



FRIEDRICH
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« Fridays of the Commission » Conference planned in marge of the 5th AU-EU Summit

Date and Time: 24 November 2017, at the Caisse de Stabilisation Meeting Room (near Hotel Ivotel) at 8:30am. Abidjan Plateau (Cote D'Ivoire)

- The “Fridays of the Commission”, a major AU Think Tank will be relocating to Abidjan as one of the parallel events of the 5th African Union-European Union Summit.
- The “Fridays of the Commission” are quarterly conferences/debates organised by the Economic Affairs Department of the African Union Commission (AU), in collaboration with all the Departments of the AU Commission.
- The “Fridays of the Commission” provide an opportunity for staff of the Commission, staff of United Nations institutions, African and non-African diplomats, universities and research centres, participants from the civil society and private sector, to exchange information on and seek solutions to the social, political and economic issues facing the African continent.
- The Abidjan event, which is organised jointly with the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), will focus on the theme “Africa-Europe Cooperation: Results, Challenges and Future Prospects”.

The objectives consist, inter alia, of:

- Highlighting the major achievements of this Cooperation;
 - Identifying the challenges and analysing the prospects of the Europe-Africa Cooperation (Joint Strategy), in the light of the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement negotiations (which will end in 2020);
 - Examining the roles of the key players;
 - Defining the relationship between the EU’s preferred cooperation instruments and Agenda 2063, which is the main African initiative to boost the integration of the Continent;
 - Identifying the global themes of the 2030 Programme (SDGs) for which the EU and the AU could forge alliances within multilateral bodies;
 - Defining the relationship between Post-Cotonou and the 2007 Joint Strategy.
- The Abidjan event will therefore enable all participants: High school and college teachers, students, civil servants, diplomats, the private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the media etc., to fully understand all aspects of the Africa-Europe Cooperation in order to better understand the stakes of the Abidjan Summit.
 - The event will be organized around the following themes, which will be analysed by renowned experts:
 1. Critical assessment of 10 years of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES); what were the successes and failures, the areas of convergence and divergence?
 2. Building a stronger and deeper partnership for the next 10 years: How to strengthen coherence between JAES and future ACP-EU negotiations on Post-Cotonou?
 3. Africa and Europe in the global arena: in which areas of Programme 2030 can Africa and Europe pursue shared objectives and make a real difference?
 4. Investing in a people-centred partnership: how to reconcile the expectations with the ambitions of the civil society and the youth of each continent?

We invite you all to join us, in order to be better informed about aspects of the African Union – European Union Cooperation.



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