

**COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE EUROPEAN UNION
AND SOUTH AFRICA**

The Cooperation Council

Brussels, 14 November 2006

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REVISED NOTE

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7th meeting of the Cooperation Council between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of South Africa, of the other part, 14 November 2006

The seventh meeting of the South Africa-EU Joint Co-operation Council was held on 14 November 2006 within the framework of the South Africa-EU Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement (TDCA). The trade and development issues were discussed in plenary format. The political discussions at the Council meeting took place in troika format on the EU-side, under the Co-Chair of Mr Erkki Tuomioja, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland and Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa. The South African delegation also included Ms Lulama Xingwana, Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs and Mr Derek Hanekom, Deputy Minister of Science and Technology. The EU delegation included Mr Javier Solana, Secretary General of the Council and EU High Representative for CFSP, Mr Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Mr Peter Mandelson, European Commissioner for Trade and Ms. Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel, Director for Africa of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany.

Relations between South Africa and the European Union have flourished since the birth of democracy in South Africa in 1994. Building on shared values and common interests, South Africa and the EU have developed, in just twelve years, a comprehensive partnership based on the TDCA, which covers Political Dialogue, Trade, Development Co-operation, Economic Co-operation as well as co-operation in other areas of mutual interest such as Science and Technology. The seventh meeting of the SA-EU Joint Co-operation Council has further strengthened the relationship, enabling South Africa and the EU to discuss issues of mutual concern and to give guidance to strengthening co-operation into the future.

SA-EU Relations

1. South Africa and the EU recalled the agreement reached at the SA-EU Joint Co-operation Council in 2005 to take new steps to ensure that the relations between South Africa and the EU develop into a truly strategic partnership. The Parties reaffirmed their commitment to working towards this goal.
2. The Parties took note of the developments so far in establishing the Strategic Partnership. In this regard they welcomed the initial response from President Mbeki of 30 May 2006 to the EU non-paper towards the establishment of an SA-EU Strategic Partnership; the Communication of 28 June 2006 from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament entitled "Towards an EU-South Africa Strategic Partnership"; the positive Conclusions of the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 17 October 2006, as well as the resolution of the European Parliament on 24 October 2006.
3. The Joint Co-operation Council adopted a Joint Statement on the South Africa-European Union Strategic Partnership.

4. South Africa highlighted the new impetus to meet the challenges of regional integration in Southern Africa particularly with respect to the outcome of the recent SADC Summit of 23 October 2006 which provided greater political direction to the SADC regional development and integration processes, and outlined the key dimensions and measures to be undertaken in this regard. Both Parties agreed to consult and cooperate closely with each other and with other regional partners with the aim of harmonising and coordinating policy approaches and to support regional integration in southern Africa. Coherence needs to be assured between the Strategic Partnership and the TDCA and South Africa-EU Joint Country Strategy Paper (CSP) as well as with the parties' respective national, regional, African and global priorities and commitments to their regional partners.
5. The Parties recognised the important contribution of the TDCA to the strengthening of their trade relations. They also noted the importance of resolving pending issues. The parties agreed on the need to urgently finalise the revision of the TDCA. The relation between the revision of the TDCA and the SADC-EPA negotiations will be addressed in the EU response to the SADC-EPA proposal of March 2006: "Strategic Framework for the EPA negotiations between SADC and the EU".
6. The Parties re-emphasised their intention to further liberalise trade. The EU underlined the importance of widening the scope and ambition of the agreement to extend into other areas. South Africa underlined the importance of taking into account the SADC regional agenda. The Parties agreed to redouble efforts to prepare for the full implementation of the TDCA in all areas of co-operation, and called for the early establishment of working groups to review and fully implement the Agreement. The Parties welcomed the agreement to establish the Joint Committee as envisaged in the Agreements on Wine and Spirits.
7. The Parties noted the decision of the SADC Trade Ministers to include Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland in the review of the TDCA and to extend observer status to the non-SACU SADC-EPA members.

8. The Parties welcomed the joint reports on trade, development and scientific and technological co-operation. The Parties agreed that these reports provide further good examples of the close and ever-deepening co-operation between the EU and South Africa.
9. Both Parties welcomed the close co-operation on the South Africa-EU Joint CSP for the period 2007-2013, as well as on the National Indicative Programme (NIP) for the period 2007-2013 and called for their early finalisation. Both Parties welcomed the participation of 10 Member States in this Joint CSP. Both Parties welcomed the forthcoming renewal of the EIB lending mandate for 2007- 2013, and South Africa called for a substantial increase in real terms to €1.5 billion.
10. Both Parties agreed that in view of the special circumstances in South Africa and based on joint experience since 1994, the real value added by ODA in South Africa is not the finance itself, but what derives from it, namely best practice, innovation, risk-taking, pilot programmes, systems development, capacity building, and above all skills and knowledge. They furthermore welcomed the key objective of the development partnership between South Africa and the EU to move from Development Co-operation to enhanced Economic Co-operation with the overall objective of poverty reduction and economic growth, narrowing the inequality gap and promotion of governance and capacity building in line with ASGI-SA and JIPSA. The Parties also highlighted the importance of compliance to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness of March 2005. They also noted the results from the April 2005 study tour to Europe to study development and the application of the EU's Structural and Cohesion Policy, and welcomed the integration of these outcomes into the new CSP. Both sides expressed their willingness to work together closely on this issue.
11. The Report on Science and Technology Co-operation highlighted the rich, mutually beneficial partnerships concluded between South Africa and European researchers under the Framework Programmes as well as the parties' ongoing efforts to harness science and technology for sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

EU-Africa issues

12. The Parties firmly committed themselves towards supporting the process of regional integration in Africa and Southern Africa. Both Parties emphasised the need to ensure that joint actions or policy coordination would enhance and support integration, and also reaffirmed the need to engage regional partners in a transparent and open manner in this regard.
13. South Africa commended the EU for the manner in which it had developed and implemented the EU Strategy for Africa. Both Parties agreed that a fundamental premise of the SA-EU Strategic Partnership is to support the aims and objectives of the EU's Strategy for Africa, as well as the Joint Africa-EU Strategy under development.
14. The Parties welcomed the intensification of the EU-Africa dialogue, in particular in areas such as the elaboration of a joint EU-Africa strategy, migration and development, science and technology partnerships and co-operation in conflict situations. They agreed to expedite work towards the holding of the second Europe-Africa Summit in Lisbon in 2007, where the Joint Strategy should be adopted.
15. South Africa and the EU reaffirmed the importance of meeting the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. The EU reaffirmed its determination to fulfil the commitments taken at the European Union Council of June 2005 (additional 10 billion euros in aid to Africa by 2010) and of December 2005 (EU Strategy for Africa) and underlined its continued commitment to provide funding i.a. to fight poverty diseases (malaria, tuberculosis and HIV and AIDS).

16. The Parties welcomed the AU's prominent role in support of its socio-economic programme, NEPAD, and also in support of human rights, good governance and the consolidation of democratic processes. The EU informed South Africa of its intention to mainstream human rights in all EU external actions. The Parties agreed that the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is an important means by which governance can be improved. South Africa explained its own review in this regard. The EU welcomed the APRM and the South African review. Furthermore, the EU confirmed its readiness to continuing support to the APRM process and the reforms that it generates at the national level. In this respect, the EU highlighted the Council Conclusions of 17 October 2006 on Governance in the European Consensus for Development- Towards a harmonised approach within the European Union.
17. The Parties agreed to do their utmost towards strengthening AU institutions and capabilities to address the many and complex challenges facing the continent, which, among others, include resolution of conflicts, building and consolidating democracy, poverty eradication and integration of Africa into the global economy. In this context, the Parties welcomed the historic visit of the European Commission led by President Barroso to the African Union in Addis Ababa as an unprecedented signal of the mutual commitment and ever deepening partnership between the two executive bodies of the European and African Union. They also welcomed the outcome of this meeting between the European and African Union Commissions and the signing of the Euro 55 million grant Financing Agreement for capacity building of the African Union Commission by the Presidents of the European and African Union Commissions and encouraged the African Union Commission, the European Commission and the Council Secretariat to enhance further their policy dialogue and to exchange experience, inter alia through the EU-AU Task Force.
18. Both parties exchanged views on peace and security in Africa. They agreed to consult and work closely together on addressing the challenges faced in the region.

19. Parties agreed that continued engagement in the Great Lakes would remain important. The parties noted with satisfaction that the electoral process in the DRC had progressed well in spite of numerous challenges. They stressed the need to ensure that the results of the elections, representing the will of the Congolese people, must be respected by all parties and that they constitute an important step on the road towards democracy, stability and development in the DRC. The EU commended South Africa for its valuable support to the electoral process. The regional dimension of the developments will be highlighted by the Great Lakes Regional Conference to be held in Nairobi in Mid-December. On Burundi, The EU expressed its gratitude to South Africa for its role in the process leading up to the signing of a ceasefire between the Government of Burundi and the FNL in September 2006. The Parties urged all Burundian parties to fulfil their respective obligations in a co-operative spirit, within the Framework of the Agreements they have signed, in order to strengthen the democratic process and respect for human rights and facilitate the process of post conflict resolution.
20. The parties expressed their common concern over the deteriorating situation in the Darfur region of Sudan and exchanged views on the roles of the UN and AU in managing the crises. The parties commended the work done by AMIS in Darfur but emphasized that in order to secure peace keeping in support of the DPA there is a need for a UN operation in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1706. The parties expressed their support for the DPA as the basis for a peaceful solution to the Darfur conflict. They called on signatories to the DPA to respect their commitments and those outside to join in the peace process. The parties called for immediate ceasefire under the existing agreements. The parties recognised that attempts to find a solution to the conflict in Darfur must also take into consideration the regional context, including Chad and the Central African Republic.

