

The international policy dialogue



The UN Millennium Project has, at the request of former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, identified practical strategies to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It emphasises the need for scaled-up investments in health, education and infrastructure, alongside efforts to promote gender equality and environmental sustainability. These conclusions underline the urgent need to improve access to energy services to reach the MDGs.

Many donors are increasing their support to infrastructure. Decisions made at 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg led to new commitments in the energy sector. Decisions at the Bonn International Conference for Renewable Energies in 2004 and the G8 Gleneagles Summit in 2005 demanded an increase in the use of clean energy in developing and emerging countries. These international developments led to intensified EU energy dialogues with international partners, including Africa.

Energy – a crosscutting theme in EU development policies

In July 2002, on the eve of the Johannesburg World Summit, the European Commission adopted a Communication on the EU's "Energy cooperation with the developing countries." The Communication sets out a comprehensive policy framework for energy cooperation with developing countries focusing on poverty reduction, security of supply and environmental protection. The Communication highlights that renewable energy solutions often prove to be cost-effective in meeting rural electricity needs.

Recognising the crosscutting nature of energy and its important linkages with development, the EU launched the EU Energy Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development (EUEI) at the 2002 World Summit. This is a European commitment to increase the provision of adequate, affordable and sustainable energy services to the poor. The EUEI serves as a framework for coordination among EU Member States and with the European Commission, as well as facilitating dialogue with development partners.

energy
cooperation



The European Consensus (2005) lays down guiding principles for development assistance and for the first time includes energy as a priority for the EU Commission and Member States. A number of funding instruments were established – the ACP-EC Energy Facility, the COOPENER Programme and the Member State-funded Partnership Dialogue Facility (PDF). In addition, the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure was created to facilitate investments in electricity generation, cross-border interconnections, grid extension and rural distribution. The EU also launched the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition (JREC) as a high-level initiative focusing specifically on renewable energy and complementing the EUEI and other EU-led energy partnerships.

Reinforcing the EU-Africa energy dialogue

The increased international attention on energy issues demanded a renewal of the energy dialogue between EU and Africa and resulted in a joint call for a comprehensive energy partnership. In line with this, the EU proposed to integrate Europe's energy and development policies in a "win-win" situation for both continents. Africa stands to benefit from EU efforts to diversify its energy supply and to develop energy efficient and renewable energy technologies, which are vital energy elements for a sustainable future of both Europe and developing countries.

These developments led to the Africa-EU Energy Partnership launched at the Africa-EU Lisbon Summit in December 2007, which provides a long-term framework for policy dialogue and specific actions.

Complementing other international initiatives

The Africa-EU Energy Partnership builds on and complements existing structures and initiatives: the EU Energy Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development, the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure, the ACP-EC Energy Facility and the EU Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources Including Energy. The latter includes contributions to the Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund.

Within the Energy Partnership, the EU will identify synergies with or contribute to other international initiatives, such as the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, the World Bank's Clean Energy for Development Investment Framework, the Global Gas Flaring Partnerships and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

synergies



The Energy Facility – identifying priorities together

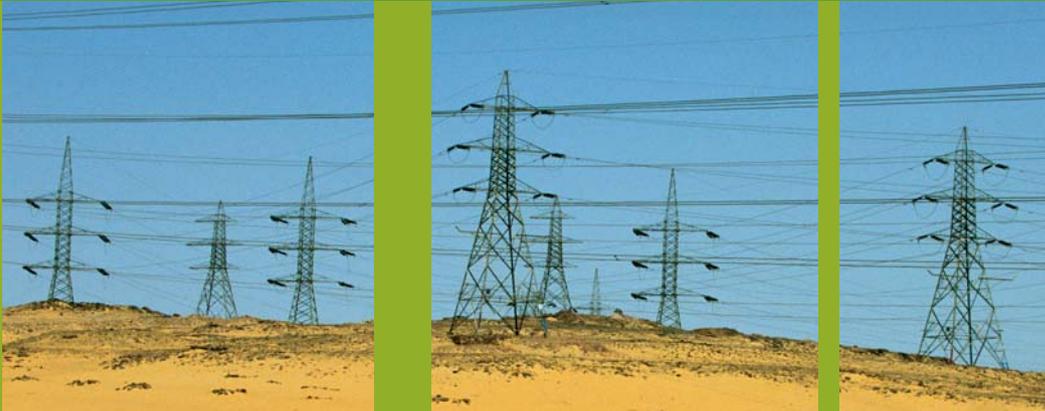
The 2003 EUEI Energy for Africa Conference in Nairobi was a milestone in the energy dialogue between Africa and Europe. Recommendations adopted by 40 African countries identified the following priorities:

- Rural energy in general and rural electrification in particular.
- Energy for households, biomass and substitutes.
- Strategies and policies for the sector at national and regional level.
- Capacity building at all levels.

The priorities of the Nairobi Conference were reflected in the design of the ACP-EC Energy Facility that completed its first call for proposals in 2007. Along the lines of the Nairobi recommendations, the Energy Facility has a strong focus on co-investing in projects that improve access to energy in rural and remote areas.



Energy Facility



Interconnecting Africa: the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure

The Infrastructure Partnership aims to secure the interconnectivity of the African continent and its different regions, thereby responding to the development goals of the African Union and its New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development. It is one of the cornerstones of the increasing cooperation between Europe and Africa and will play a key role in the implementation of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy.

This EU-African Partnership will substantially increase investment in infrastructure and delivery of related services. It focuses on cross-border regional and national infrastructure in the widest sense: transport networks, water and energy

infrastructure, as well as telecommunication networks. For energy, the Partnership facilitates investments in cross-border interconnections, grid extension and rural distribution, which will improve access to sustainable and affordable energy services.

The Partnership has a framework of financing instruments including the EU Infrastructure Trust Fund – an innovative co-financing instrument that provides grants for leveraging funds from other financiers and private investors. It brings together the European Commission, EU Member States, the European Investment Bank and European Development Financing Institutions, which pool their resources to directly co-finance continental and regional projects.

interconnectivity

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