

Africa's green future

New investment pathways towards sustainable, inclusive development

GREEN TALKS - BRUSSELS

THE CHALLENGES OF DESERTIFICATION AND REFORESTATION

Brussels, April 16th, 12h00-13h05 (Belgium Time)

1. Background

One of the goals of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union (January - June, 2021) is the promotion of the Green Deal, including the adaptation to climate change, the preservation of biodiversity and the strengthening of water and forest management.

At the same time, relations between Europe and Africa are one of the political priorities of the Portuguese Presidency in the external agenda, given the importance to continue to deepening and strengthening the collaboration between the two continents in multiple areas, to address common challenges in terms of economic development and cooperation. Issues related to development, public policies and investment that stimulate economic growth while promoting inclusive and sustainable strategies, both from the public and the private sector, are closely entwined with need to tackle climate change and help secure a green transition.

In this context, the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the Union and the European Investment Bank will organize a High Level Forum on Green Investment, which will take place on April 23.

This event will be held in a hybrid format, bringing together leading government and business entities, international and development financial institutions, the private sector, academia and non-governmental organisations to discuss how to strengthen and reinforce the green investment between the two continents.

2. Green Talks Brussels – “Africa: The Challenges of Desertification and Reforestation”

In the run-up to the High Level Forum on Green Investment, the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the Union and the European Investment Bank are promoting a set of around 20 conferences in European and African cities with the designation of “Green Talks”, aiming to contribute to the fulfillment of the objectives of the Forum, such as the mobilization of projects, partnerships and financial resources for economic development in Africa.



The Green Talk in Brussels is organized by the Embassy of Portugal to Belgium with the participation of the Ministry of Development Cooperation and Major Cities of Belgium.

Portugal and Belgium share a long-standing engagement and expertise in matters relating to both the Green Deal and development, notably in Africa. Both countries are therefore very well suited to collaborate in this event.

Each Green Talk addresses one of the many issues that are included in the larger topic of “Africa’s Green Future”. This event will discuss “The challenges of Desertification and Reforestation”.

Agenda

12:00 – 12:05

Welcome Remarks

Ambassador Rui Manuppella Tereno, Ambassador of Portugal in Brussels

The Challenges of Desertification and Reforestation

12:05 – 12:20

H. E. Francisco André, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Portugal

H. E. Meryame Kitir, Minister of Development Cooperation and Major Cities of Belgium

12:20 – 12:25

Ambassador João Ribeiro de Almeida, President of Camões – Institute for Cooperation and Language (Portugal)

12:25 – 12:30

Mr. Jean Van Wetter, Managing Director of ENABEL - Belgian Development Agency

12:30 – 12:35

Ms. Delina Goxho, Associate Fellow – Egmont, Royal Institute for International Relations of Belgium

12:35 – 12:40

Representative of the Belgian-Burkinabé company Hommes et Terre

12:45 – 13:05

Q&A

13h05

Closing Remarks

Ambassador Rui Manuppella Tereno, Ambassador of Portugal in Brussels

Registration at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_53UmLCTRTkuWHfQlgx-ZbA

You are kindly requested to join the meeting at 11h45 a.m.to test your connection.