

Report
20th June 2022, 6-10 pm

Brussels, ACADEMIE ROYALE DES SCIENCES

**“CONSEQUENCES FOR AFRICA OF THE WAR IN
UKRAINE”**



The European Union presents
**THE EU
AFRICA
MEETINGS
2022**

INVITATION — DEBATE

On the occasion of the European Union – Africa Meetings 2022, the European External Action Service (EEAS) is pleased to invite you to a debate **on Monday June 20** on the topic:

“CONSEQUENCES FOR AFRICA OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE”

which will be followed by a cocktail.

PROGRAM

6:15p.m. Doors open

6:30p.m.-7:45p.m. Debate with :

- **RITA LARANJINHA**, Managing Director for Africa at the EEAS (European External Action Service)
- **S.E. BAYE MOCTAR DIOP**, Ambassador of Senegal, representative of the Presidency of the African Union
- **LIDET TADESSE SHIFERAW**, Associate Director, Peaceful Societies and Transparent Governance, ECDPM

MODERATION **GEERT LAPORTE**, director of the European Think Tanks Group (ETTG)
Discussions will take place in English and French without interpretation.

8p.m.-9p.m. **Cocktail** (with musical entertainment by Mamadou Dramé/Kora)

9:30p.m. **End of the event**

Address : Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, Rue Ducale 1 1000 Bruxelles (Entrance Rue Ducale or Boulevard du Régent)
Please kindly confirm your participation at : EU-AFRICA-MEETINGS@eeas.europa.eu

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General info and invited guests

The equal relation between the African Union and the European Union positively benefited from the 6th EU-AU Summit in February ([6th European Union - African Union Summit: A Joint Vision for 2030](#)). The two institutions committed to six deliverables: education, health, peace, security and governance, migration and mobility, multilateralism, with the aim to build a better future for their citizens and future generations, bringing together our people, regions and organisations.

Unfortunately the Russian aggression against Ukraine caused a food security challenge on the EU-AU partnership. The wheat and grain produced by Ukraine is stuck in Odessa or stolen and the prices of food coming from Russia increased for African countries. Hence, the "CONSEQUENCES FOR AFRICA OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE" has been a moment of deep and frank confrontation among the EU and AU.

During the conference the speakers underlined how the disruption of food supply combined with the effects of climate change, for example with draughts, is threatening the life of millions of people. In order to solve this problem the EU and AU should overcome a fundamental incomprehension about the expectancies they have regarding each other. In other words, which is the geopolitical aspiration of Africa. The AU clearly stated to respect Ukrainian territorial sovereignty but is neutral regarding the conflict, and it is looking for a pacific solution between the parties.

The African Union and the European Union recognised the close interdependence that characterises their partnership and for this reason decided to meet to find regional common solutions that can overcome nation-based political positions.

Before the conference Y-IDEA and OJUEA met with the young people from Africa and Europe in order to ask them how the youth can contribute to the stabilisation of

the Euro-African area regarding food security and what the youth ask from the institutions. During the conference Y-IDEA and OJUEA had the possibility to hand out the youth joint recommendations (**European and African Youth Advisory Work**) to the participants. Furthermore, the moderator gave Y-IDEA and OJUEA the chance to speak up and read part of the recommendations that were very appreciated by the main public and endorsed by [Ilwad Elman](#) (currently a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize).

Were also invited to the Conference:

- Ambassadors of AU countries
- Representatives of EU Member States at Amb. Level (CoAfr or Peace and Security Committee)
- Joseph Borrell, HR/VP
- Charles Michel, European Council
- Selected Standing Committees: Chair of Foreign Affairs, DEVE, HR, ACP EU JPA
- EC that work with Africa, such as DG INTPA
- Directors of Europeans Think tanks (Geert Laporte)
- Managing Directors of EEAS working on Africa, Global, Strat Com
- UN representatives, Direction of UNDP
- Director of EIB
- Rita Laranjinha (MD of Africa)
- Ambassador of Senegal (Presidency of AU)
- Gabriel and Carola, Youth Representatives of Y-IDEA and OJUEA

During the cocktail following the Conference Y-IDEA and OJUEA got in touch with the Ambassador of Rwanda, Ambassador of Zimbabwe, the Director of ECDPM the European Policy Center, the Head of trade and Economic Section for Central America, DG INPA, the Head of Africalia, the Head of NuNu Senteurs and many others interested in collaborating with our youth network.

