

Concluding Press Release

Concluding Press Release Royal Museum for Central Africa and Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

‘SHARING PAST AND FUTURE: STRENGTHENING AFRICAN-EUROPEAN CONNECTIONS’

The Africa Museum and the Egmont Institute organised this 3-day conference with 50 speakers from Africa and the rest of the world to open up the discussion on the shared past and future that Africa-Europe have and will continue to make. Because this is only the start of a long process...

The colonial past is very present in the relations between Africa and Europe and expressing that unspoken reality is the starting point for the decolonisation of our thinking to come to a common future. As some of the speakers pointed out: “Everybody should have the right to talk about anything or anybody. Let us disagree so the discussion can move forward in the spirit of mutual respect for the expressed opinions.

When does the post-colonial time end? The post-colonial debate should be placed in a universal framework but that does not mean that countries can put aside their individual responsibilities because we have a shared past.

Our conception of the past and the future must be contextualised and consider the different

narratives of which it is constructed. The Africa Museum and the Egmont Institute will continue to work in that spirit.

In his much-appreciated concluding remarks Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Didier Reynders endorsed the conclusions of the conference and pleaded for dialogue with the diaspora and collaboration on issues such as restitution.

With the support of:

