

From Object to Subject. Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe's External Relations

Guiding Questions for Sessions 1-4

Session 1:

African and European Relations: African Views

- How do African nations and political organisation perceive Europe, its role in the world and its policy towards Africa?
- Is Europe/EU seen as a unit or do its member states dominate the perception?
- Which are the regional powers in Africa?
- Is their dominant role in Africa broadly accepted, are they seen as legitimate representatives of African interest in international affairs?
- Does Africa share major interests with Europe in international affairs?
- Which policy areas are best suited for co-operation between Africa and Europe? Is there a congruence of policies?

Session 2:

African and European Relations: European Views

- How do European nations and political organisations perceive Africa, its role in the world and its policy towards Europe?
- Is Africa/AU seen as a unit or do its member states dominate the perception?
- Are the relations with Africa mainly seen as a task of CFSP¹, ESDP² and a common development co-operation policy or are they still determined by the policies of individual member states?
- Does Europe share major interests with Africa in international affairs?
- Which policy areas are best suited for a co-operation between Europe and Africa? Is there a congruence of policies?

Session 3:

Trade

- What are the major trade challenges? Is trade a policy area in which Africa and Europe share major interests?
- What is the future of European-African trade relations beyond EPA³?
- Will the significance of Europe as trading partner in Africa decline? Will that of Africa in European trade increase?
- Will Europe pursue a policy in Africa which is dominated by the interest of getting access to strategic resources?
- Will China be the preferred trading partner for Africa?

Session 4:

Security

- What are the major security challenges? Is security a policy area in which Africa and Europe share major interests?
- Does an institutionalisation of African-European security co-operation make sense and if yes, in which way?
- Who are the most accepted security providers in Africa? Is the deployment of European troops in Africa to overcome security problems broadly accepted by Europeans?
- Is there a responsibility to protect?
- Should Africa and Europe co-operate to tackle security problems in other regions of the world?

¹ Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)

² European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)

³ Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)