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The EU-Africa Global Gateway creates new business opportunities in Africa

In the first half of 2023, the European Commission announced a new **€150 billion investment package to support Africa's green and digital transformation** as part of the so called "Global Gateway", the infrastructure development plan by which the European Union intends to mobilize up to €300 billion in investment through 2027 to reduce the existing global infrastructure gap and enhance Europe's connectivity with strategic partner countries.

The European strategy is to offer a sustainable alternative to the infrastructure development plans promoted by its geopolitical competitors (such as China's Belt and Road Initiative), ensuring lasting socioeconomic benefits in the countries targeted for investment while creating opportunities for the private sector in EU member states. In fact, the Global Gateway is structured to **attract private investment in the key sectors of digital, climate and energy, transport, health, education and research**, through funds and initiatives delivered by "Team Europe", namely the EU institutions, Member States and financial institutions working together.

Through the EU-Africa Global Gateway, **the EU aims to direct private sector investment to Africa to accelerate its sustainable growth**. European public funds and private investment should facilitate projects marked by high standards of quality and financial, environmental and social sustainability that can lead Africa, by 2030, to achieve five main goals:

- **Accelerating the green and energy transition.** The EU aims to increase renewable energy generation capacity in Africa to 300 GW, with a focus on clean hydrogen production, also to expand access to electricity within the continent. Green transition goals embrace raising the level of biodiversity protection and sustainable use of natural resources, accelerating the sustainable transformation of food systems (with projects to support agri-food and fish-processing), and supporting African countries on natural disaster risk reduction and management and in the process of climate change adaptation.
- **Accelerating the digital transition.** Investments should strengthen digital interconnection infrastructure between Africa and Europe and connectivity within the continent, support entrepreneurial initiatives in digital innovation and ensure universal access to secure Internet networks. Targets include projects in submarine and terrestrial fibre-optic cables, as well as cloud and data infrastructures.
- **Accelerating sustainable growth and job creation.** The EU wishes to promote regional and continental economic integration through investments in transport and business support. Regarding infrastructure, the goal is to integrate European and African transport networks through the creation of strategic corridors and harmonization of regulatory frameworks capable of stimulating mobility and trade within Africa and between Africa and Europe.
- **Strengthening health systems** at all levels, including vaccination and universal health coverage and local pharmaceutical systems and manufacturing capacity, updating and harmonizing regulatory frameworks.

- **Investing in education and training**, supporting partner countries in providing modern, quality education and promoting educational mobility between African states and between Africa and Europe.

Projects financed under the EU-Africa Global Gateway will have to comply with the high technical, regulatory and sustainability standards applied by the European Union, and the European Commission, in partnership with the European Investment Bank and other EU financial institutions, has provided mechanisms to reduce investment risk in complex markets (such as blended financing and guarantees).

The EU strategy creates business opportunities in Africa for companies and investors operating in the key areas of the infrastructure development plan - digital, climate, energy, transport, health, education - with a focus on the current decade.

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