

Africa-EU Migration, Mobility and Employment Partnership: Four Years after Lisbon

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The Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) adopted at the Lisbon Summit in December 2007 reflects the will of both parties to elevate their relationship to a strategic partnership aimed at addressing their common challenges, among which the question of migration, mobility and employment. This paper is intended as an appraisal of the growing Africa-EU partnership in the area of migration, mobility and employment. It is divided into two parts. The first part will analyze the growing partnership against the backdrop of recent policy and scholarly discussions that address the nexus between these various thematic issues and the broader questions of development, trade, and human security. The migration-development nexus in particular had been the subject of two important Euro-African ministerial conferences held respectively in Rabat and Tripoli in 2006. The second part will offer a critical review and assessment of the specific actions undertaken by the two parties in the context of the JAES' first Action Plan (2007-2010) in areas such as diasporas, remittances, human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, tertiary level education and youth mobility, and visa issues. It will especially investigate the impact of the partnership on existing continental policy frameworks in Africa against the background of EU own initiatives designed to better manage illegal migration flows from Africa.