

Africa-EU Energy Partnership celebrates a Decade of success in energy development across two continents

Abidjan, 27th of November 2017

On the 27th of November, the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) convened a high-level international event to showcase its decade of contribution to energy development across the two continents. The event took place as part of the EU-Africa Business Forum, and served both to celebrate what the Partnership has achieved to-date and to underline its central role in the evolving landscape of energy in Africa. The latest AEEP Status Report (2017-2018) was presented at the event, giving insight into the Partnership's achievement of its political targets, and a booklet of Success Stories from the past decade of work was launched.

As highlighted by **H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy**, the AEEP has made a tangible contribution to action on energy:

"The AEEP was a pioneer in ensuring commitment at the highest political level, but also set and monitored clear targets. It gave a boost and almost birth to these initiatives, and the targets on renewable energy later on."

Mr Sindiso Ndema Ngwenya, Secretary General of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, COMESA happily stated *"There are three elements that are necessary for growth and development: knowledge, learning and innovation, the Partnership has all these elements."*

On behalf of the **AEEP's co-Chairs, Ambassador Sergio Mercuri, Minister Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy** emphasised:

"Peace and security have to be reached through the creation of conditions, implying also the access to energy. In this sense having the opportunity to work with the AEEP is part of a larger strategy of pursuing peace and security in Africa."

Speaking on behalf of the civil society organisations **Chiedza Mazaiwana** enthused *"AEEP is a partnership that uses a multi-stakeholder approach in handling energy challenges."*

Daniel Schroth, SEforALL Africa Hub Coordinator, African Development Bank likened *the AU-EU partnership as a marriage that has the ability to go the long distance*

AEEP Steering Group



Dr. Barakat Faragalla, Senior Economist, Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Egypt commended *“the work of the AEEP in stimulating energy security in Africa and is looking forward to more in the next ten years of the Partnership”*.

The AEEP event at the EU-Africa Business Forum was also attended by representatives of the private sector who are engaged in the Partnership’s work, as well as other stakeholders central to the achievement of the AEEP 2020 Targets. The key messages and conclusions of the AEEP event, together with those of other sessions at the EU-Africa Business Forum, will feed into the AU-EU Summit.

In the words of **H.E. Dr Amani Abou-Zeid** it is *“Happy Birthday, Partnership!”*

About the Africa-EU Energy Partnership

Established in 2007 as one of the partnerships under the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) is a long-term framework for strategic dialogue between Africa and the EU aimed at sharing knowledge, setting political priorities and developing joint programmes on the key energy issues and challenges in the 21st century.

The overall objective of the AEEP is to improve access to secure, affordable and sustainable energy for both continents, with a special focus on increasing investment in energy infrastructure in Africa. The AEEP Steering Group is comprised of the European Commission, the African Union Commission (AUC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Egypt, Germany and Italy.

The AEEP Secretariat works towards fostering strategic political dialogue and networking between Europe and Africa. Thanks to the Secretariat’s support, the AEEP is perceived as a long-term framework for structured co-operation between the two continents on energy issues of mutual strategic importance, allowing Africa and Europe to develop a shared vision, common policy approaches and actions.

Contact

Ms. Christina Gewehr - Christina.Gewehr@euei-pdf.org

AEEP Steering Group

