



RESOLUTION:

It's in Europe's interest: A common European-African Marshall Plan for Africa

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Milan, 17.02.2018

Recognizing that:

- Africa's population is set to double by 2050. It will then be home to 20 percent of the world population. It has to be ensured that hundreds of millions of young Africans have enough food, energy and jobs and that their natural resources are protected. That presents massive challenges but also opportunities. European countries in particular can play a role in tackling these massive challenges by offering their knowledge, innovations and technological advances and by getting directly involved.
- More than half of Africa's population is under the age of 25. The central
- challenge of giving these people a future perspective in their home countries can only be achieved by working in close partnership with Europe.
- The average age in Africa is 18 years. Soon Africa's population will top 2 billion. That means that every year 20 million new jobs will be needed in cities and rural areas.
- With the European External Investment Plan the EU has created an instrument with the aim of supporting and promoting private investment in Africa. A total amount of 3.35 billion Euros has been allocated for sustainable development which should secure an investment of up to 44 billion Euros. That is a significant contribution to growth and investment in Africa.
- Africa holds great opportunities: About half of the 20 fastest growing economies are located there. By 2035 Africa will have the largest workforce worldwide. This is where the global markets, customers and employees of the future are growing.

Acknowledging that:

- The global refugee and migration crisis remains one of the biggest European and global challenges. The fight against the causes in Africa is an important contribution to prevent refugee flows. Development co-operation must focus even more than before on building

and supporting training structures and employment opportunities for the young, growing population.

- The 5th African Union - European Union (AU-EU) Summit took place on
- November 29/30 in 2017 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The Summit brought together EU and African leaders to determine the future direction of cooperation between the two continents. Together, they adopted a joint statement setting with common priorities for the EU-Africa partnership in four strategic areas: economic opportunities for young people, peace and security, mobility and migration and governance cooperation.
- In particular, financial aid for Africa only makes sense if we strengthen good governance. The African states have set themselves this goal in the Agenda 2063 of the African Union. It is now important to help them apply their innovative strategies.
- The 4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit in October 2017 ahead of the EU-AU summit in Abidjan had its own youth agenda. The youth agenda includes concrete proposals in six fields: education and skills, economy, job creation and entrepreneurship, governance and political integration, peace and security, culture, sports and the arts, the environment and climate change.

YEPP calls on:

- The EU to implement the decisions that were made at the EU-AU summit in November 2017 in Abidjan.
- The EU to acknowledge the agenda of the 4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit.
- The EU member states to develop a common "European-African Marshall Plan" in collaboration with Africa to enable the states on the African continent to strengthen their abilities to help themselves. Sustainable development is only possible, if it's initiated within the country by its own society.
- The focus of cooperation to be on education and youth. Vocational training assistance and support for universities are more important than ever before. The improvement of educational opportunities in African countries in the context of European development cooperation has a particular priority and should also promote the dialogue between young people from Europe and Africa.
- EU Member States to renew their efforts to meet aid spending targets of 0.7% of GNI in accordance with the agreed UN target.
- The EU to redirect development aid: EU support needs to focus even more on self-help. We need to enable countries to prevent conflicts before they even arise. The decades-long donor-mentality has to be replaced by a partnership and an economic cooperation which relies on personal initiative and personal responsibility. Africa is Europe's partner - not only in questions of economic cooperation and development policy, but also in key issues of shaping a future trade, finance, environmental, agricultural, economic, foreign and security policy.
- African states to adhere to minimum democratic standards. These framework conditions include, for example, human rights and the rule of law, political participation of men and women, and efficient administration free of corruption.

- A value creation focus; Africa has to be more than the continent of raw materials. The engine of a European-African Marshall Plan must be a new economic policy that focuses on the diversification of the economy, the development of production chains, the targeted promotion of agriculture and small or medium-sized enterprises and the creation of a new middle class. Europe has to support this by strengthening access to its single market and reducing existing barriers.
- Investments in Africa to be directed in a targeted manner towards entrepreneurial development. In the long run jobs have to be created by the private sector and not the state. That's why Africa needs less subsidies and more private investment. This requires the creation of framework conditions as well as new instruments for mobilizing and securing investments. They should be complemented by proposals for tax incentives for companies, new forms of investment such as Africa funds and infrastructure bonds.