Joint EU-Africa Strategy
Reference Group on Infrastructure
(Transport, ICT, Energy and Water)
Brussels, 24-25 March 2015

Statement for the College to College (C2C)

On the way to **greater economic integration**, we re-iterate our joint commitment to develop transport, access to drinking water and to sustainable and affordable energy, with a particular focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency. We recognise the strategic importance of promoting interconnections in the areas of energy and transport between the two continents. We also recognise the important and strategic role of the 'virtual' infrastructures enabled by the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). This will include strengthening the capacity of stakeholders to develop public-private partnerships and extending the number of projects financed by mixing grants and loans (blending mechanism) to enhance the development impact.

In the field of **transport**, we will continue striving for the reduction of transport costs and boosting of intra-African trade by bringing regional transport corridors to an adequate level of service, which is sustainable, safe and reliable. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)' targets relating to transport, more attention will be given to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of transport. In particular, (i) the question of urban mobility with its cross-linkages to climate change, safety and health, and (ii) the provision of safe and reliable transport infrastructure to achieve reduced fatalities, will be further addressed. Maintenance and sustainability of existing and future transport networks remain a key element. We will provide sustainable and adequate financial and human resources for the extension of the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) to Africa. We welcome the request for cooperation in the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and establishment of a Single African Air Transport Market.

We will progress towards the 2020 targets of the Africa-EU **Energy** Partnership on Energy access, Energy Security, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, with a strong focus on private sector and on interconnections, including between the two continents. In addition to the existing instruments, increase leveraging of public and private investment, deployment of energy infrastructure and climate change with particular reference to COP21 and its follow-up remains fundamental for energy development cooperation and policy dialogue. We call upon for political recognition and continuity of the work of the Africa EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) together with its implementing tool of the Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP) as a well-functioning vehicle to ensure coherence on these priorities and ensure achievement of the set 2020 AEEP Targets that are in line with SE4ALL, and within the framework of PIDA and the Africa Strategy 2063.

Actions in the **water** sector shall be geared to ensuring sustainable and efficient management of water resources, contributing to growth, peace and security, through institutional strengthening and preparation for investment in multi-purpose water infrastructure. We will ensure better management of water resources for greater access to drinking water and sanitation. We will also seek strengthening the water-energy-food nexus via the EC 'Nexus Dialogues' initiative which is planned for 2016.

In the field of **ICT**, actions will aim at establishing favourable conditions and enabling environments for ICT in the service of citizens, public authorities and businesses, especially SMEs. This objective will be met through the implementation of a three pronged ICT for Development Strategy "Connecting Africa" towards : a) the harmonisation and alignment of the appropriate aspects of e-communications policies and regulatory

frameworks between Africa and the EU; b) the interconnection of Research and Education Networks through e-infrastructure; and c) the enhancement of ICT capacities for all, particularly in order to improve access to internet and an open and inclusive governance. The potential of synergies with transport and energy infrastructure projects (i.e. roll-out of fibre optic cables) will be evaluated (during the identification phase) more systematically.

Strategic priorities for cooperation in the fields of energy, transport, water and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have been developed by the **Reference Group on Infrastructure (RGI)** through Sector Strategy Papers in coherence with the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), the EU Development Policy and other guiding policy frameworks, such as the UN Sustainable Energy for All Initiative. We consider the Reference Group on Infrastructure as the sole and functioning cross-sectoral coordination mechanism for steering the infrastructure agenda under the 2014-2017 JAES Framework.