European and African Youth Advisory Work

“CONSEQUENCES FOR AFRICA OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE”

MONDAY 20 JUNE - ACADEMIE ROYALE DES SCIENCES

Youth Organisation for the European and African Union (OJUEA)

Youth Intra-Dialogue on Europe and Africa (Y-IDEA)

Mr Gabriel MVOGO, President of the Youth Organisation for the European and African Union.

Mrs Carola Gritella, President of Youth Intra-dialogue on Europe and Africa

Both mandated by the EU-AU youth collective;



ORGANISATION DES JEUNES
POUR
L'UNION EUROPÉENNE ET AFRICAINE



Dear African Union and European Union Ambassadors, dear guests, all Protocol observed,

My name is Carola Gritella and this is Gabriel Mvogo. We represent several African and European youth organisations that aim to build peace, promote development and inclusive dialogue between the continents.

We thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to be here.

We wish to share some recommendations with you. Our first message is a strong condemnation against the Russian aggression of Ukraine which is not only creating unbearable living conditions for the courageous Ukrainian people, but is also having a severe impact on both our continents: the European energy crisis is worsening and we are rushing to find replacements for Russian gas.

Meanwhile, people in Africa are experiencing high pricing of primary food such as bread, as is happening to the families of our friends in Tunisia, Egypt, Senegal. Actually, all of Africa is suffering from inflation.

European dependence on Russian gas can be compared to African dependence from Ukrainian and Russian wheat and grain. The food crisis is not a new phenomenon, it is a long standing problem. How is it possible that even if 60% of the world's arable land is in Africa and the continent has 30.000 km of coastline, Africa is a major importer of food?

From the European side we wonder what our relation towards Africa is. We should stop Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and commit more to fight climate change, because our responsibility in reducing carbon emissions is higher given that Africa contributes only 5% to global emissions. In order to fulfil Agenda 2030 SDGs, Europe should give empowerment to African local communities through growing local climate resilient crops. Also, Africa and Europe need to redesign the supply chain of food. Food production should be less centralised because in case of crisis societies are easily destabilised, as it is happening today.

Excellencies, Ministers,

For the African side many of our young members coming from Africa expressed disappointment for the lack of anticipation of this crisis since 2014. They also condemn the abstention that led to the absence of initiatives that could have guaranteed the strategic interests of Afrique, as well as Africa's dependence on the two countries at war, Russia for its fertiliser, and Ukraine for its wheat.

As with every crisis and every war, some people take advantage of the situation. In the case of today, we, young Europeans and Africans condemn the corruption that favours food price speculation on the African market.

The European Union must play an active role in international organisations, including new ad hoc coalitions including democracies as well as all other parties that share the common interest in finding a solution to crises - in this case, the crisis the world has entered since 24 February 2022.

It is thus in this kind of context that the Global Gateway is of vital importance for the EU and its partners. Through the Global Gateway strategy, the EU can contribute to substantial investment in infrastructure, digitalisation, climate and energy, transport, health, education and research and also food security. Considering the long-term needs and projects of its partners, the EU Global Gateway program could join the objectives of the AU 2063 Agenda. With this coalition of ideas and the synergy in action, historic partners of our planet would succeed in attaining a common goal and respond to global needs of the rest of the world, too.

To achieve this, Europeans need to be ready to listen to African instances and vice-versa, without transposing all policies and ideas without considering each other's local realities.

