

The AEEP is moving with full steam to achieve its 2020 targets on access, energy security and renewable energy

From 9–10 May 2012, more than 250 stakeholders of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) from private sector, civil society, and academia met in Cape Town, South Africa, to discuss their progress and contributions towards achieving the AEEP 2020 Targets.

The First Stakeholder Forum marked yet another milestone for the AEEP. Established in 2007 as one of eight partnerships between Africa and the EU in the framework of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, the AEEP can look back on a remarkable success story in the past five years. As a long-term framework for political dialogue and cooperation between Africa and the EU, the AEEP addresses energy issues of strategic importance, reflecting African and European needs. Through the Partnership, the two continents work together to develop a shared vision and common policy answers, and to stimulate specific actions that address the energy challenges of the 21st century. The overall objective of the AEEP is improved access to reliable, secure, affordable, cost-effective, climate friendly and sustainable energy services for both continents, with a special focus on achieving the MDGs in Africa.

AEEP 2020 Targets

Access

- to modern and sustainable energy services to at least an additional 100 million Africans

Energy Security

- Double the capacity of cross-border electricity interconnections
- Double the use of natural gas
- Double African gas exports to Europe

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

- 10,000 MW of new hydropower
- 5,000 MW of wind power
- 500 MW of all forms of solar power
- Triple the capacity of all other renewables
- Increase energy efficiency in Africa in all sectors

The First Stakeholder Forum highlights: Three messages to policy makers on renewable energy

- 1. Renewable energy is key for increasing access to sustainable energy services:**
Civil society and private sector representatives emphasised the critical role renewable energy will play in the endeavour to substantially increase access to sustainable energy services in Africa. Stakeholders highlighted that renewable energy technologies will not only supplement the energy mix, but also significantly contribute to reducing costs in the medium term, resulting in greater affordability and availability, and hence, increased access.
- 2. Renewable energy presents opportunities for (industrial) growth and jobs in Africa:** Renewable energy technologies and markets can also be a unique driver for growth and socio-economic development on the African continent. With the competitive advantage of being much closer to the resource, renewable energy for Africa holds a great promise for establishing a skills-based industrial



AEEP Milestones

2007

Lisbon Summit

establishes the framework of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES), and constitutes the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP).

2008

Implementing Structure

established with regular meetings of African and EU Implementing Teams as well as the Joint Experts Group

2008–10

First Action Plan

developed by African and European stakeholders defining AEEP objectives

2009

Road Map

developed to set out priorities for African and European actors for their cooperation and dialogue in the sector

2010

First High-Level Meeting

gathered more than 30 African and European Ministers of Energy and Development Cooperation as well as Commissioners from the African and European Union in Vienna, Austria in September 2010. Together with more than 300 participants, they endorse the AEEP 2020 Targets (see box) and launch the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme.

2008–10

Second Action Plan

developed by African and European stakeholders on the basis of the First Action Plan, defining priority activities for stakeholders

2011

Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP)

starts implementation of first activities in Africa.

sector where rapid gains can be made in the coming years, as African utility companies, renewable energy technology producers (e.g. of photovoltaic systems from West Africa) and European multinationals reaffirmed at the First Stakeholder Forum. Critical for its success, however, is that the jump-start of renewable energy markets is supported through technology and knowledge transfer between Africa and the EU in order to build local (applied) research and training capacities in Africa.

3. Private investors: “Renewable energy is already happening in Africa” – support for market development is needed:

Particularly private sector actors both from Africa and Europe highlighted the momentum currently driving the renewable energy sector in some African countries. The deployment of renewable energy technologies is “already well under way” and many are “more than willing to invest” in projects such as the Lake Turkana wind farm in Northern Kenya – if the right long-term policies are in place. Business leaders pointed out that instruments such as the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP) are critical for the development of conducive regulatory and policy frameworks for renewable energy, demonstrating the opportunities at hand, supporting the skills-development, and, ultimately the success of the sector. In order not to “miss the train racing through the living room” as one investor described the current drive in some of the renewable energy markets in Africa, however, European companies need to engage quickly together with African partners.

The way forward for the AEEP: Involving stakeholders at country-level, contributing to SE4All and monitoring progress

The Stakeholder Forum of the AEEP marked the first of its kind and is a major milestone in the vivid dialogue between African and European stakeholders from private sector, research, and civil society. The Forum concluded to further strengthen this dialogue by supporting stakeholder groups on regional- and country-level, e.g. via business roundtables where we can “pull up the sleeves and get concrete” or results-oriented networks and platforms on biomass or productive use of energy or by linking up renewable energy business associations from Africa and Europe. The Forum further stressed that the AEEP will deliver on the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Initiative through progress on the AEEP 2020 Targets and by successfully facilitating stakeholder involvement on country-level. AEEP stakeholders are, thus, moving with full steam ahead to tackle the energy challenges on the African continent. Progress under the AEEP is monitored continuously on the basis of the AEEP Monitoring Baseline Report (2010). First monitoring results will be available at the Second High-Level Meeting of the AEEP, potentially to be held in the second half of 2013.



Co-Chairs and Partners



African Union
Commission



European
Commission

Austrian
Development Cooperation



Ministry of Energy and
Public Utilities,
Republic of Mauritius



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

For further information, please contact the EU Energy Initiative – Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF) at aEEP@euei-pdf.org

2012

RECP Strategy 2020

is being endorsed by stakeholders from Africa and Europe at the 7th Joint Experts Group meeting in Bonn, Germany. The RECP Strategy 2020 seeks to substantially expand the deployment of renewable energy technologies in Africa.

2011–12

Stakeholder identification

takes place in Africa and the EU to identify representatives from private sector, research, and NGOs in support of Stakeholder Forum and follow-up processes.

2012

First Stakeholder Forum

gathers 300 private sector, research, and NGO actors from both continents in May 2012 in Cape Town, South Africa, to propose concrete steps and activities for the achievement of the AEEP 2020 Targets and brings together to advance concrete partnerships.

2012–20

AEEP Monitoring Baseline Report

is launched at the First Stakeholder Forum. The report serves as a basis for monitoring progress towards achieving the AEEP Targets and will be regularly updated until 2020. The AEEP Monitoring is based on the year 2010.

2013

Second High-Level Meeting

will bring together stakeholders from both continents to review progress towards achieving the AEEP Targets and mobilise additional action on both continents.

2014

Second Stakeholder Forum

will further strengthen the inclusion of private sector, research, and NGOs into the AEEP and advance partnerships between actors of the two continents.