



mazungumzo

THE AFRICAN FORUM IN BRUSSELS

## Round Table

### **“Transparency and Good Corporate Governance”**

*Will the new EU Transparency rules bring fair business practices?*

**Tuesday 19 June 2012**

**16:00-18:00**

The Commission’s proposals for new EU Transparency requirements for the extractive and forestry sectors have placed high in the agenda the importance of good corporate governance, business accountability and transparency of operations. The Commission’s legislative proposals follow a trend in the last decade of voluntary international agreements to eliminate illegal socially and ecologically harmful business practices which in 2010 took a step further with the adoption of the US Dodd-Frank Act, which imposed mandatory disclosure of payments to extractive industry, among other provisions, and the UK Bribery Act.

The future European legislation will also oblige companies from the extractive (and forestry) industries operating in Africa to comply with specific transparency and reporting requirements, going beyond the provisions of the US Dodd Frank. However, are these proposals sufficient to ensure transparency and good corporate governance? Will the new rules bring more fair business practices to European companies operating in Africa? Which are the criteria and mechanisms to measure greater transparency and ethic behaviour?

To give answer to these and other pressing issues deriving from the new EU Transparency rules, Mazungumzo – The African Forum in Brussels, will gather together representatives from the EU institutions, business, African Missions, NGO’s and think tanks in a two-hour debating session with the aim of contributing to the current discussions being held at European Parliament at this matter.

#### **Agenda:**

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| 16:00 | <b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b><br>Dr Stefan Schepers, Chairman Mazungumzo – the African Forum in Brussels  |
| 16:10 | <b>The new EU Transparency Rules: a vision from Parliament</b><br>Judith Sargentini, Member of European Parliament, Vice-chair of the delegation for South Africa |
| 16:30 | <b>Objective criteria to measure business accountability</b><br>Dr Mary Martin, Senior Research Fellow, London School of Economics                                |
| 16:50 | <b>Good Corporate Governance and the need for effective transparency</b><br>Ibrahim Bangura, Wittenberg Center for Global Ethics, Germany                         |
| 17:10 | <b>Open discussion</b>  |
| 17:50 | <b>Conclusions</b>  |

The event will take place at Mazungumzo’s Secretariat premises, located at **2 Place du Luxembourg, Brussels**.

Being seats limited, participation will be confirmed on a first-come-first-served basis. Please fill in the attached registration form and return it before June 15 to [secretariat@mazungumzo.eu](mailto:secretariat@mazungumzo.eu).