



**2021/2178(INI)**

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# **POSSIBLE COMP AMs**

## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on International Trade

on the future of EU-Africa trade relations  
(2021/2178(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Tomas Tobé

1. **COMP 1 (AM 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12)** *Recalls the existing asymmetry in EU and Africa trade and economic relations [AM 2, Left] and welcomes the positive change [AM 4, Greens] towards a partnership on an equal footing, based on reciprocity and mutual benefit, exceeding a donor-recipient relationship [AM 5, Rapporteur] allowing both sides to pursue their own interests but also to identify common areas of cooperation; stresses that free, fair and sustainable trade should facilitate sustainable and [AM 7, S&D] inclusive economic growth and development, and should contribute to poverty reduction; highlights, in this regard, the importance of the new partnership agreement between the EU and the members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, the conclusions of the summit between the African Union and the EU, and innovative initiatives such as the EU multi-stakeholder dialogue for sustainable cocoa and the sustainable forestry initiative [AM 6, Renew], which should be based on transparent and reliable monitoring and accountability, and on civil society participation, securing a bottom-up approach [AM 12, S&D]; calls on the EU to actively support policies to develop cocoa processing at the local, national and regional level [AM 4, Greens]; stresses that the principle of policy coherence for development as enshrined in Article 208 TFEU must remain the core of future EU-Africa trade relations. and be implemented in line with the Union's commitment to achieving the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals; [AM 2, Left]*
  
2. **COMP 2 (AM 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 25)** *Calls on the EU to actively support the integration and development of the African economy and [AM 14, Left] the new African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and its free movement protocol [AM 17 Renew], an ambitious economic integration initiative [AM 20, ECR] which presents a major opportunity for African countries to deepen economic integration [AM 17, Renew], boost inclusive growth, enable sustainable development, reduce poverty, regularise mobility [AM 17, Renew] and improve living standards; notes that the AfCFTA provides the ability to fundamentally transform [AM 16 Greens, AM 17 Renew] the continent's development prospects to benefit all African populations, including the most marginalised [AM 15, S&D]; recalls that there are developmental differences between African countries which must be taken into account in order not to increase inequalities; [AM 15 S&D, 25 Left] takes the view that EU support to the AfCFTA should focus on investment in capacity building and technical support [AM 17 Renew], including for a regulatory framework to prevent a regress in achievements regarding social and environmental norms [AM 15, S&D]; and ensuring the participation of civil society organizations, including those representing women, youth and minorities [AM 13, Comin]; highlights the EU's unique role in offering assistance, given its own experience as an advanced regional trading bloc [AM 18, EPP]; believes that, now more than ever after the COVID-19 pandemic, on a global level, and especially with regard to Africa, new approaches should be taken for economic, commercial and trade relations based on Fair and Ethical Trade and on principles of solidarity and cooperation [AM 14, Left]*
  
3. **COMP 3 (AM 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 91)** *Emphasises that economic partnership agreements need to support the various regional trade communities in Africa and the further development of the AfCFTA, contribute to the building of resilient and sustainable regional value chains, and help to boost and diversify intra-African trade; takes note of [new wording, Greens] the EU's existing "stepping stone" agreements made with Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as the launch of a strategic dialogue with Kenya that aims to implement elements of the concluded EPA bilaterally where the*

*process [new wording, Greens] as a whole is stalled [AM 32, EPP] calls for strengthening the enforceability of [new wording, Greens] Trade and Sustainable Development [AM 30, Greens] chapters ensuring consistency with development needs and policies and the UN sustainable development goals to be included and implemented accordingly, in currently negotiated and future EPAs [AM 30, Greens], taking into account in particular climate change (and the need for climate change mitigation measures), desertification/deforestation, biodiversity and the ILO Decent work agenda, combatting forced and child labour [AM 33 Rapporteur, AM 30 Greens]; recalls that the implementation of sustainability chapters must be accompanied in parallel by capacity building through the EU's development assistance and other investments to assist partner countries in honouring their commitments<sup>1</sup>, and that civil society actors should be further involved in monitoring<sup>2</sup> [AM 31, Renew]; considers that EPAs should improve the ability of African countries to exploit trade opportunities in the areas of food security, health care and poverty reduction [AM 91, EPP]; insists that a significant effort must be made by the EU to simplify and harmonise Rules of Origin at the international level and to provide technical support to ensure that EU standards are not experienced as non-tariff barriers to trade [AM 31, Renew]; Calls for binding and enforceable mechanisms for the implementation of TSD chapters on human rights, labour and environmental standards in currently negotiated and future EPAs; reiterates the need of an in-depth analysis on the impact of EPAs and trade agreements on African countries, intra African markets and local economies and the need for them to be coherent with the SDGs and Article 208 of the TFEU; [AM 29, Left]*

