



*EU- Angola Third Ministerial
Joint Way Forward*



**3rd ANGOLA-EUROPEAN UNION MINISTERIAL MEETING
BRUSSELS 7 MARCH 2017
JOINT PRESS STATEMENT**

The European Union and the Republic of Angola held in Brussels on 7 March 2017 the third Ministerial meeting organised under the EU-Angola Joint Way Forward (JWF) agreement, a framework for dialogue and cooperation based on common interests and values. The Ministerial meeting covered areas including peace and security, good governance, human rights and migration, economic growth and sustainable development.

The meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Planning and Territorial Development of the Republic of Angola, Job Graça and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malta, Dr George Vella, representing the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission.

PEACE AND SECURITY

As committed actors in support of peace and security in Africa and beyond, both sides pledged to work increasingly together and reaffirmed their commitment to peace and security in conformity with the aims and principles of the UN Charter. The EU commended in particular Angola's current leadership as Chair of the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region and Vice Chair of the Organ for Politics, Defence and Security of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Regarding the situation in the Great Lakes, both parties underlined their ongoing commitment to support the implementation of international, regional and national commitments under the Addis Ababa Peace, Security and Co-operation Framework for the Great Lakes and the Region. Focusing on current priorities in the region, both parties underlined the need for further urgent and concerted action to address the situations in DRC and Burundi. In the case of DRC, the full realization of the political agreement reached between the Government and the opposition on 18 October and 31 December 2016 under the facilitation of the African Union and the National Episcopal Conference of Churches of Congo (CENCO), including appropriate implementing arrangements and an ongoing commitment from all actors to maximum inclusivity and to reducing tension in the political climate, would open the way to the holding of presidential and legislative free and fair elections as soon as possible, in line with the Constitution, the UN Security Council Resolution 2277 and the UNSC Presidential Statement of 4 January 2017. Parties expressed their continued support to the political stabilization process underway in this country.

In the case of Burundi, both parties expressed concern at the continuing humanitarian impact of the crisis, and stressed the need fully to investigate reports of serious human rights abuses and violence. Both sides reiterated their full support to the inclusive dialogue facilitated by the East African Community as the only means to achieving a viable solution to the crisis in line with the principles of the Constitution and the Arusha Agreements. Parties encouraged good neighbourliness and security

along the common border between Burundi and other countries to enhance peace and stability in the region.

Angola and the EU shared views on the situation in Central African Republic, welcoming the outcome of the 17 November 2016 Brussels Conference on CAR and the pledging of € 2,06 billion EUR of financial support. Both parties underlined their support to the CAR authorities, recognizing a critical opportunity for the country following the completion of a difficult political transition, and underlining the need for long-term political, financial and technical support if much-needed stability and socio-economic development are to be achieved. The needs of citizens should be paramount, and durable reconciliation requires equitable justice and the elimination of impunity for the most serious crimes.

On Guinea Bissau, the Parties expressed strong concern over the protracted political and institutional instability in the country and agreed on the urgent need for all political actors to demonstrate their ability of working together to swiftly come to a consensual solution. Angola and the EU welcomed ECOWAS efforts to solve the crisis in view of bringing Guinea Bissau back on a track of stability and development, and the engagement of Angola in such a mediation process with its participation in the Conakry round table in October. The Parties expressed their willingness to engage in further possible actions, especially through the P5 (UN, AU, ECOWAS, EU and CPLP) and supporting the International Contact Group for Guinea Bissau.

Parties shared common views regarding the challenges and opportunities of protecting the seas and oceans. Both agreed on the need to promote good governance of oceans, protect seas and oceans and in order to develop a sustainable blue economy.

The June 2013 Yaoundé Code of Conduct, adopted by ECOWAS, ECCAS and GGC Member States to address transnational organised crime in the maritime domain, is a fundamental political step in the fight against illegal acts at sea in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG). There is a need, however, to accelerate the implementation of the Yaoundé architecture.

The EU recalled the Luanda declaration following the Maritime and Energy Security conference held in October 2015 which calls for the Yaoundé architecture to become operational as soon as possible, and the establishment of all structures foreseen (inter-regional, regional, multi-national). The EU reiterated its continuous commitment to support countries of the GoG, following the adoption of the EU GoG Strategy (March 2014) and the Action Plan (March 2015). In 2017, several projects will start and Angola will benefit from some of them, in particular the GoGIN project (Gulf of Guinea Information Network)

The EU congratulated Angola for their signature of the Lomé Charter adopted on 15 October 2016, during the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State of the African Union on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa, and hoped a quick ratification process would follow as soon as possible.

