

Concept Note

Reference Group on Infrastructure Meeting in the Run-Up to the 5th Africa-EU Summit in November 2017

Motivation/Background:

2017 is a year where Africa is in focus as priority in many arenas like the G20 and the G7. As concerns our Africa-EU Partnership, it climaxes in the 5th Africa-EU Summit to be held in Abidjan in November 2017 which puts "Youth" at its heart of dialogue.

The Summit – and all high-level processes in the period up to it like this "Reference Group on Infrastructure Meeting" - presents a key opportunity for the EU and Africa to deepen the strategic partnership between our continents. Common challenges and evolving priorities under the Agenda 2030, the African Agenda 2063 and the proposed 2017 New European Consensus on Development form the backbone for this.

The "Reference Group on Infrastructure" that is mandated to steer the strategic Infrastructure roadmap, addresses these challenges and priorities through the lenses of energy, transport, water & sanitation and ICT and their respective cooperation perspectives.

Based on the 2014-2017 JAES framework, the Reference Group's objective is to develop the subsequent 2018-2020 strategic infrastructure roadmaps in above domains. It builds on the notion of reconciling existing with evolving infrastructure challenges to best respond to job creation, investment & economic development, governance, resilience & climate change, urbanisation and ways to tackle root causes of migration from a long-term perspective.

Event:

The 5th "Reference Group on Infrastructure" meeting takes place on 24-25 April 2017 in Brussels, **The Hotel, Boulevard de Waterloo 38, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium**

It aims to bring together both African and European Partners: the European and African Union Commission, Members States of Africa and the EU, European and International Financing Institutions, African Regional Economic Communities and Sectoral/Thematic Institutions. Some 100-120 participants are expected.

The event is split into plenary and specific sectoral break-out groups in the energy, transport, water and ICT domains to derive the 2018-2020 JAES strategic roadmap for infrastructure cooperation as referred to above.

The draft agendas and work programme are attached.