

The European Business Council for Africa

Friday 25 June 2021

Dear Members and Partners,

Here you can find some key news, articles, webinars, reports and reference documents.

EBCAM [is looking for new interns](#) starting in September! Feel free to spread the news!

Articles

- [European Union to lift sanctions against Burundi](#). In March 2016, the EU suspended its direct financial support to the Burundian government following the political crisis sparked by the controversial third term bid of then President Pierre Nkurunziza. At the end of May this year, the EU working groups unanimously gave the direction to EU judicial institutions to revoke the suspension of the financial aid to the Burundian government, Bochu told a press briefing after meeting Burundian President Evariste Ndayishimiye. **(The EastAfrican)**
- [WHO says Africa's COVID-19 caseload at historic high amid third wave](#). WHO regional director for Africa, said the continent is grappling with a surge in COVID-19 infection fuelled by the easing of containment measures, cold weather and the presence of new variants. **(CGTN Africa)** Amidst the gloom, [the World Bank grants \\$12bln to vaccinate 400mln people in Africa](#).
- [EU aims to end Africa's Wi-Fi dead zones with satellite scheme](#). A new multibillion-euro EU communication satellite network can cut out internet blackspots across Europe and also in Africa, Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton said Tuesday. **(Politico Europe)**. In Nigeria, [MTN plans 3-year \\$1.5bln investment to improve broadband connectivity](#). The Nigerian government wants to bring the Internet penetration rate to 90% by 2025. Mobile operators in the country are jumping on the opportunity to win more market share and solidify their customer base. **(Ecofin Agency)**
- In [Benin, the World Bank supports electricity projects with 4200mln](#) and in [Burkina Faso, World Bank Group has just approved several loans worth \\$168 million](#) for the electrification of 120,000 households using solar energy. [EDF involves the diaspora in financing rural electrification](#). The Electricité de France (EDF) group has just launched the "Diaspora energy by EDF" platform. The objective of this initiative is to solicit the contribution of the African diaspora to the electrification of rural areas in Africa. South of the Sahara, off-grid solutions are preferred for access to electricity for rural households. **(Afrik 21)**

- In oil sector developments, [Nigeria's oil bill faces delays over demands for big changes \(CGTN Africa\)](#) and [Israeli Billionaire Dan Gertler in a scuffle with DRC govt over Lake Albert oil project \(Ecofin Agency\)](#). Nigerian Billionaire businessman [Dangote announces plans to invest in Cameroonian oil and gas, expand cement production](#). Dangote made the disclosure on Wednesday after a meeting with Cameroon's President, Paul Biya in the capital, Yaounde. Earlier this week Dangote Group has concluded plans to begin the export of its first shipment of fertilizer from its \$2.5 billion new fertilizer plant at the Lekki Free Zone in Lagos, to the US and Brazil. **(Nairametrics)**
- [Egypt implements plan to upgrade sea ports, promote international trade](#) "The plan aims to boost the competitiveness of Egypt's ports, create added value, lure investments, and activate the flow of importation and exportation," said Mona Sobhy, professor of economic geography and transportation with the Al-Azhar University in Cairo. **(CGTN Africa)**
- Recently reelected [EBCAM President Etienne Giros was invited to speak on French TV about the situation in Ethiopia](#). Mr. Giros, also acting CIAN president, recognized that the conflict in Tigray, although far from the economic heart Adis Abbeba, brings a degree of uncertainty to the country combined with the pandemic but nevertheless the country's massive internal market and its youthful and relatively skilled population present opportunities for business as creation of employment is crucial for Ethiopia's future. **(France 24)**
- [EABL adapts to Covid-hit marketplace](#). East African Breweries Limited (EABL) took a shock when Kenya closed hospitality businesses due to the pandemic. How are its prospects looking after a difficult year? **(African Business)**
- [Nurmara Newsletter](#) 25 June 2021 **(Nurmara)**
- [Africa's week in pictures: 18-24 June 2021 \(BBC News\)](#)

Reports/ Reference Documents

- European Parliament Research Service – [Financing for Africa - The EU budget and beyond](#)
- EU Delegation to Cape Verde - [Mapping of EU Investments in Cape Verde](#)
- UNCTAD - [COVID-19 slashes foreign direct investment in Africa by 16%](#)

Members' & Partners' Events & Webinars

- CIAN – [Forum Afrique 2021](#) – 1 July 2021 (hybrid event)
- Invest Africa - [Unlocking Africa's Rare Earth Potential: Key for a Green Economy?](#) – 22 July 2021 (online event)

Other Events & Webinars

- SABC/Afreximbank – [The Power of Regional Value Chains: African Markets And the New Operative Environment](#) – 25 June 2021(online event)
- TABC – [Financing Investment and Trade in Africa](#) – 24-26 June 2021 (Tunis, Tunisia)
- U.S. Dept. of Commerce, International Trade Administration – [President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa](#) – 25 June 2021 (online event)
- Friends of Europe – [Africa Europe Foundation Forum](#) – 28 June-2 July 2021 (online event)
- African Business - [How gender-lens investing can boost the post-pandemic recovery](#) – 29 June 2021
- Corporate Council on Africa – [U.S.-Africa Business Summit 2021](#) – 27-29 July 2021 (online event)

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