

PRESS RELEASE

IN BRUSSELS, AFRICA’S FUTURE AND AN APPEAL FOR ROBUST GOVERNANCE SOLUTIONS DOMINATE DISCOURSE AMONG AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL DECISION MAKERS.



The first edition of the Africa Political Outlook, which aimed to reinvent the social contract, renew democracy, and break economic paradigms, took place on February 28 at the Mérode Club in Brussels. It provided a platform for decision-makers and political actors to collectively formulate solutions for a new African governance pact. Over a hundred high-level participants from 20 countries attended the event, and distinguished personalities, including HE Saleh Kebzabo, Prime Minister of Chad, Georges-Louis Bouchez, President of the Reform Movement, and Sylvie Baïpo-Temon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Central African Republic, delivered speeches. At the end of the conference, the speakers had the opportunity to discuss the raised issues with Alexander De Gros, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium, who was also present at the Mérode Club.

“AFRICAN BORN SOLUTIONS FOR AFRICAN CHALLENGES”

The first edition of the Africa Political Outlook will undoubtedly strengthen the commitment of African political decision-makers to craft “African born solutions for African challenges”. During his opening statement, the Prime Minister of Chad, a country facing stability challenges in the Sahel, highlighted the reform agenda of the transitional government and his decisive priorities, including national reconciliation, organizing free and transparent elections, preserving territorial integrity, fighting floods, cushioning inflation, and strengthening the defense and security capabilities of the country. He also addressed controversial issues, particularly regarding public freedoms, making a clarion call to leaders to address African problems based primarily on African realities.

REJUVENATING EURO-AFRICAN PARTNERSHIPS

During his keynote speech, Jan-Christoph Oetjen, co-chair of the RenewPac group and a member of Renew Europe, emphasized the need to take advantage of the unprecedented historical moment we are experiencing to co-create a new action plan between Africa and Europe. This plan must prioritize sovereignty, access to energy, fighting climate change, employment, and inequality. Georges-Louis Bouchez, President of the Reform Movement, spoke on the theme of “building a new relationship of trust with Africa” and urged for a more nuanced approach to Africa-Europe relations. He emphasized that the future of Africa depends on its political class and youth. Bouchez argued that relations between African and European countries must be based on equality, moving away from the sense of victimhood on one side and the need for redemption on the other.

HIGH-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT ON THE CONTINENT'S FUTURE

After Grégory Jullien, the president of the European Strategic Initiative, gave a welcome speech, the high-level dialogue lived up to its promises. Adébissi Djogan, Managing Director of Public Affairs Africa, moderated the panel, which featured Hajo Adrianainarivelo, President of the Malagasy Miara Miainga party and former Vice-Prime Minister (Madagascar), Dr. Ousmane Kaba, President of the Party of Democrats for Hope (PADES) and former Minister (Guinea), and Christelle Vuanga Mukongo, National Deputy and defender of women's rights (Democratic Republic of Congo). They presented the political situations of their respective countries with concrete examples and lasting proposals to strengthen political governance, the foundation of any national transformation project.

The sequence of interventions on the fight against corruption, transparency and accountability, rule of law, decentralization, reindustrialization, institutional balance, election financing, and Europe-Africa partnership allowed for the identification of the priorities of a new pact for African governance. The first priority is to base it on the sociological realities and dynamics specific to the continent and break away from mimicry. The second priority is to ensure that it is based on rigor and accountability. Finally, the new governance model must rely on the united energies of the sons and daughters of the African continent.

Bertin Mampaka Mankamba, a member of the Reform Movement, former Vice-President of the Brussels Parliament (Belgium), and the first elected politician of African origin in the city of Brussels, called for greater involvement of the diaspora, citing the rapid reconstruction of Czechoslovakia after the fall of the Berlin Wall as a model. During her keynote address and the lively Q&A session that followed, Sylvie Baïpo Temon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Central Africans Abroad, discussed her government's fight for effective sovereignty.

The audience and organizers have already set a date for the next edition, which will take place on January 30, 2024, in Brussels.