21. South Africa also commended the EU for the financial and logistical support given to the AMIS mission in Darfur. Both Parties agreed on the need to continue supporting the operation until the AU mandate expires, and to liaise closely together in this regard. South Africa urged the EU to continue providing the financial support required to sustain the AMIS operation. South Africa also commended the European Union for replenishing the Africa Peace Facility by Euro 300 million for the period 2008-2010.
22. The Parties reiterated their commitment to find a solution to the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and work together in the International Working Group. The Parties emphasised that the recent discussions and decision by Heads of State of the AU Peace and Security Council on 17 October 2006 and resolution 1721 (2006) adopted by the UNSC on 1 November 2006 provide a clear framework for the final transition period and appealed to all parties to work together in order to achieve lasting peace and stability, which will benefit the whole sub-region.
23. The parties expressed shared concern over the developments in Somalia particularly due to failure of the Khartoum III negotiations and consequences it may have. The parties urged the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) to continue the dialogue emphasizing that there is no military solution to the situation. The parties called for the international community to cooperate in favour of peace in Somalia and all the parties in and outside Somalia to refrain from any action that might aggravate the already volatile situation nationally or within the region.
24. Both parties expressed their concern about the situation in Zimbabwe, illustrated by the socio and economic indicators and its impact on the humanitarian situation. Both Parties agreed that meaningful internal dialogue in Zimbabwe was crucial to the resolution of the problem. The EU will continue to engage in political dialogue with Zimbabweans. The EU recalled that they remain the most important donor to Zimbabwe and reiterated its commitment to continue to support the population focusing on the most vulnerable using all relevant instruments.

Other political issues

25. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to effective multilateralism and decided to intensify co-operation at the United Nations and other multilateral fora to address the issues of global concern, including the areas of development and environment. Both Parties stressed the need to maintain momentum in the efforts to adapt the United Nations to the needs of today's world, including the areas of management and Secretariat reform. They underlined the importance of strong, effective and efficient United Nations Organisations attaching high priority to the UN system wide coherence. In this regard, the Parties agreed on the need for reform of the main UN bodies, among them the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the Security Council, with a view to enhancing the representativeness, transparency and efficiency of the system. Both Parties agree that it is important to work jointly towards strengthening the role of the newly established UN Human Rights Council and the Peace Building Commission.
26. Both Parties welcomed the appointment of Mr. Ban Ki Moon as the new Secretary-General from 2007. The EU congratulated South Africa on its election to the UN Security Council. South Africa briefed the EU on its aims and objectives for the next two years during its tenure on the UN Security Council, and both sides committed themselves towards working closely together in New York, Brussels and Pretoria in this regard.
27. The Parties also discussed the worsening security and humanitarian situation in the Middle East. They both agreed to work together in achieving and supporting a peaceful settlement in terms of the Middle East Peace Process, and called on all sides to redouble their efforts and reaffirm their commitments towards peace and stability in the region. South Africa also commended the EU for their efforts at resolving the Iranian nuclear issue. South Africa is committed to finding a diplomatic solution to the dispute.

28. South Africa and the EU agree that migration is a common challenge for Europe and Africa and that collective policy responses must be found at national, regional and global levels. Both Parties acknowledged the link between migration and poverty, underdevelopment and peace and security. The Parties shared the view that migration, if properly managed, could contribute significantly to enhancing sustainable development and contribute to the achievement of the MDGs. Both Parties share a concern that "the brain drain" undermines Africa's economic and social development. The Parties therefore welcomed the ongoing dialogue at the EU-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development to be held in Tripoli from 22 to 23 November 2006.
29. The Parties also discussed developments surrounding the WTO negotiations and the Doha Development Agenda. Both Parties expressed their deep disappointment at the breakdown in talks, and reiterated their commitment to redouble their efforts to resume the stalled talks as soon as possible, in order to meet the developmental objectives of the round.
30. Both parties expressed their concern on the HIV and AIDS situation as a challenge in the Southern African region and in South Africa. The EU noted the progress that has been made in the implementation of the South African Government's Comprehensive Plan on HIV and AIDS, and welcomed the ongoing efforts at strengthening partnerships against HIV and AIDS. The EU emphasised the need for continued political engagement and a comprehensive approach to meet the challenge.

Way forward

31. The Parties welcomed this invaluable opportunity for enhanced strategic co-operation. They emphasised the need for continued and effective dialogue on political issues, trade and development. They agreed to work towards the revision of the TDCA and setting priorities for implementing the Agreement before the end of 2007. The Parties called for the Joint Action Plan to be finalised and agreed at the next EU- South Africa troika meeting in the first half of 2007 and that a progress report on its implementation be drafted for adoption at the 8th Joint Co-operation Council in 2007.