



NEWSLETTER

The European Business Council for Africa

Friday 09 December 2022

Dear Members and Partners,

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

Announcements

- On Friday 16 December 2022, the Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, the Greek member of EBCAM, is organizing a virtual conference on the topic: [“EU Funding for Africa, Opportunities for Greek Enterprises and the Role of the](#)

European Business Council for Africa (EBCAM)". The President of EBCAM, Etienne Giros, and the Secretary General, Dr. Alexandros Spachis, will deliver keynote presentations.

Articles

Crucial replenishment meeting for the African Development Fund as it marks 50 years of supporting the continent's low-income countries. Members of the African Development Fund are meeting in Morocco for the fourth and final pledging session on the Fund's sixteenth replenishment. The crucial meeting culminates in a financing package for the Fund's next cycle covering 2023-2025. **(AfDB)** After a year of intense negotiations and a difficult global economic outlook, African Development Fund mobilizes \$8.9 billion for Africa's low-income countries, the highest in its 50-year history. **(AfDB)**

Multinational logistics company DHL is partnering with Coca-Cola Beverages Africa (CCBA) in Uganda to manage plastic waste in a sustainable way. The initiative, which is part of their eco-friendly approach, will help reduce pollution in this East African country. **(Afrik 21)** At the same time, in Morocco plastic packaging manufacturer Plastikpack Maroc will obtain financing for the construction of a plant to recycle polypropylene into pallets and crates. It is 65 million Moroccan dirhams (about €5.9 million) recently approved by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). **(Afrik 21)**

The African Union (AU) and the Africa Economic Zones Organization (AEZO) organized the 5th African Union Symposium on Special Economic Zones, and the 7th edition of the AEZO Annual Meeting from November 30th to December 2nd, 2022. African Special Economic Zones are considered as one of the main instruments that stimulate economic reforms, promote quality Foreign direct investments (FDIs), and accelerate industrialization across the continent. The AEZO Annual Meeting and the 5th AU Symposium on SEZs provided guidance on cross cutting issues related to the contribution of SEZs in accelerating sustainable industrial value chain development. **(African Union)** At national level, Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) announced that Ethiopia was working towards establishing special economic zones. To realize this goal, a draft proclamation on special economic zones is prepared which is aimed at promoting regional and international trade relations by enhancing the environment of free trade

zones and industrial parks. **(2Merkato)** Furthermore, on 17 November 2022, the African Development Bank Group Board of Directors approved the 2023-2027 Country Strategy Paper for Ethiopia. The key objective of the Strategy is to support Ethiopia in expanding inclusive and sustainable growth through agro-industrialization, improved connectivity and competitiveness and reduced vulnerability to shocks. **(AfDB)**

[A new hydroelectric power plant is coming into operation in Madagascar.](#) The facility, located in the commune of Mahitsy in the Analamanga region, was inaugurated on Thursday 1 December 2022. The plant feeds its production into Madagascar's national electricity grid. **(Afrik 21)** In addition, [an agreement to fund renewable energy projects with \\$1.1B is signed in Egypt.](#) It is about two renewable energy projects that will be built by the UAE's AMEA Power. The projects are a solar power plant in Aswan's Kom Ombo, and a wind farm in the Red Sea's Ras Ghareb. **(Egypt Today)** In Nigeria, a country which is a major petroleum products importer, [an end of petroleum products imports is expecting in 2023.](#) What this means is that Nigeria swaps this high-priced crude for gasoline, which it sells at a loss. On top of that, Nigeria imports nearly all of the gasoline it consumes- \$43 billion's worth in 2020. **(Oil price)** However, not all energy news is positive. [An £18bn project to connect Britain with a huge wind and solar farm in the Sahara through an undersea cable has been delayed by at least a year because of political ructions in Westminster.](#) The project had been expected to begin generating power by 2027. However, that target date now appears unlikely. **(The Guardian)**

The U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Somalia warned that the country was undergoing a "catastrophic emergency" due to the most severe drought in the nation's history. He outlined the situation which has left nearly half of the Somalian population affected by drought. He added 6.7 million people were expected to face high levels of "acute food insecurity". **(Africa news)** To the contrary, Chad, Cameroon and Nigeria have suffered from floods. For this reason, [the European Union \(EU\) is providing €2.25 million to the three countries for flood resilience.](#) The governments of the three beneficiary countries will use the EU funding for the construction of public goods such as drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene facilities, health infrastructure and dykes for flood protection. **(Afrik 21)**