Short term recommendations

Hence, we want to propose some short term solutions, such as

- Increase supply of food to Africa from the European Union and all the willing partners;
- Promote primary food as a basic Human Right;
- Re-establish the forgotten Maputo Agreements' target to allocate 10% of the national budget to agriculture;
- Promote agronomic knowledge through education;
- Put an immediate end to Russia's Black Sea blockade, including by opening a safe maritime corridor to export wheat, especially towards particularly dependent African countries;

The Long term recommendations include

- Reinforce continental productions by European and African subsidies;
- Invest massively in the mechanisation, industrialisation and technological innovation in the agricultural sector in Africa;
- Anticipate the consequences of climate change in the rural and agricultural regions of Africa, e.g. put in place reforestation in desert zones, survey the

respect of environmental laws in aquatic and forest areas on the African continent;

- Promote manioc production and its industrialisation for continental distribution
- Promote and oversee the blue economy;
- Decentralise, diversify and redesign supply chains to make them more resilient and flexible to avoid external dependencies during crises;
- Reevaluate the actions of the IMF and drawing rights of African countries;
- Accompany in the very long term the ratification and the execution of the African continental free trade zone for the realisation of the AU 2063 Agenda;

Finally we would like to ask you some questions,

- How and when will the Global Gateway be operationalised? People cannot wait because their daily life is at stake, we need action right now.
- Seeing the commercial relationship between Africa and Russia, the European sanctions against Russia have had a negative impact on African countries. So, the African and European youth asks if there has been a diagnostic of Russian-African relationship in this decision? Which solutions could we find together within the AU and EU to soften the negative impact of these sanctions on the needs of the African continent?

By

Gabriel MVOGO, President of the Youth Organisation for the European and African Union.

Carola Gritella, President of Youth Intra-dialogue on Europe and Africa

With the participation of:

Y-IDEA and OJUEA. A special thanks to: Tessy Li, Mimi Amaichigh, Faouziatou Ibrahima, Helen Barbosa, Fabio Maina, Omayma Brahmi, Benedicta Frema Schmitz, Maria Cerqueira, Gladys Vodouhe.

European and African Youth Advisory Work

“CONSEQUENCES FOR AFRICA OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE”

LUNDI 20 JUIN - ACADEMIE ROYALE DES SCIENCES

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ORGANISATION DES JEUNES
POUR
L'UNION EUROPÉENNE ET AFRICAINE



Chers Ambassadeurs de l'Union Africaine et de l'Union Européenne, chers invités, tout Protocole respecté,

Je m'appelle Carola Gritella et voici Gabriel Mvogo. Nous représentons plusieurs organisations de jeunesse africaines et européennes qui visent à construire la paix, promouvoir le développement et le dialogue inclusif entre les continents.

Nous vous remercions beaucoup de nous avoir donné l'occasion d'être ici.

Nous souhaitons partager avec vous quelques recommandations. Notre premier message est une condamnation ferme de l'agression russe contre l'Ukraine, qui non seulement crée des conditions de vie insupportables pour le courageux peuple ukrainien, mais a également de graves répercussions sur nos deux continents : la crise énergétique européenne s'aggrave et nous nous précipitons pour trouver des substituts au gaz russe.

Pendant ce temps, les Africains connaissent des prix élevés pour les aliments de base tels que le pain, comme c'est le cas pour les familles de nos amis en Tunisie, en Égypte et au Sénégal. En fait, toute l'Afrique souffre de l'inflation.

La dépendance européenne vis-à-vis du gaz russe peut être comparée à la dépendance africaine vis-à-vis du blé et des céréales ukrainiens et russes, mais les crises alimentaires désormais plus dures ne sont pas nouvelles. Si 60% des terres arables mondiales et 30.000 km de littoral se trouvent en Afrique, comment est possible que l'Afrique soit un importateur majeur de nourriture ?

Du côté européen, nous nous demandons quelle est notre relation avec l'Afrique. Nous devrions arrêter la pêche illégale, non déclarée et non réglementée en Afrique et voir comment nous pouvons aider le combat du changement climatique: Car, notre responsabilité de réduire nos émissions de carbone est plus élevée, vu que l'Afrique ne contribue que 5% des émissions globales. Pour réaliser l'Agenda 2030 des Objectifs de Développement durable, l'Europe devrait soutenir l'autonomisation des communautés locales par le biais de la création des cultures locales résilientes. Aussi, l'Afrique et l'Europe doivent repenser la chaîne logistique alimentaire. La production alimentaire doit être plus décentralisée parce que lors d'une crise les sociétés sont plus facilement déstabilisées ainsi, comme c'est le cas aujourd'hui.

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

plusieurs de nos jeunes membres d'origine africaine ont exprimé leur déception face au manque d'anticipation de cette crise qui existe depuis 2014. Ils dénoncent également l'absence d'initiative pouvant garantir les intérêts stratégiques de l'Afrique et réduire sa dépendance aux deux pays qui sont la Russie pour son engrais, et l'Ukraine pour son blé.

En outre, les jeunes d'Europe et d'Afrique dénoncent les cas de corruption qui favorisent la spéculation des prix des denrées alimentaires sur le marché africain.

L'Union européenne doit jouer un rôle actif dans les organisations internationales, y compris dans les nouvelles coalitions ad hoc rassemblant, à la fois, les démocraties et les marginalisés dont l'intérêt commun est la résolution des crises. En occurrence, celle dans laquelle le monde est plongé depuis le 24 février 2022.

C'est donc dans ce type de contexte que le Global Gateway est d'une importance vitale pour l'UE et ses partenaires. Avec cette initiative, l'UE peut contribuer à des investissements substantiels dans les infrastructures, le numérique, l'énergie et le climat, les transports, la santé, l'éducation et la recherche ainsi que dans la sécurité alimentaire. En prenant en considération les besoins et les projets à long terme de ses partenaires, ce programme pourrait aussi rejoindre les finalités de l'Agenda 2063 de l'Union africaine.

Les recommandations immédiates

Alors, nous voulons proposer des solutions dans l'immédiat, comme les suivantes

- Augmenter l'approvisionnement alimentaire de l'Afrique en provenance de l'Union européenne et de tous les partenaires volontaires;
- Promouvoir l'alimentation primaire en tant que droit humain fondamental;
- Rétablir l'objectif oublié des Accords de Maputo d'allouer 10% du budget national à l'agriculture;
- Promouvoir les connaissances agronomiques par l'éducation;
- Mettre fin immédiatement au blocus russe de la mer Noire, notamment en ouvrant un corridor maritime sûr pour exporter du blé, notamment vers des pays africains particulièrement dépendants;

Les recommandations à long terme

- Renforcer les productions agricoles continentales avec l'appui des subventions européennes et africaines;
- Investir massivement dans la mécanisation, l'industrialisation et l'innovation technologique du secteur agricole de l'Afrique;
- Anticiper sur les conséquences du réchauffement climatique;
- Promouvoir les cultures résilientes, comme celle du manioc;
- Promouvoir et encadrer l'économie bleue;
- Décentraliser, diversifier et reconcevoir les chaînes d'approvisionnement afin d'éviter les dépendances extérieures en cas de crise mondiale;
- Réévaluer les actions du FMI et les droits de tirage des pays africains;
- Accompagner la ratification et la mise en œuvre de la Zone de Libre Échange Continentale Africaine;

Enfin, nous voudrions vous poser quelques questions. La première étant sur

- Alors, comment et quand le Global Gateway sera-t-il opérationnel ? Les gens ne peuvent plus attendre ce moment, leur vie quotidienne est en danger, et nous avons besoin d'action maintenant.
- Du fait des relations commerciales entre l'Afrique et la Russie, les sanctions occidentales contre ce pays ont eu un impact négatif sur les économies africaines. Est-ce que un diagnostic des relations commerciales Russie-Afrique a-t-il été établi ? Quelles solutions pouvons-nous trouver ensemble pour atténuer les impacts desdites sanctions sur les besoins africains ?

By

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Pictures of the Conference





