



**Council of the European Union**  
General Secretariat

Directorate-General Communication and Information - COMM  
Directorate Information and Outreach  
Information Services Unit / Transparency  
*Head of Unit*

Brussels, 16 March 2022

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Request made on: 19.02.2022  
Registered on: 21.02.2022  
Deadline extension: 14.03.2022

Dear Dr Weretelnik,

Thank you for your request for access to documents of the Council and European Council.<sup>1</sup>

To begin with the comprehensive strategy with Africa, announced in the European Commission's work programme 2020, I would highlight the following documents (attached hereto, for your convenience):

- Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council - Towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa, doc. ST **6703/20** of 9.03.2020;
- Council Conclusions on Africa, doc. ST **9265/20** of 30.6.2020 (see in particular the references to an envisaged civil society's and other organisations' mobilisation).

The Resolution referred to in your request was adopted by the European Parliament (text also attached hereto, for your convenience).

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<sup>1</sup> The General Secretariat of the Council - acting as secretariat for the European Council pursuant to Article 235(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - has examined your request on the basis of the applicable rules: Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43) and the specific provisions of the European Council's Rules of Procedure (European Council Decision No 2009/882/EU, OJ L 315, 2.12.2009, p. 51) set out in Article 10(2) which makes Annex II to the Council's Rules of Procedure (Council Decision No 2009/937/EU, OJ L 325, 11.12.2009, p. 35) applicable mutatis mutandis.

As you are most likely aware, during the recent EU-AU Summit, held in Brussels on 17-18 February 2022, leaders adopted a joint declaration which sets up a Joint Vision for a renewed Partnership to build a common future, as closest partners and neighbours. The aim of this Joint Vision is to consolidate a renewed Partnership for solidarity, security, peace and sustainable and sustained economic development and prosperity for our citizens and for our future generations, bringing together our people, regions and organisations.

As for the second part of your request and the question of monitoring of implementation of the strategy / Joint Vision, certain references can be found in the recent jointly adopted texts:

- a) the [joint communique from the AU-EU foreign affairs ministerial](#) (Kigali, 26 October 2021), para 56: *"Ministers agreed to continue monitoring the effective implementation of the AU-EU partnership building on and with the support of the existing dialogue structures. Ministers acknowledged to mobilise both financial and non-financial resources in order to achieve the objectives set out in this declaration on the basis of mutual interests and in the spirit of genuine partnership. The Ministers also agree that means of cooperation shall be diversified, encompassing a range of policies and instruments, from all available sources and actors. Ministers also agreed on a joint AU-EU Ministerial Follow-up Committee to monitor the implementation of all commitments from AU-EU Summits and Ministerial Meetings. The two Commissions will undertake consultations on the establishment and operationalisation of this Committee."*;
  
- b) the [joint declaration from the EU-AU Summit](#) (Brussels, 17-18 February 2022), para 8 third alinea:  
*"We commit to following up on our engagements to monitor the implementation of the commitments undertaken during AU-EU Summits. Follow-up will be done on a regular basis via existing AU-EU structures, including the AU-EU Ministerial Follow-up Committee."*

At the final press conference following the EU-AU Summit, President Charles Michel referred in his [remarks](#) to the importance of setting up a monitoring mechanism, in order to ensure that the two Commissions, as well as the political leadership of both the AU and EU, with the involvement of private sector and civil society actors, in particular the Africa Europe Foundation, have the ability to take stock at regular intervals of the progress reached.

The EU is currently working on concrete proposals to put in place the appropriate implementing structures and follow-up mechanism in this field. The EU proposal would subsequently be submitted to the AU side for consideration. However, no decision on the actual format of such mechanism has been taken yet.

Meanwhile, the existing platforms (i.e. the annual AU-EU ministerial meetings, AU-EU Commission to Commission meetings) continue to monitor the progress in the partnership between the two Unions.

You may also wish to visit the relevant web page of the European Commission's web site at [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/africa-eu-partnership\\_en#:~:text=The%20partnership%20strives%20to%20bring,prosperity%2C%20solidarity%20and%20human%20dignity.](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/africa-eu-partnership_en#:~:text=The%20partnership%20strives%20to%20bring,prosperity%2C%20solidarity%20and%20human%20dignity.)

Yours sincerely,

Fernando FLORINDO

(Enclosures: 3)