

7th - 8th May 2013  
Foresight Conference  
Ljubljana, Slovenia

# 14<sup>th</sup> Forum on Europe | 2<sup>nd</sup> **Africa Day** in Slovenia

Europe for  
**Africa** & **Africa**  
for World



Summary Report 2013

# Under the Patronage of the President of the Republic of Slovenia Mr Borut Pahor



*"This year we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of Organisation of African Union and the 11th anniversary of its successor the African union. Despite it numerous challenges, this organization walked a long and successful way which leads the oldest continent to the better future. The African Union has also established structured and intensive relationships with strategic partners among which is also European Union. Africa and its diversity which derives from its rich history can present a big potential that prevail the challenges which this continent is facing. I personally assess that we can create a lighter future together and that is why I think that Slovenia has to promote economic and political cooperation with African states independently and in scope of the European Union. We have to search for new cooperation in the field of culture, education, science and research. Slovenia wishes to establish an equal relationship of partners who build long lasting partnership on a base of friendship. This gathering is a perfect opportunity to assess the relationships between Slovenia and Africa bilaterally and in scope of European Union."*

**Borut Pahor**, President of the Republic of Slovenia



*"Slovenia and Africa have a history of good relations. In this spirit, we will work together with Africa to find new solutions to global challenges, to enhance global security and to ensure wellbeing for everybody. Special attention should be given to climate change and the management of natural resources. We should follow the principles of sustainable development on every level, from local to global. Human rights are another field where we have formed partnership and joint initiatives. We highly value cooperation with African countries on the protection of women and children's rights and on gender equality. Africa has made strong economic progress over the past decades. Its economic development is impressive and it will continue to grow in the following years. Since the adoption of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership in 2007 a new chapter has been opened in our relations. But it still has to reach its full potential. We should work on common actions and effective results. We are equal partners in addressing global challenges."*

**Mr Karl Erjavec**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

# Shared Leadership Introduction

150 participants from Africa and Europe met in Ljubljana, Slovenia, between 7th and 8th May, 2013. 12 African states were present to demonstrate the dynamics of new Africa and its potentials for cooperation with Europe in the field of knowledge-based economy development, political cooperation and business development.

Forum hosted representatives from Government institutions, European Commission, the African Union, NGOs, research and education institutions, NGOs and business community.

*"Forum on Europe and 2nd Africa Day in Europe is important for all Africans, especially for the ones living in Slovenia. This Forum is a place where we will look for a better future and strive to obtain real solutions."*

**Mr Ibrahim Nouhoum**, Director of African Forum



*"2nd Africa day in Europe is an event with great ambitions. We wish to shape new initiatives and strategies for developing new relations between Europe and Africa. Slovenia can potentially grow into relevant European center for building such cooperation initiatives."*

**Mr Peter Toš**, President of the Club of Former Slovenian Ambassadors



*"The focus of the 2nd Africa Day in Europe is on business cooperation and development that would result in creative and strong relationships. We must be aware that new times call for new approaches."*

**Mr Janez Podobnik**, ICPE Acting Director General



*"The concrete impact of the first forum on Europe in 1996 'Europe for a Just world' supported the establishment of the International Criminal Court ICC in 1998 and the establishment of Summer School on Criminal Law in Arusha Tanzania."*

*"We are gathered here today in 2013 to discuss about new Africa, about knowledge-based economy development, and new areas of cooperation. I am sure that we are giving our share for better future of Africa and Europe."*

**Mr Blaž Golob**, Chairman of Forum on Europe



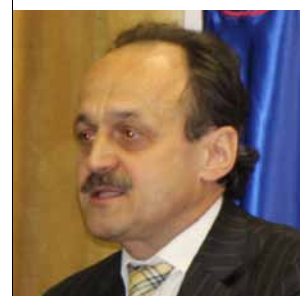
# About the speakers



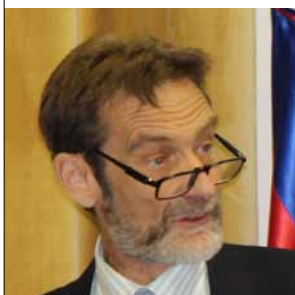
**Mr Karl Erjavec**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the  
Republic of Slovenia



**H.E. Mr Ajay  
Kumar Bramdeo**  
Ambassador and Permanent  
Representative of the AU to the EU



**Mr Klaus  
Rudischhauser**  
Deputy Director General, Directorate-  
General for Development and  
Cooperation, European Commission



