



NEWSLETTER

The European Business Council for Africa Friday 22 October 2021

Dear Members and Partners,

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

Announcements

- EBCAM organises its 26th General Assembly on 28-29 October 2021 in Paris. Please find the draft agenda and the programme [here](#).

Articles

- [French government commits further USD150M funding for African tech startups](#) as part of a rejigged Digital Africa initiative. It equips 500 entrepreneurs with capabilities to design and scale up ground-breaking innovations and brings together startups, academia, incubators, institutional financiers, venture capitalists, and technology clusters to develop the African startup space. **(Disrupt Africa)**
- [The Nairobi-based African Wildlife Foundation hails China's pledge to support biodiversity conservation](#). The Kumming Biodiversity Fund announced its commitment to promoting planetary health by investing USD233M. **(CGTN Africa)**
- [AU may restrict future donors who attach strings on funds](#). As part of its continuing reforms, the proposal leads to the rejection of monies from entities that seek to divert the organizations from its core values and aims at making the continental bloc self-sufficient. **(CGTN Africa)**

- [AfDB promotes agribusiness in Sao Tome and Principe with a USD10.7M grant offered to SMEs](#). Through the African Development Fund, the first phase of the Zuntamon Initiative which focuses its interventions on commodities to which women and youth are actively contributing, as well as export products with high growth potential such as cocoa, coconut, and horticultural products. **(Food Business Africa)**
- [IMF warns of darkening economic prospects for low-income countries](#). Growth projections for 2021 were slightly downgraded – while global growth projections were lowered by 0.1 percentage points the low-income countries group was marked down 0.6 percentage points relative to July due to worsening pandemic dynamics. **(devex)**
- [Social media has been instrumental in changing African political landscapes since the Arab Spring](#). Through the internet, protestors oftentimes gain international attention and support which increases their calls. **(The Africa Report)**
- [Cyprus and Egypt sign an electricity interconnection agreement](#). The MoU provides for the timely granting of permits for the technical studies and laying of the undersea interconnector cable. The project will help in lifting Cyprus' energy isolation, ensuring energy supply, and will also strengthen the effort to further develop renewable energy sources. **(CGTN Africa)** [EBRD's fund in Egypt is worth EUR7.7BN](#). The financing enabled the implementation of 143 projects more than 75% of which are for the private sector and during the current year amounted to about EUR288.3M, mainly in the sectors of renewable energy, SMEs, and agriculture. **(Egypt Today)**
- [EU Military Training Mission in Mozambique is set to start its operations](#). The mission will support a more efficient and effective response by the Mozambican armed forces to the Crisis in the Cabo Delgado province, by providing them with training and capacity building. **(European Council)** Meanwhile, [Turkey expands armed drone sales to Ethiopia and Morocco](#) after their successful use in international conflicts. The country's drone shipments to Ethiopia could further upset Egypt with whom the relations are already strained. **(Reuters)**
- [The US-Kenya SME Trade Initiative was signed by the Corporate Council on Africa and Kenya Private Sector Alliance](#). The initiative recognizes the critical role that SMEs play in US and Kenyan trade, and seeks to expand trade and investment between American and Kenyan SMEs through partnership, information sharing, training, logistics, financing, and more. **(CCA-KEPSA)**
- [Africa's week in pictures: 15-21 October 2021](#) **(BBC)**

Reports/ Reference Documents

- [A greener Europe at the expense of Africa? Why the EU must address the external implications of the Farm to Fork Strategy](#)
- [Merging peace and politics: How will the African Union address the governance agenda?](#)

Members' & Partners' Events & Webinars

- **Afrika-Verein** - [8th German-African Healthcare Forum 2021](#) - 27 October 2021 (online event)
- **Invest Africa** - [Privatisation of SOEs – Opportunity for Private Equity?](#) - 27 October 2021
- **Afrika-Verein** - [7th Africa Finance@Work](#) - 28 October 2021
- **Invest Africa** - [SuperReturn Africa 2021](#) - 2 November 2021
- **Afrika-Verein** - [9th German-Nigerian Business Forum](#) - 9-11 November 2021
- **AAAM** - [AAAM Automotive Forum @ Intra-African Trade Fair 2021](#) – 16-17 November 2021
- **Afrika-Verein** - [1st Africa Finance@Trade](#) - 18 November 2021
- **NABA** - [Business Mission to Ghana and Nigeria](#) - 22 November 2021

Other Events & Webinars

- **Enterprise Greece Invest & Trade** - [61st Annual Meeting of the European Trade Promotion Organisation](#) - 21-22 October 2021
- **Africa Europe Foundation** - [The Health-Climate Nexus – Report Launch](#) - 28 October 2021

- **Trade Development Bank & European Investment Bank** - [4th East African Banking & Microfinance Forum](#) - 11-12 November 2021
- **Infrastructure Development Africa** - [International Trade Fair for the Development of the Africa Infrastructure Market](#) - 15 November 2021
- **Afreximbank** - [Intra-African Trade Fair 2021](#) - 15-21 November 2021
- **European Business Summits** - [4th EU-Africa Business Summit](#) - 28-29 November 2021