



PROSPECTS FOR AFRICA –  
EUROPE'S POLICIES  
The EU Presidency Project of VENRO

INVITATION

## Prospects for Africa – Europe's Policies

International Conference

Monday, 12th March 2007

Gremiensaal, Deutsche Welle

Kurt-Schumacher-Str. 3, 53113 Bonn

**VENRO**  
ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN  
DEVELOPMENT NGOs



Media Partner:

**DEUTSCHE WELLE**



## Background

Africa's development is a focal aspect of Germany's and also the subsequent EU Council Presidencies of Portugal and Slovenia, and it is to play a prominent role at the informal meeting of development ministers on the Petersberg on the 13th March 2007. Immediately ahead of this, the international conference "Prospects for Africa – Europe's Policies" is to discuss the topical issues that are going to crucially influence the change in relations between the EU and the African countries.

The EU has still not succeeded in achieving policy coherence for development, i.e. the objectives of different policy areas, such as trade and agriculture, are still having a negative impact on the development goals.

The conclusion of the so-called Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), which the German Government intends to support, is of particular importance to the development of the African states. The EPAs were originally devised as development tools. But the current state of negotiations suggests that many of the poorest African countries are not going to withstand the competitive pressure exerted by European export industry. European NGOs are strongly calling on the EU to delay the negotiations in order to ensure that EPAs are good development tools. The discussion topics are the conditions that the EPAs have to fulfil for them to ultimately be conducive to development and the contributions that the subsequent presidencies of Portugal and Slovenia have to make in order to improve political coherence.

As basic principles in the Cotonou Agreement, partnership, ownership and participation show considerable shortcomings in practice. In December 2005 the EU presented a strategy for Africa that yet remains to be turned into a common EU-Africa strategy. Because of the shortcomings on the consultation to establish the EU-Africa strategy, a new public consultation was officially launched. This is to evolve into a joint declaration at the EU-Africa Summit planned for the end of 2007. The timeframe is tight. How can it be ensured that African and European NGOs will be able to participate substantially? Is the strategy going to give greater consideration to the interests of the African countries? Does this new process represent a paradigm shift in European policy vis-à-vis the NGOs?

# Programme

## Moderation

Dr. Claudia Warning, Chairperson, VENRO

How to improve the EU-African Partnership?  
The role of African and European NGOs

Part III

08:30

Arrival and Registration of the Participants

Key Note

16:00

09:00

Opening Remarks

Erik Bettermann, Deutsche Welle

Dr. Claudia Warning

Dr. Agnes Abuom, All African Conference of  
Churches (AACC)/World Council of Churches (WCC)

Panel Discussion

Part I

Are Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)  
pro-development? The policy coherence for  
development of EU-ACP free trade agreements

Dr. Agnes Abuom

Justin Killcullen, President of CONCORD

Louis Michel, Commissioner for European  
Development Policy and Humanitarian Aid

09:30

Key Note

Tetteh Hormeku, Third World Network Africa

Chair: Dr. Claudia Warning

Panel Discussion

Come together

18:00

Tetteh Hormeku

Honr. Dr. Aliyu Modibo, Minister of Commerce  
of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (tbc)

Klaus Schilder, WEED/terre des hommes

Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, Federal Minister for  
Economic Cooperation and Development

Chair: Petra Pinzler, die Zeit

The conference will be held in English.

12:15

Lunch

Part II

View on the Coherence Programme  
of the Forthcoming Presidencies

13:30

Key Note

Prof. Dr. h. c. Christa Randzio-Plath, Vice Chair,  
VENRO

Panel Discussion

Prof. Dr. João Cravinho, Secretary of State,  
Portugal

Prof. Dr. h.c. Christa Randzio-Plath

Andrej Šter, Secretary of State, Slovenia (tbc)

Chair: Susan Killick, Deutsche Welle

15:30

Coffee Break



## Registration

International Conference

### Prospects for Africa – Europe's Policies

Deadline: 5th March 2007

Online: [www.afrikas-perspektive.de/veranstaltungen.html](http://www.afrikas-perspektive.de/veranstaltungen.html)

Per E-Mail: [info@afrikas-perspektive.de](mailto:info@afrikas-perspektive.de)

Catering fee: 10 Euro

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An  
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## Date and venue

Monday **12th March 2007**

9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Gremiensaal, Deutsche Welle

Kurt-Schumacher-Straße 3, 53113 Bonn

### How to get to the venue:

Public transport:

Subway/Underground lines 16,63,66,68: Get off at “Heussallee/Museumsmeile” stop. From there, a five minutes walk to the venue.

From Bonn Central Station, you take a Number 610 bus to the “Bundeshaus/Deutsche Welle” stop. (ten-minute ride).

From Cologne-Bonn Airport, you take a Number 670 bus to Bonn Central Station (30 minutes).

From there, take the subway or bus (see above).

[www.afrikas-perspektive.de](http://www.afrikas-perspektive.de)  
[www.prospects-for-africa.de](http://www.prospects-for-africa.de)



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development

With the financial assistance of the European Union and the Federal  
Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development