



Jutta Urpilainen
Member of the European Commission

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Dear Mr Giros,

On behalf of the High Representative/Vice President Josep Borrell, Executive Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis and Commissioner Thierry Breton, and on my own behalf, I would like to thank you for your letter of 19 January 2022 and for sharing with us the EBCAM position paper “AU-EU 2022 Summit: Ensuring Effective EU Support for Private Sector Investments as Contributors to Development”.

Many of the key messages highlighted in your position paper are aligned well with the EU priority of strengthening the private sector's role in achieving inclusive and sustainable growth in developing countries, especially in Africa. In this regard, please be assured that the EU explores various avenues to enhance private sector contribution to the development of the continent but also to mitigate the economic consequences of the current pandemic by strengthening trade and investment in and with African countries, mobilising private sector investment and de-risking private projects.

The voice of the European private sector is an important element in this process, not least to help include the new realities emerging from the current crisis.

I welcome the fact that EBCAM is fully involved in the structured dialogue that the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships has set up between the European Business Organisations, Commission services and the European External Action Service.

This regular dialogue is a good forum to take our discussions further and I propose that the Directorate-General for International Partnerships convene a meeting with you, Commission services including Directorates-General for Trade and for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship & SMEs, the European External Action Service, and the other European business organisations to discuss jointly the proposals shared with us in your position paper.

I am also glad that EBCAM is a very pro-active member of the core team that prepared the 7th edition of the EU-Africa Business Forum on 16-17 February as a back-to-back event with the EU-AU Summit, a lot of follow up ahead of us.

Mr Etienne GIROS
President
EBCAM | European Business Council for Africa
Rue Montoyer 24b5,
1000 Brussels

We have a common objective: to improve welfare by strengthening the partnership between Europe and Africa, and I am confident that the Forum will be a success built on common efforts to enhance the role of the private sector.

Yours sincerely,



Jutta Urpilainen

Cc: EBCAM SECGEN,
Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
Thierry BRETON Thierry
Valdis DOMBROVSKIS