



Round-table and Interactive Dialogue

Leveraging a New Security Partnership with Africa

27 November 2018 - 17h-18h30

European Parliament - Room A3H1

Peace and security in Africa has never been higher on the European Union's agenda. Faced with persistent internal pressure to address irregular migratory flows, EU leaders increasingly appreciate the interlinkages between conflict, forced displacement, and fragility as push factors driving both asylum seekers and migrants to Europe. Over the past year, at least €200m of new external security financing was channeled through the African Peace Facility and the Capacity Building in Support of Security and Development (CBSD) initiative.ⁱ

As the European Union arrives at its most crucial foreign policy juncture to date - the negotiation of the next Multiannual Financial Framework and a post-Cotonou Agreement – all indicators point towards this trend continuing. In addition to integrating CBSD into the new 'single instrument' for external spending,ⁱⁱ the EEAS has proposed replacing the €2.7bn African Peace Facility with a €10.5bn European Peace Facilityⁱⁱⁱ to finance additional military capacity building.

While these proposals present opportunities to improve human security across the continent, they are also fraught with risk of exacerbating existing problems by indiscriminately financing security systems with no oversight. For example, the EU supported pledged €100m to the new G5 Sahel Joint Force, but has yet to address the key issue of fiscal corruption the Sahel's defence sector. This problem breeds instability across the region by handicapping military effectiveness and perpetuating unpaid soldiers' involvement in illicit trade.^{iv}

As spending on African security systems increases, it is crucial to examine whether funds are constructively addressing all drivers of instability, fragility, and forced displacement, and are also tailored to address strikingly different types of conflict across the continent. While it necessary to mainstream conflict prevention and peacebuilding, it is equally important to ensure proper safeguards to ensure that additional funding is not abused.^v In this regard, it is essential that a post-Cotonou agreement build meaningful dialogue genuine security system reform that extends beyond technical exercises and trainings.

In light of the opportunities and challenges ahead, this round-table discussion will bring together a small group of security experts, EU officials, and civil society to develop pragmatic strategies to leverage both the MFF and post-Cotonou processes for a reformed approach to African security. It will also feature representatives of Transparency International-Defence and Security, who will discuss new research and analysis on defence accountability in West Africa. This event will also consider the risks and benefits of the new European Peace Facility, and reflect on how the EU-Africa partnership should evolve to maintain its relevancy amongst new military actors.

Format:

Speakers will deliver brief intervention, followed by an interactive, moderated discussion between expert participants. This event will be held under Chatham House rules to allow for open, constructive debate.

Confirmed Speakers:

Mr. Domenico Rosa, Head of Unit, EU-AU & EU-ACP Strategic Partnerships, European Commission

Ms. Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office

Dr. Karolina MacLachlan, Regional Programme Manager- Europe, Transparency International Defense and Security

Confirmed Participants from:

ESISC- European Strategic Intelligence and Security Center

CEPS- Centre for European Policy Studies

NATO

EPLO- European Peacebuilding Liaison Office

ECDPM- European Centre for Development Policy Management

Poliferie

ICMPD- International Centre for Migration Policy Development

Egmont Institute

Deutsche Bank

Heinrich Boll Foundation

European Egyptian Council Brussels

European Commission

Saferworld

European External Action Service

World Bank

Friends of Europe

European Parliament

ⁱ The Capacity Building in Support of Security and Development legislation added EUR 100m to the Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace, in order to build military capacity that would support development goals.

See: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1513604088285&uri=CELEX:32017R2306>

ⁱⁱ Under the Commission's proposed budgetary structure for the next MFF, most external policy instruments have been consolidated into the Neighborhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument. See more: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/budget-may2018-neighborhood-development-international-regulation_en.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ See: https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/46285/european-peace-facility-eu-budget-fund-build-peace-and-strengthen-international-security_en

^{iv} BIC. "Why Military Financial Accountability is the G5 Joint Force's Achilles Heel." June 2018. Available at: <https://www.bic-rhr.com/why-military-financial-accountability-is-the-g5-joint-forces-achilles-heel/>

^v The CBSD amendment to the IcSP, which is questionably included in the next MFF before proving its effectiveness, is one potential area for improvement in this regard.