance of the Africa-EU partnership
- Participants:** Representatives of: different departments of the African Union Commission, the Pan-African Parliament delegation on relations with the European Parliament, the NPCA, Regional Economic Communities, the African Development Bank, African Union member states, the Economic Commission for Africa and other UN Agencies based in Addis Ababa, researchers and academics involved in Africa-EU relations including members of the Europe-Africa Research Network, students/academia from the University of Ethiopia and other higher institutions based in Addis Ababa, civil society organizations based in Addis Ababa and representative of European member states based in Brussels and Addis Ababa.
- Activities:** Activities to look forward to include:
Presentations/Public lectures on: the achievements of the relationship since the Lisbon Treaty in 2007; contentious political issues such as the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the new and persisting challenges between the EU and Africa;
Information fair
Advocacy materials

Background: Meeting in Lisbon in 2007, European and African leaders resolved to “build a new strategic political partnership for the future, overcoming the traditional donor-recipient relationship and building on common values and goals”. Such commitment was made against the backdrop of changing geopolitical, institutional and economic contexts in both Europe and Africa. In an attempt to give life to such ambition, they launched a new partnership framework, the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), which was implemented through successive action plans along the lines of eight thematic partnerships.

In the run up to the Africa-Eu Summit, due to be held in Brussels in April 2014, the African Union Commission (AUC) jointly with the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) is organising the one-day meeting which is aimed at providing an informal platform for policy makers to exchange on some of the strategic questions around the future of the Africa-EU partnership in order to feed reflections in the run up to the Africa-EU Summit and beyond.

Therefore, the Department of Economic Affairs in collaboration with the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) and other stakeholders will hold the 13th Special session of the “Fridays of the Commission on Friday 28th, February 2014.

Journalists are invited to cover the 13th Special session of the “Fridays of the Commission on Friday 28th, February 2014, starting from 9:00am, which will be held at Plenary Hall of the Old Conference Building of the African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Media contact:

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