
Emerging Engagements Between Central & Eastern Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa: Common Interests and Cooperation

Thursday 31 October 2019 | Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra, Ghana

Strengthened links between the states of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) are emerging, marked by growth in diplomatic representation, trade volumes and supporting networks.

Additional openings for CEE-SSA engagement look set to develop within a wider context of changing Africa-EU relations. New initiatives such as the EU External Investment Plan (EIP) reflect an increasing commitment to private sector participation, while ongoing negotiations on a successor to the Cotonou Agreement – which predates CEE membership of the EU – will likely have a significant bearing on the direction of future relations. From private sector investment initiatives to collaboration on digital governance, the pursuit of new avenues for CEE-SSA cooperation and the enhancement of existing links could support inclusive growth and institution-building in both regions.

At this event, speakers will discuss the outlook for relations between Central & Eastern European and sub-Saharan African countries: examining the impact of engagements on investment prospects, and potential cooperation in other areas. It will launch the Chatham House research paper, 'Central & Eastern Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa: The Potential of Investment Partnerships for Mutual Benefit'.

09.00 – 09.30 Registration

09:30 – 10:30 The Context, Drivers and Outlook for CEE-SSA Relations

Dampsey B. Asare, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Regional Integration, Ghana

Dr. Lukáš Kindl, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of the Czech Republic, Ghana

Dr. Stefan Cibian, Academy Associate, Africa Programme, Chatham House

Chair: **Elizabeth Donnelly**, Deputy Head, Africa Programme, Chatham House

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 Beyond Emerging Engagements? Prospects for Cooperation Around Common Interests

Publication Launch: The Potential of Investment Partnerships for Mutual Benefit

Damir Kurtagic, Academy Robert Bosch Fellow (2018-2019), Africa Programme, Chatham House

Respondent: **TBC**

Cooperation Around Digitalisation and e-Governance

Hanna Desta, Co-Author, "Collaborations on Governance in the Digital Era" (forthcoming)

Prospects for Shared Learning and Engagement on Labour Migration

Nkirote Laiboni, Academy Robert Bosch Fellow (2019-2020), Europe Programme, Chatham House

Chair: **Bob Dewar**, Associate Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House