4. **COMP 4 (AM 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47)** Welcomes the reform of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences as one of the EU's key trade instruments for supporting developing countries in their efforts to promote sustainable development, *economic diversification and the regional integration process of the African continent* [AM42, Greens], reduce poverty and ensure respect for human rights; welcomes, in particular, the aim to facilitate *export diversification* [AM 46, EPP], increased economic growth, job creation *stimuli to investment and the development of the private sector* [AM 47, ECR] in developing countries on the African continent; *stresses that social and environmental conditionality to benefit from preferential trade preferences should be embedded in the technical and financial assistance projects under the NDICI-Global Europe instrument notably for the special arrangements* [AM 42, Greens]. calls on the EU to make sure that European trade policy *towards Africa is fully in line with the principle of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) and* [AM 44, N.I.] does not contradict efforts by African partners to establish viable economic structures, *particularly in agriculture, which is a key sector for job creation, tackling food insecurity and malnutrition* [AM 43, Renew, AM 45, Rapporteur]
  
- 4a. **COMP 5 (AM 23, 49, 51)** *Notes that the development of deeper economic and trade ties with Africa necessitates further development of transport and digital infrastructure with and within Africa, which in turn requires modern, sustainable*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.die-gdi.de/en/discussion-paper/article/can-rules-of-origin-in-sub-saharan-africa-be-harmonised-a-political-economy-exploration/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.die-gdi.de/en/discussion-paper/article/can-rules-of-origin-in-sub-saharan-africa-be-harmonised-a-political-economy-exploration/>

*investments on a large scale, respecting in particular social and environmental standards and the Paris agreement, and which can only be achieved by leveraging public and private financing; stresses that the EU and European businesses should get fully involved in developing such infrastructure [AM 49, EPP]; welcomes in this regard the newly adopted Joint Communication Global Gateway with a mobilisation of up to €300 billion between 2021 and 2027 which, if well-designed, could boost local and regional development and facilitate intercontinental trade [AM 51, Renew]; takes special note of the particular attention paid to Africa and the aim to address the infrastructure-financing gap in low and middle-income countries, which has widened greatly during the COVID-19 pandemic, and help develop their climate, energy, transport and digital infrastructure and strengthen their health and education systems [AM 49, EPP]; calls on the Commission to ensure that sustainable trade and development are at the core of this initiative, inter alia, by focusing on updating border and transport infrastructure, targeting SMEs and ensuring that investments are easily accessible to them [AM 51, Renew]; underlines that the long-term objective of industrial development needs to be appropriately matched by short-term programmes and initiatives that ensure continuity and coherence with regional and continental frameworks, especially by building on existing initiatives like the Boosting Intra-Africa Trade initiative (BIAT) of the African Union [AM 23 Comin] emphasises, in particular, the importance to facilitate investment in sustainable infrastructure and regulatory environment for the local production of medicine and medical technologies, to help integrate the current fragmented markets [AM 49, Rapporteur]*

- 4b. **COMP 6 (AM 34, 63, 67, 69, 76, 80, 81, 83, 87, 89)** *Underlines that the disruptions triggered by COVID-19, locust infestations and desertification have deteriorated the already difficult food security situation in Africa and [S&D] shone a spotlight on the vulnerabilities of the global food system [AM 76, Greens, AM 80 S&D] which needs to be tackled through targeted investment in sustainable agricultural development, modern transport networks and appropriate storage infrastructure [AM 87, EPP] recalls the importance of supporting small holder farmers and pastoralism and the development of local products and markets in order to strengthen resilience and boost food and nutritional security, sustainable resource management and biodiversity conservation [AM 81, 83, S&D, AM 63, GUE]; Calls for the EU-Africa partnership to focus its efforts in the area of agriculture on safeguarding African countries' right to food sovereignty and on increasing their food security as a priority, as well as enhancing their capacity to meet the nutritional requirements of their populations [AM 81, S&D] points out the central importance of the agricultural and food sectors in the economy and in providing decent and sustainable job opportunities in rural areas; highlights the role of water as a key building block for social and economic resilience especially in the context of food and nutrition security [AM 34, Kósa]; considers that the development of a sustainable agricultural sector and of rural areas should be at the centre of EU-Africa relations; underlines that this, in most cases, concerns smallholdings and family farms; notes the importance of promoting and enhancing measures and tools to support increasing product quality, diversification of products, sustainable modernisation of agricultural practices, safe working conditions and measures to strengthen the resilience of farmers"; [AM 67, S&D]; welcomes the fact that the new EU-Africa partnership advocates for the development of environmentally friendly agricultural practices; stresses the importance of promoting agroecology, agroforestry, local production and sustainable food systems*

*which focus on the development of sustainable supply chains at national but also international levels, [AM 69, S&D]; calls, in this context, on the Commission to provide intensive, sustainable support to African countries in the management of natural resources and ecosystems in order to establish an innovative, climate-resistant agricultural sector [AM 89, EPP]*

4c. **COMP 7 (AM 28, 57, 82)** *stresses the need to generate economic opportunities for African women, especially by providing them with ICTs skills and encouraging employers to hire more women [AM 28, N.I.]; calls on the Commission to assist the African Union with the implementation of its Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and to implement measures that contribute to the achievement of gender equality in its trade agreements with African countries [AM 57, S&D]; emphasises the essential role of rural African women in agricultural and rural economies across the African continent, in particular with regard to food security; recalls that almost half of agricultural work in Africa is done by women, who are mostly small or subsistence farmers without the necessary access to information, credit, land, resources or technology; calls on the EU to support partner countries to advance land rights for women and girls; [AM 82, S&D]*