



EMEA WEBINARS

EU-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP: IS THE EU STILL A RELEVANT ACTOR FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN THE CONTINENT?

Thursday 15 July 2021, 15:00- 17:00 CET

Moderator:

Prof. Rym Ayadi,
President, Euro-Mediterranean Economists
Association (EMEA) and Professor The Bayes Business
School (Former CASS), London

Speakers:

Andrea Renda
Senior Research Fellow and Head of Global
Governance, Regulation, Innovation and the
Digital Economy (GRID) at CEPS, Belgium

Sara Ronco
Researcher, Euro-Mediterranean Economists
Association (EMEA), Spain

Panelists:

Moubarack Lô
Director General of the Bureau of Economic Prospective,
Senegal, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South,
Member of the EMEA Advisory Board

H. E. Harriet Sena Siaw-Boateng
Ambassador of Ghana to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand
Duchy of Luxembourg and Head of Mission to the European
Union

H.E. Fathallah Sijilmassi
Former Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean
(Barcelona), Founder and CEO of Positive Agenda Advisory,
member of the EMEA Advisory Board and member of the
EMNES Advisory Committee

Domenico Rosa
Head of the Unit INTPA/A/1 on the Strategic partnerships
with Africa and OACPS at the Directorate General for
International Partnerships (INTPA) of the European
Commission



Africa and Europe have a long history of development and cooperation. Since de-colonization, the EU strived to be a reference actor for Africa, launching several “partnership agreements” with the countries of the continent and its institutions. 2020 represented a crucial moment for the EU-Africa relations and development aid. The year symbolized the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona process instituting the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Furthermore, in December, the political deal was reached on a new EU-Africa Caribbean and Pacific Post-Cotonou Partnership Agreement, leading to significant changes in the 20 years old cooperation between EU and Sub Sahara Africa. This brings the need to reflect on the weaknesses and the strengths of more than 20 years of EU engagement in Africa. Despite the COVID-19 eruption, in March 2020, the EU issued a Joint Communication “Towards a Comprehensive Strategy with Africa”, proposing a close work with African countries on five key global trends: green transition and energy access, digital transformation, sustainable growth and jobs, peace and governance, migration and mobility. The Joint Communication will be discussed during the 6th AU-EU Summit in 2021. However, there are already critics concerning the top-down approach that EU seems to still pursue in dialoguing with Africa. The upcoming Summit will represent the culminating moment for consolidating and enhancing the partnership between the two continents (not been scheduled yet). Meanwhile, in December 2020, the Thirteen Extra-ordinary Session on the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) took place, resulting in the decision to officially start trading under AfCFTA on the 1st January 2021.

2021 is a pivotal year for the future of EU-Africa relations, but it also comes with the continuing unmanaged global pandemic. The EU was very active since the eruption, supporting the neighborhood and African countries via the outstanding Team Europe Initiative and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) participating in the COVAX AMC (COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access – Advance Market Commitment) platform for medical equipment and vaccines distribution. Despite the EU engagement in Africa, countries like China, India and Turkey demonstrated their strong presence in the Continent and often perceived quicker and more efficient than the EU. On the one hand, the pandemic has shown the general need to enhance multilateral cooperation to handle the enormous challenges the world is facing. On the other hand, the pandemic also made it clear to the EU that other foreign actors are strengthening their role in the cooperation with the Continent, so that the EU could need to re-configured its role or partnerships. The EU has the chance to better cooperate with Africa on a true partnership among equals, where African countries set their priorities and boost their capacities and potentials.

Against this backdrop, the webinar will discuss the following: what kind of Actor will the EU be in development and cooperation with Africa? Will it be still a relevant one? What is differentiating with other foreign players such as US, China, Russia and others? EMEA is a partner of the TRIGGER Project led by CEPS which kicked off in 2019. The panel will discuss the concept of Actorness developed by the TRIGGER project (on Trends in Global Governance and Europe’s role) and will present the preliminary findings of the research performed by EMEA under this project.



Moderator:



Prof. Rym Ayadi

President and Founder
Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association

Professor Rym Ayadi is the Founder and President of the Euro – Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA). She is Founder and Director of the Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES). She is Senior Advisor at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS); Professor at the Business School, City University of London; and Member of the Centre for Banking Research (CBR); Academic member and Chair (2018-20) of the European Banking Authority – Banking Stakeholders Group (EBA- BSG). She is also Associated Scholar at the Centre for Relationship Banking and Economics (CERBE) at LUMSA University in Rome.

