

Webinar

The future of AU-EU cooperation: Towards a new era?

Tuesday, 19 October 2021, 10.00-11.30 CET via Zoom

PROGRAMME

Topical challenges to global governance provide relations between the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU) with a more than ever fertile ground for cooperation. The struggle of multilateralism and the fight against the pandemic offer the AU-EU partnership a unique opportunity to rise as one of the main forces leading global recovery initiatives and demonstrating the great value of multilateral cooperation. However, seizing this opportunity will require the AU and the EU to enhance their ties by mitigating deep-seated and long-standing asymmetries that prevent cooperation from achieving its full potential. Ultimately, making the case for multilateral governance calls for a new era of AU-EU cooperation based on inclusiveness, reciprocity and mutual trust.

The upcoming webinar will present the main findings of the research project *The future of AU-EU cooperation: Towards a new era?*, organised by the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) in collaboration with the Fondation Jean Jaurès (FJJ) and implemented with the support of the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI). Researchers will look at current practices in AU-EU cooperation by examining the main asymmetries and inequalities in three policy fields: institutional relations, development and trade, and peace and security. The analysis will highlight policy recommendations for AU and EU policy-makers and stakeholders, suggesting the way forward in order to upgrade cooperation to a balanced and inclusive partnership.

10:00 – 10:05 Introduction

Vassilis Ntousas, Senior Policy Advisor, Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)

10:05 – 10:40 Presentation of research findings

Moderator Daniela Huber Head of the Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa Programme at IAI, *The International Spectator* co-editor

AU-EU institutional cooperation

Jacopo Resti, Junior Researcher, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

AU-EU development and trade cooperation

Resty Naiga, Lecturer in the Department of Development Studies, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University

AU-EU peace and security cooperation

Bernardo Venturi, Director and Co-Founder of the Agency for Peacebuilding (AP), IAI Research Associate

10.40 – 11:25 Panel discussion and Q&A - The future of AU-EU cooperation: towards a new era?

Moderator Vassilis Ntousas, Senior Policy Advisor, FEPS

Speakers:

Jonas Jonsson, Head of Pan-African Affairs, European External Action Service

Udo Bullmann, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group, Germany)

Jean Bertrand Azapmo Principal Adviser to the AU Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining

11:25 – 11:30 Concluding remarks



With the financial support of the European Parliament