**Mr Jeremy Lester**  
PhD, Special Adviser of EU  
Managing Director for Africa,  
European External Action Service



**Ms Bojana Rogelj  
Škafar**  
Director, Slovene Ethnographic  
Museum



**H.E. Mr Xolisa  
Mfundiso  
Mabhongo**  
Ambassador, Republic of South  
Africa



**H.E. Ms Maria de  
Jesus Veiga Miranda  
Mascarenhas**  
Ambassador, Republic of Cape Verde



**Mr Marjan Cencen**  
PhD, Director-General, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs of the Republic of  
Slovenia



**Ms Elisabeth  
Rasekoala**  
PhD, Director of African Caribbean  
Network for Science and  
Technology



Mr Miroslav Polzer  
PhD, President, IAAI



Mr Jean Paul Brice  
Affana  
President, African Youth Network



Mr Tihomir Divjak  
Euro World Network



Mr Alexander  
Prosser  
prof.dr., Chairman of the Forum  
eGovernment, Austrian Computer  
Society, University of Vienna, Austria



Mr Robert Török  
Müller  
prof.dr., University of Applied  
Sciences, Ludwigsburg



Ms Alenka  
Prvinšek Persoglio  
Interact 4C, International  
Association Connecting  
Technologies for Citizens



Mr Tomaž Rogelj  
Executive Manager, ICPE



Mr Janez Rogelj  
MSc, Secretary, Ministry of Economic  
Development and Technology, Republic  
of Slovenia



Ms Eleanor Ryan-  
Saha  
Durham University, United Kingdom



Mr Ivan Bizjak  
former Director General, DG Justice  
and Home Affairs, Council of the EU

# Round table: 50 years of African integration and Africa-EU relation

Panelist of the Session I, moderated by H.E. Mrs Heba Sedhom,  
Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Slovenia



A look at the overall achievements of African integration in the last 50 years and a closer look at future opportunities in connection to the Europe-Africa partnership showed a remarkable progress towards achieving African development goals. Today, Africa is the largest emerging market in the World. Seven of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies are African. The continent is resource-rich and some recent studies suggest that the biggest drivers are very encouraging for its future: wholesale and retail commerce, transportation, telecommunications, and manufacturing.

However, Africa still faces significant challenges of fragile states with on-going conflicts, security problems, problems with battling terrorism, organised crime and drugs, corruption, gender inequality, climate change,... that are standing in the way of successful development. There is a need for assessment of fundamental values and for creating strong and competent governments. All the resources: natural, financial and others as well as Africa's potential must be put to better use in order to move towards desired future development.

Europe and Africa share common historical background, interests and strategic objectives. To overcome today's global challenges Africa and Europe have already created strong cooperation and strong partnership at all levels. Strengthening this cooperation, sharing knowledge and learning from each other is the right way forward.

Mayor of Piran, Slovenia Mr Bossman (third from the right) participated at the gathering on Africa.



*"One of the key areas of the EU-Africa partnership is sharing knowledge and helping Africa with the problems that are preventing successful integration. To be able to adapt to changes, a constant review of what has been done, what can be improved is very important, especially because of the dynamic nature of this relationship. We must keep this relationship in balance and make sure that it is based on equality."*

**Mr Klaus Rudischhauser**, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation, European Commission

*"The possibilities in Africa are endless. The continent has unlimited potential for entrepreneurship by constantly improving its governance and making it mutually beneficial to its states as also to foreign investors. Our main goal is to bring about peaceful and prospective Africa, since peace and security and development go hand in hand."*

**H.E. Mr Ajay Kumar Bramdeo**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the AU to the EU

*"Both, Europe and Africa, are faced with global challenges. An important potential driver of overall progress is building a new EuroAfrica, a EuroAfrica fit for tomorrow."*

**Mr Jeremy Lester**, PhD, Special Adviser of EU Managing Director for Africa, European External Action Service



# Africa's contribution for World

Prof. dr. Alexander Prosser during his presentation at the Session II.



We are witnessing a trend of “Repositioning of Africa in the World”. The rise of knowledge-based economy paradigm has revealed Africa’s unique opportunities in various fields: wireless ICT, biotechnology, space science and technology, renewable energy, biodiversity and indigenous knowledge systems. This trend means seeing the human and economic potentials of African countries.