The growth rate within the countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), amounted to 5.7% in 2022, down 0.4% compared to 2021. In addition to the growth rate, which has slowed from 6.1% in 2021 to 5.7% in 2022, inflation within the union has risen from 3.6% to 7.5% in 2022. **(Africa news)** Trying to combat inflation, counterfeiting and corruption the Central Bank of Nigeria redesigned the national notes. [The bank has also put a limit on cash withdrawal made by individuals and organisations with effect from January 9, 2023.](#) The decision is coming after the CBN began the distribution of its newly redesigned bank

notes. **(allAfrica)**

[Ghana to Swap Local Debt for New Bonds in Restructuring Deal](#). The West African country will replace existing local-currency debt with four new bonds maturing in 2027, 2029, 2032 and 2037. The country asked local bondholders to accept losses on interest payments as it restructures its debt to qualify for a loan from the International Monetary Fund. **(Bloomberg)**
[Kenya also seeks a fresh \\$750 million loan from the World Bank](#) with the purpose to be secured before the end of June next year. This will be Kenya's fifth loan under the World Bank's Development Policy Operation (DPO) framework. **(The East African)**

[UNCTAD and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\) are supporting Egypt to measure illicit financial flows \(IFFs\) stemming from tax, commercial and illegal market activities](#). A joint UN project implemented since 2020 has improved measurement of IFFs in Egypt, helping the country mobilize funds to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which face huge funding gaps. Preliminary estimates indicate that Egypt needs to invest 25% of its GDP annually in programmes linked to the SDGs to achieve them by 2030. UNCTAD and UNODC published guidelines on methods to track selected IFFs in June 2021. Egypt was the first country to address IFFs holistically by studying both tax, commercial and crime-related IFFs in parallel to build a complete picture. **(UNCTAD)**

- [Mozambique: Private companies must pay up to 1% of their monthly payroll to fund professional education](#). The Assembly of the Republic approved on 24 November, by consensus and in general, the proposal to revise the Professional Education Law. According to the government, the reform will guarantee quality in higher education. Under the approved revision, private companies operating in the country are obliged to contribute on a monthly basis up to one percent of the total value of their payroll to the National Fund for Professional Education. The legal instrument also provides for the creation of a National Authority for Professional Education. **(Club of Mozambique)**
- [Africa's week in pictures \(BBC\)](#)

Reports/ Reference Documents

- [Is crowding out of private sector credit inhibiting Africa's growth? \(European Investment Bank\)](#)
- [EU-Uganda relations: friction, change, or business as usual? \(Egmont Institute\)](#)
- [Engaging the European private sector in EU development cooperation and finance \(ECDPM\)](#) This report refers, among others, to the EU-Africa Business Forum and shows how the results of such fora could support the engagement of private sector.

Members '& Partners' Events & Webinars

- [CIAN- Commission Conjointe du CIAN "RSE & ODD" et "Ethique & Conformité" Directive européenne sur le devoir de vigilance : impacts sur les entreprises présentes en Afrique-](#) 8 December 2022
- [NABC- Invest in Botswana-](#) 13 December 2022
- [Afrika-Verein- Hybrid B2B Roundtable H2Uppp - "Morocco's Green Hydrogen Roadmap"-](#) 15 December 2022
- [Hellenic-African Chamber- EU Funding for Africa, Opportunities for Greek Enterprises and the Role of the European Business Council for Africa \(EBCAM\)-](#) 16 December 2022

- **Afrika-Verein- 9th German-African Agribusiness Forum-** 23 January 2023

Other Events & Webinars

- **Finnova-** “EU Funding: Finnova's Partnership with the Embassy of Ghana”- 13 December 2022

EBCAM | European Business Council for Africa

Rue Montoyer 24b5, 1000 Brussels-Belgium

T: +32 (0) 2 512 0695

E: info@ebcam.eu

W: www.ebcam.eu

skype: ebcam.office