Speakers:



Andrea Renda

Senior Research Fellow and Head of Global
Governance, Regulation, Innovation and the Digital
Economy (GRID) at CEPS

Andrea Renda is a Senior Research Fellow and Head of the CEPS Unit on Global Governance, Regulation, Innovation and the Digital Economy (GRID). He is Professor of Digital Policy at the School of Transnational Governance of the European University Institute, in Florence (Italy). He is a non-resident Senior Fellow at Duke University's Kenan Institute for Ethics and Visiting Professor of Competition Policy and the Digital Economy at the College of Europe in Bruges (Belgium). He is a Fellow of the World Academy of Arts and Science, a CITI Fellow at Columbia University's Centre for Tele-Information and a member of the European Parliament's STOA International Advisory Board. Andrea provides regular advice to several institutions, including the European Commission, the European Parliament, the OECD, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and many more. He was a member of the EU High Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence and is currently a member of the advisory group on Economic and Societal Impacts of Research (ESIR), for the European Commission, DG Research and Innovation.



Sara Ronco

Researcher at EMEA

Sara Ronco is a Researcher at the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA), right after obtaining a MSc in Development Economics from the University of Florence with a thesis based on a research conducted in Costa Rica on trade and food security. She has previously obtained a BA in International Relations from the University of Turin with a thesis based on a research conducted in Kenya on the urbanization and the proliferation of slums. She has been involved in data collection and editing activities of the European Institute for the Mediterranean (IEMed), and she participates to the project on Trends in Global Governance and Europe's Role (TRIGGER) funded by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme



Panellists



Moubarack Lô

Director General of the Bureau of Economic Prospective, Senegal,
Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South, Member of the
EMEA Advisory Board

Former Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, Senegal. President of the Emergence Institute, specializing in economic and statistical studies and strategic planning. He is also Director General of the Economic Foresight Bureau. Previously, he was Deputy Director in the Cabinet of Macky Sall, President of Senegal. He also served as an economic advisor to several Prime Ministers. He is an expert for the UN, the African Development Bank, the World Bank and the African Union. He has served as associate lecturer at the National School of Administration of Senegal and the University Gaston Berger of St. Louis. Moubarack Lô is also member of the Advisory Board of the Euro – Mediterranean Economists Association - EMEA.



H.E. Harriet Sena Siaw-Boateng

Ambassador of Ghana to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy
of Luxembourg and Head of Mission to the European Union

Her Excellency Mrs. Harriet Sena Siaw-Boateng has since 15th March, 2019 held the position of Ambassador of Ghana to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Head of Mission to the European Union. Prior to that, she served as Chef de Cabinet at the Office of the Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (MFA & RI). Ambassador Sena Siaw-Boateng began her Foreign Service career in 1997 as an Assistant Director in the Policy Planning and Research Bureau of MFA & RI. She held the position of Director of the Africa and Regional Integration Bureau, with oversight responsibility for the ECOWAS National Unit and the African Union (AU) Unit. Between 2016 and 2017, she served as Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at the Ghana High Commission in Pretoria, South Africa. She also held the position of Minister-Counsellor and the first female Head of Chancery at the Ghana High Commission in London, United Kingdom, from 2008 to 2011.



H.E. Fathallah Sijlmassi

Former Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (Barcelona), Founder and CEO of Positive Agenda Advisory, member of the EMEA Advisory Board and member of the EMNES Advisory Committee.



Born on August 21st, 1966 in Rabat (Morocco), Fathallah Sijlmassi is an economist, a former Moroccan Ambassador (EU, France) and a former Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (Barcelona). He is currently the founder and CEO of Positive Agenda Advisory, a strategy and development consulting company. He is also Senior Advisor for international affairs and business development and sits on the board of several companies and institutions. He is also the author of the award-winning book "Europe's future is in the South" (2019). He is a member of the advisory board of the Euro – Mediterranean Economists Association - EMEA and of the advisory committee of the Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies (EMNES).



Domenico Rosa

Head of the Unit INTPA/A/1 on the Strategic partnerships with Africa and OACPS at the Directorate General for International Partnerships (INTPA) of the European Commission

Domenico Rosa is Head of the Unit INTPA/A/1 on the Strategic partnerships with Africa and OACPS at the Directorate General for International Partnerships (INTPA) of the European Commission. He also leads the INTPA Post-Cotonou Task Force, which steered the negotiations leading to the new agreement to be concluded between the EU and the OACPS upon the expiration of the current Cotonou Partnership Agreement. Domenico previously served as Senior Adviser in the Cabinet of Commissioner Piebalgs (2012-14) and was Member of the Cabinet for Development and Humanitarian Aid of Commissioners Michel and De Gucht (2006-10). He has a Master degree in Economics and Political Economy (Bocconi University, Milan), in International Politics (ULB, Brussels), and a degree in Psychology (University of Padua, Italy).

