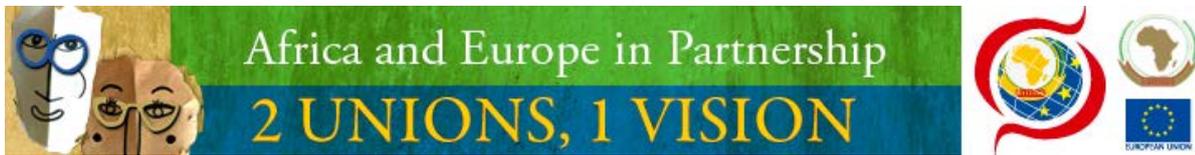


FLASH REPORT, 2 April 2014

3rd Africa Europe Youth Leaders' Summit

1. In order for the joint African and European youth to present tangible recommendations to the 4th EU-Africa Heads of States Summit on the 2-3 April 2014, **the 3rd Africa Europe Youth Leaders' Summit convened this Monday and Tuesday in Brussels, Belgium.** The Youth Leaders' Summit brought together **more than 100 youth leaders** from both continents, including African Diaspora youth leaders.
2. The **EU President, Mr Van Rompuy** and the **AUC Chairperson Dr. Dlamini-Zuma** opened the Youth Summit, both stating **strong support for reinforced Africa-EU youth cooperation as part of the future Africa-EU Partnership.** The President of the European Commission **Manuel José Barroso** made a video message. Former EU Development Commissioner, **MEP Louis Michel** and UNECA Executive Secretary, **Dr. Carlos Lopes** made key speeches calling for enhanced involvement of and support to the youth within the inter-continental relationship. **H.E. Anatole Collinet Makosso**, Chairperson of the AU Ministerial Conference on Youth, **Ambassador Jean Baptiste Natama**, AUC Chief of Staff and Professor **Joe Diescho**, Executive Director the of Namibia Institute of Public Affairs, addressed the participants during the inter-generational debate. The closing remarks were delivered by the Chairman of the AU Ministerial Conference on Youth and **Lord Boateng**, member of U.K. parliament.
3. All presidents of the 5 organising Youth platforms addressed the meeting and praised the many achievements realised by the Africa-EU Youth Platform since 2007. Both **Peter Matjasic** (President of the European Youth Forum) and **Yershen Pillay** (President of the Pan-African Youth Union) called for a specific, dedicated EU-Africa Youth Initiative based on the principles of **'youth finding solutions to youth problems'**; existing achievements and the dynamic cooperation already existing among the 5 organisations.



4. The two Youth Presidents, Peter Matjasic and Yershen Pillay will address the Africa and EU Heads of States at the IV Summit. They will deliver the **key messages** and conclusions from the Youth Leaders' summit, namely:
 - a. Establish a **dedicated, free-standing Africa-EU Youth Initiative/Facility** to upscale the cooperation among the youths of the two continents;
 - b. While recognising the diversity of both continents and the many differences between young Africans and Europeans, the **Youth Leaders' want to pursue joint activities in areas where they face common challenges in line with the principles of the Africa-EU Partnership**. Discussions during the summit illustrated that much can be done and achieved by empowering the youth organisations and **focusing on youth leadership, youth entrepreneurship and youth as building blocks in the strengthening of democratic and peaceful societies**;
 - c. **Training, skills development, education and mobility** were considered as necessary transversal components of any solution to youth challenges by the EU and African Youth leaders';
 - d. Promote the **involvement of youth groups in policy development and implementation** at the national, regional and continental levels in both Africa and the EU;
 - e. **Develop financing mechanisms to promote youth entrepreneurship** in Africa and Europe;
 - f. Change the perception of the youth towards certain business sectors, such as the agriculture sector;
 - g. More **active involvement of youth in the Africa-EU Partnership**.
5. The **Africa-Europe Youth Platform and the Steering Committee will continue to work on the launch of an Africa-EU Youth Initiative within the framework of the Africa-EU Partnership**.