EU-Africa partnership strategy focuses on moving beyond development cooperation towards effectively addressing global challenges of joint concern: jobs, trade, migration, climate change, peace and security and moving beyond fragmentation and institutionalization in working towards a people-centred partnership.

Young people in African countries are especially important actors in addressing global challenges by using the potential of connecting via modern information and communication technologies (ICT) for addressing global challenges in a mutually beneficial way. The public

and private sectors can also improve their performance by taking advantage of the benefits of ICT solutions. In order to move forward, the development of a framework to initiate, facilitate and sustain a dialogue, research and development programme partnerships is needed.

**'They Say'**



**'We Say'**



Source: Mr Miroslav Polzer PhD, Secretary General IAAI & Mr Jean Paul Brice Affana, head of Youth programs IAAI, Youth and Innovation for Repositioning of Africa in the World, presentation at 14th Bled Forum on Europe, EUROPE FOR AFRICA & AFRICA FOR WORLD, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 7.- 8. May 2013

*»Africa is developing at an incredible pace. It has 'Nollywood' - the third largest film industry in the world, and unique opportunities for knowledge-based economic and social development. It just needs a strategic framework and innovative partners committed to engaging in business 'un-usual' practices rather than business as usual. This is where partnerships with CEE countries can make a dynamic contribution to Africa's development.'*

**Ms Elisabeth Rasekoala**, PhD, Director of African Caribbean Network for Science and Technology



*»We should look at Africa from an innovative perspective. Since Africa is the second largest and second most populous continent with the youngest population, there is a huge potential for development with innovative approaches. However, without the African youth as partners in addressing sustainable development and other global goals on local level there can be no just, peaceful and sustainable world.«*

**Mr Miroslav Polzer**, PhD, President, IAAI



*»Partnership is in the center of the relationship between EU and AU. This partnership has significantly intensified during the last few years. We are getting away from the idea of just having EU projects in Africa towards working with governments and their sound policies, thus supporting African visions of development.«*

**Mr Jeremy Lester**, PhD, Special Adviser of EU Managing Director for Africa, European External Action Service



# Just World & Prosperity for Africa

Panelists of the the Session III.



Numerous knowledge sharing and research projects and trainings have already been organized in Africa by joint synergies of the international organisations based in Slovenia. ICPE fosters the culture of sustainable and integrative approach in Spatial Planning and Spatial Management through ICPE Spatial Platform. In the area of wastewater treatment Slovenia donated one of the highest contributions (considering its GDP) of all the countries through the UNIDO Water Treatment Project in Kenya. The objective of the project is to supply clean and safe water in combination with renewable sources. The scope of the project involves solar power water treatment and trainings for local people on operation and maintenance. Slovenia has also developed a modern IT supported system of central civil registration.

Africa must continue its development path and strengthen cooperation with Europe to get all the knowledge needed, in order to achieve future prosperity. Therefore, working models should be implemented and a proper framework by combining knowledge and technology should be established.

*“There has been a lot of talk about technology so far. However, knowledge in combination with technology is crucial”*

**Ms Alenka Prvinšek Persoglio**, Interact 4C, International Association Connecting Technologies for Citizens

*“Wastewater treatment is a simple and affordable project addressing elementary needs.”*

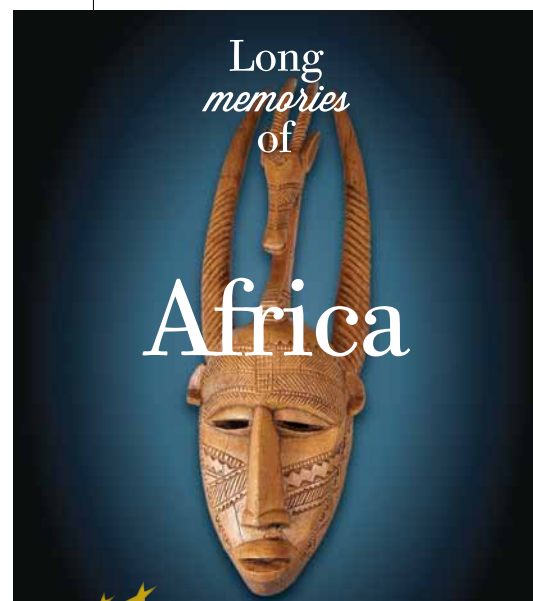
**Mr Tomaž Rogelj**, ICPE Executive Manager



