

A fresh start for Africa-Europe relations

8 February 2024, 17:30-19:00

Luiss Guido Carli University

Aula Toti, Viale Romania 32, Rome

Relations between African and European countries are at a pivotal juncture. Factors such as the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic, disagreements over the war in Ukraine, implications of military takeovers in the Sahel and geopolitical competition and interferences have cooled relations between them. Yet, inter-continental dialogue between the African Union and the European Union could provide opportunities to foster win-win cooperation, providing a chance to address common challenges, unlock the economic potential through partnerships and investments, and collaboratively shape the international order. At least theoretically, this would be the rationale for a joint vision for 2030, outlined at the last AU-EU Summit of February 2022. In practice, it is crucial to seize this critical moment to turn a new page, recalibrating expectations and perceptions, addressing significant divergencies and leveraging existing shared agendas.

How? Drawing from the recently published EUISS report “*Africa Atlas: Mapping the future of the AU-EU partnership*”, this event aims to facilitate a shared reflection on the needs and priorities for rejuvenated and forward-looking cooperation between African and Europe. Adopting an original approach resembling a “couples therapy” session, the discussion will revolve around the following questions: what are the key entry points to revitalize relations and foster an open dialogue between African and Europe? Can a truly joint vision emerge in a context of geopolitical fragmentation? What role can Italy play in forging this new chapter, particularly through the Mattei Plan?

The event is jointly organized by Luiss School of Government – Mediterranean Platform and the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS).

AGENDA

16:45 -17:15

Registration

17:30 – 17:45

OPENING REMARKS

Giovanni Orsina

Director, Luiss School of Government

Steven Everts (*online*)

Director, European Union Institute for Security Studies

Luigi Narbone

Director, Mediterranean Platform, Luiss School of Government

17:45 – 18:50

AFRICA & EUROPE: A “COUPLES THERAPY” SESSION

The Couple

Africa: **Kenneth Amaeshi**

Professor, School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute

Europe: **Rossella Marangio**

Senior Analyst, European Union Institute for Security Studies

The Therapists

Virginie Collombier

Scientific Coordinator, Luiss School of Government

Giovanni Faleg

Senior Fellow, Luiss School of Government

18:50 – 19:00

CLOSING REMARKS

Giovanni Faleg

Senior Fellow, Luiss School of Government