

**COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE EUROPEAN UNION
AND SOUTH AFRICA**

The Cooperation Council

Brussels, 1 October 2012

UE-ZA 4909/12

NOTE

Subject: Environment and Sustainable Development report

Cooperation between South Africa and the EU on environment and climate change takes place within the framework of the SA-EU Strategic Partnership in the context of the Forum on Environment and Sustainable Development which was established in 2007. Both parties are committed to enhance and strengthen mutually beneficial environmental and climate change cooperation which is underpinned by principles of sustainable development. Both parties have agreed to continue their collaboration in the areas of biodiversity, green economy in the context of sustainable development and climate change.

In the area of biodiversity we have agreed to continue to work closely in preparation for the 11th Conference of the Parties for the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held on 8 – 19 October 2012 in Hyderabad, India with specific focus on the issues of resource mobilisation as well as the implementation of SA's and EU's biodiversity strategies.

In terms of the green economy, SA and EU had frequent exchanges, including at ministerial level, in the run-up to the Rio+20 conference. SA and EU expressed some common policy views on green economy, most notably the 5 goals of the EU (i.e. water, sustainable land management, oceans, sustainable energy and resource efficiency emphasising waste) which coincide closely with the SA's 9 goals of green economy.

We have agreed to build on the legacy of Rio+20 as well as the work carried out in the framework of G20, and to further explore innovative ways that will assist in the transition to low carbon, resource-efficient growth and sustainable patterns of consumption and production, including the creation of green jobs, which could permit South Africa to access more EU climate and environment funding as well as International Financial Institutions and Development Finance Institutions climate and environment funding and contribute to its green growth strategy.

On climate change, both sides welcomed the increase of high level interaction ahead of COP17 and during SA's COP Presidency and agreed to continue to cooperate in the build-up to the next UNFCCC COP, taking place in Doha, Qatar in November/December 2012. Both parties stressed that they would work towards a balanced outcome at the Doha Conference which included the adoption of the amendment of Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol; conclusion of the work of the AWG-LCA on the Bali Action Plan and adoption of a work programme under the new Ad-hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action tasked with the negotiation of the new legal agreement for the period from 2020 and beyond as well as the work programme on raising the level of ambition in the period between 2012 and 2020.

South Africa continues to find the EU TDCA-Facility a useful mechanism in the context of the Forum on Environment and Sustainable Development as recently witnessed through support provided for the Rio+20 project aimed to involve the civil society in the preparation for Rio+20. The project included 4 national stakeholder workshops (environment, labour, business, social) and an expert paper on institutional frameworks. The project concluded by giving several recommendations on the government's position for Rio+20.