## Africa in the imagination of Europeans

Slovene people were present in Africa throughout history. Dr Ignacij Knoblehar was a missionary in 19th century in Sudan. He brought over 300 objects from Africa to Ljubljana and prepared the first African exhibition. For the first time in history, Slovenian people learned about African culture through his missionary journey. Anton Coodelli worked at a radiotelegraph station in Togo and produced a documentary film The »White Goddess of the Wangora«. Aleksandrinke were Slovenian women in Alexandria – maids, nannies and cooks. During Tito’s reign in Yugoslavia in the 20th Century many Africans came to Slovenia through various programs that were a part of the non-alliance movement.

The exhibition "Long memories of Africa" was organized at the 14th Forum on Europe and 2nd Africa Day by the Slovene Ethnographic Museum and ICPE.



*“The worst thing colonialism did was to cloud our view of the past.”*

**Ms Eleanor Ryan-Saha**, Durham University, UK

*»Migration can be a very controversial issue. Europe sometimes seems as fortress that does not allow anybody in. We should facilitate mobility and provide education and all the information to the migrants, thus helping them to integrate in new environments.«*

**Mr Ivan Bizjak**, former Director General, DG Justice and Home Affairs, Council of the EU



# Conclusions



Participants concluded with the following 10 key messages:

- I.** The objective of the event was to to enable future development towards "A just world".
- II.** Further to create new partnerships and new project initiatives and to initiate new dimension of cooperation between Africa and EU.
- III.** When celebrating the 50th anniversary of African Union we are witnessing a trend of "Repositioning of Africa in the World".
- IV.** Africa will be among the main drivers of the world economic growth in the future and is becoming an important actor in addressing global challenges.
- V.** The rise of knowledge-based economy paradigm has revealed Africa's unique entrepreneurship opportunities in various fields.
- VI.** Being the world's youngest continent, with 70% of the population under the age of 30 in 2010, Africa and African youth have the potential to be a great impetus for African's development.
- VII.** This shine future for Africa is achievable, provided that major challenges that are standing in the way of successful development will be further addressed when enabling leadership to positive examples to become global champions.
- VIII.** In order to achieve future global sustainable goals, cooperation of various stakeholders is important.

After the Forum participants were hosted by Mr Roman Koritnik at IBM Innovation Centre for South East Europe in Ljubljana.



**IX.** Africa and Europe have created strong cooperation and strong partnership. EU-Africa partnership strategy focuses on moving beyond development cooperation.

**X.** To strengthen EU-Africa a cooperation in the future, the Forum on Europe aims to develop a Europe & African partnership platform for knowledge sharing.

**Sharing knowledge and learning from each other is the right way forward!**

## FOLLOW UP

To strengthen EU-Africa a cooperation in the future, the Forum on Europe aims to develop a CEE & African partnership platform for knowledge sharing to initiate, facilitate and sustain a dialogue, research, solidarity and development programmes to engender sustainable development partnerships between Central and South East Europe and Africa in the area of addressing major global challenges.

*Sharing knowledge and learning from each other is the right way forward!*

# Strengthening Business Co-operation between Africa & EU



65 Slovenian companies had the opportunity to meet with representatives coming from 8 African countries, namely Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Ghana, Liberia, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria and South Africa, in B2B meetings.



### About Africa day in Europe

Africa Day in Slovenia brings about Africa – Europe cooperation in a spirit of mutual understanding and building of shared leadership. The Republic of Slovenia is providing a meeting point for various leaders, brothers and sisters, for designing common initiatives and projects.

### About Forum on Europe

Bled Forum on Europe is a regional scientific event (initiated in 1996) involving NGOs, governmental institutions and business sector. The main topics of Bled Forum are the challenges Europe is facing today, the role of EU in the world, human rights etc. The driving force for knowledge concept design of Bled Forum on Europe is GFS Institute (GoForeSight).

### About African Union

The African Union (AU) is a union consisting of 54 African states. The AU was established on 26 May 2001 in Addis Ababa and launched on 9 July 2002 in South Africa to replace the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). The vision of the African Union: “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena.”

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Published in 2013 by the GFS  
Institute, Cesta na Kurešček 46,  
1292 Ig, Slovenia, EU

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See you at the 3rd Africa Day  
in Europe in May 2014!

Organisers:



Partners:

