



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Director-General

Brussels,
devco.c.5(2019)7355523

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you very much for your letter of 17 July. I would like to apologise for the delay in replying to you.

I share your views on the importance of the digital economy in Africa. The European Commission has set out its ambitions for a comprehensive and innovative partnership between Africa and the EU called the New Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investments and Jobs.

This initiative includes a set of measures to boost EU-Africa cooperation on digital economy. They build on Africa's youth, the youngest population on the planet, and an African market that enjoys a mobile phone penetration of over 80%, and which has become a global leader in mobile payments, representing more than 9% of GDP.

The initiative pays particular attention to actions that benefit and empower women and young people, as well as to populations from rural and remote areas.

An EU-AU Digital Economy Task Force released its first report early this year, and I would like to invite you to consult it at the following address: <https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/eu-au-digital-economy-task-force/towards-eu-africa-digital-partnership-0>.

I would like to confirm that European Commission delivers on the recommendations made in the above-mentioned report and other initiatives aimed to contribute to the development of the digital economy in Africa in coordination with international and national partners, and in the framework provided in fora such as the G7.

Yours sincerely,


Koen DOENS