Parties agreed to work together to achieve common objectives and to continue regular exchanges on peace and security issues, including through political dialogue under article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement. They reiterated the importance of the Great Lakes region as a specific topic for increased cooperation.

GOVERNANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND MIGRATION

Parties had an open exchange on issues of good governance, democracy and human rights.

Angola referred to its 2017 General Elections and gave an overview of its preparatory stages, reaffirming its commitment to holding the upcoming elections in a democratic, transparent and

inclusive way. Angola took note of EU's willingness to support the Angolan efforts with the presence of an electoral observation mission or technical assistance. The EU explained the need of a timely invitation to observe or assist.

The EU shared its human rights policy and the parties welcomed Angola's recent and renewed engagement with Human Rights international bodies, in particular the engagement with the UN Committee on Economic and Cultural Rights, the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, the visit of the Commissioner of the African Commission on People and Human Rights. The parties underlined the importance of initiatives launched by Angolan authorities in the fields of gender equality, rights of the child and the strengthening of the judicial sector as well as dialogue with civil society. The EU looks forwards to intensifying dialogue on these issues in view of further progress.

Angola reaffirmed its engagement to the upcoming Universal Periodic Review exercise, where progress on specific recommendations would be evaluated. The EU committed to continue supporting efforts on the improvement of human rights standards in the country and in the implementation on general UPR recommendations and specifically on the respect for freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. Both parties also explained their respective positions on the ICC.

The EU presented its comprehensive migration policy and the Parties expressed their commitment to continue cooperating aiming at better prevention and fighting against irregular migration, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, document fraud, and improving management and border control mechanisms and legal migration mobility. In this regard, the EU highlighted the latest developments concerning Frontex which became the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCG). The active participation of Angola in Frontex activities, namely in the Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community (AFIC) was emphasized.

The parties also converged on the need for permanent dialogue on risk and disaster management and on transnational organised crime, with a focus on anti money laundering and combatting financing of terrorism (AML/CFT).

Parties agreed to continue exchanging information on Good Governance and Human Rights through political dialogue according to article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The parties shared the view that diversifying the economy and the export base are desirable objectives to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth of the Angolan economy. The Angolan authorities set out its policies in this respect. The EU reaffirmed its support to these policy goals.

The parties agreed that investment and trade have an important role to play in the process of diversification. Parties underlined the importance of private and foreign investments to sustain economic growth and discussed how to promote bilateral trade and investment flows and to develop a better business environment. Parties agreed that an appropriate legal framework will encourage private investment, unleashing the country's economic potential. Parties also agreed that trade measures shall be in line with their respective WTO obligations and will duly respect the investments that the parties have lawfully made in each other's territory.

The parties took note that the Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and the SADC EPA group has entered into application and acknowledged that Angolan authorities will be in position to start negotiations to join the SADC EPA should they so wish. The parties also discussed trade policies such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Free Trade Protocol, the Tripartite

Free Trade Area, and the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) and how all of these fit in with Angola's overall trade policy.

The parties had an open exchange on Angola's wide financial reforms aimed at further aligning the country's regulations and procedures to current international rules and standards, including in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) anti-money laundering and counter financing of terrorism compliance process and the Internal Control Over Financial Reporting (ICFR) implementation requirements. The EU recognised the importance of these reforms. In this regard, both parties agreed on the importance of a strong and credible financial sector as a means to promote sustainable economic growth as well as economic cooperation. The parties further agreed to continue working together on the financial sector to increase competitiveness and attract private investment.

The parties welcomed the conclusion of the Collaborative Research Arrangement between the European Commission's Joint Research Center (JRC) and the National Meteorology and Geophysics Institute of Angola (INAMET). This scientific collaboration aims at developing applications in the areas of agro-meteorology and hydrology, i.e. flood forecasting, early warning of crop production deficit and drought monitoring in Angola. Through this Arrangement, JRC will contribute to INAMET's capacity building on agro-meteorological and hydrological monitoring via trainings on tools and model and data exchange, while INAMET will contribute with its national and regional expertise as well as ground data.

Follow-up

The parties acknowledged the importance of deepening their partnership in the framework of the Joint Way Forward based on constructive strategic policy dialogue. Both parties reiterated their full commitment to a fruitful cooperation based on an open, respectful and transparent relationship. They have also agreed to examine and develop joint initiatives resulting from those dialogues. Coherence and synergy will be sought between the Joint Way Forward and the different EU financial instruments available, including the European Development Fund.

The parties agreed that the next SOM and Ministerial meetings would take place in Luanda in 2018.

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