



mazungumzo

THE AFRICAN FORUM IN BRUSSELS

Programme

Mazungumzo¹ conference on:

Trade, production and labour in African agriculture

WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2016

Time: 08.45-13.30

Venue: Stanhope Hotel, Rue du Commerce, 9

Brussels

Agricultural production is the cornerstone of many African economies and millions of livelihoods. The conference shall unpack the agricultural production models in both Europe and Africa; provide a comparative overview while sharing methods for sustainable productivity. This is particularly crucial, given the centrality of the EU market for Africa's agricultural exports, illustrating the interdependence between African agricultural production and the European market. Moreover, recent international strides, exemplified by the Sustainable Development Goals and the COP21 commitments raise the importance of discussions on sustainability in agricultural production. In several African countries, notably Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania, tobacco production and exports comprise the most significant portion of the agricultural sector, and in some cases, even dominate annual GDP measures. This sector's capacity to contribute to welfare requires reflection on the challenges and opportunities faced by operators in the value chain. Additionally, key labour issues in African agriculture, including rural development, should be underscored given the substantial share of employment this sector contributes, in some African economies. This Mazungumzo roundtable shall provide an opportunity for stakeholders, in both Africa and Europe, to share their expertise and local experiences and discuss the most important issues impacting African agriculture so as to seek practical and innovative policy solutions.

08.45 Welcome

08.50 Opening Speech and Introductory remarks by Prof. Dr. Stefaan Schepers, Chairman, Mazungumzo Governing Council

09.00 Tobacco growing in the ACP

Chair: Stefaan Schepers, Chairman, Mazungumzo Governing Council

- H.E. Tedson Aubrey Kalebe, Head of Mission, Embassy of Malawi to the EU
- Graham Kunimba, Chief Executive Officer, Tobacco Association of Malawi

¹ Mazungumzo is an independent think tank in Brussels, providing a platform for African experts about Africa's opportunities and challenges, where these stakeholders have their voices heard independently and will be positioned to contribute to problem identification and resolution. This gives European public and private sector decision-makers unique and objective insights into the continent's opportunities and challenges.

- Viwanou Gnassounou, Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Sustainable Economic Development and Trade, ACP Secretariat

10.00 **Q & A**

10.15 **Coffee break**

10.35 **Agricultural production models in the EU and Africa**

Chair: Idit Miller, Managing Director and VP, EMRC

- Mustapha Sinaceur, Director, FAO Brussels
- Dr. Gervais Nkanagu, Ambassador of COMESA to the EU
- Miruna Marchis, EU Policy Public Affairs Manager, Syngenta
- Willi Schulz-Grève, Head of Unit, Analysis of Trade and International Policies, DG Agriculture, European Commission

11.45 **Labour issues in African tobacco growing**

Chair: H.E. Tadeous Tafirenyika Chifamba, Ambassador of Zimbabwe to the EU

- H.E. Grace M. Mutale Kabwe, Ambassador of Zambia to the EU
- Elaine McKay, Director, JTI Global Leaf Social Programmes
- Simon Steyne, Senior Advisor, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Integration and PPP, ILO

12.45 **Q & A**

13.15 **Concluding remarks** by Stefaan Schepers, Chairman, Mazungumzo Governing Council

13.30 **Walking lunch**