POSITION PAPER

Name	Anna	Surname	Esposito
Committee	INTA	School	ISIS A. Malignani
Topic: **Trading Favours: with Africa set to be a key player in the ever changing geopolitical landscape, how can the EU ensure greater cooperation with Africa, when it comes to trade and economic development?**			

Africa and Europe are bound together by history, culture, geography and respect of human rights. In the last decades, Africa has been playing a fundamental role in the world economy and cooperation between Africa and EU has become systematic and integrated. Since the EU is one of the main business partners of Africa, it strives to maintain the stability and effective integration of the new African economy. Political and economical agreements such as "Cotonou Agreement"[1] and the "Joint Africa-EU strategy (JAES)"[2] are two significant ways of working in tandem for mutual benefit.

The first point to consider is the rapid growth of the African continent since 2017. After peaking at 4.7% during 2010-14 period, Africa's GDP growth slowed to 3.5% in 2015 and 2.1% in 2016, due partly to the drastic drop in oil prices and the drought in the Eastern and Southern Africa. Africa's economy recovered with 3.6% growth in 2017 and 3.5% growth in 2018. Growth is projected to accelerate to 4% percent in 2019 and 4.1% in 2020, higher than other emerging economies.[3]

The main determining factors for Africa's economy growth are population increase, workforce increase, availability of resources and raw materials, urbanization of the continent and the emergence of an African middle class. Moreover, the economy of the developing countries has various effect in Africa's economy:
  i.   trade opportunities with numerous partners,
  ii.   chances in diversification and production,
  iii. attraction of foreign investments.
The EU is aware of African's economic growth and willing to support it in view of future economic advantages. That is why the UE wants to maintain positive relationships with Africa in the name of peace, stability and security, strengthening pre-existent agreements on trade and economy.

Another crucial point is the unevenly distribution of foreign investments due to the different economic development of Africa's countries: Egypt, Morocco, South Africa and Tunisia are the four most advanced economies, followed by Nigeria, Angola and Algeria, important oil exporters. Besides, transition economies should be mentioned: Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Ethiopia and Mali, which are fast growing but with serious economic difficulties.[4] Great commercial powers such as the USA, China and the EU prefer to invest where industry is strong in order to export capital goods[5] that will be part of their production systems. That is why, South Africa, Nigeria, Morocco, Kenya and Egypt have attracted 58% of total foreign direct investment in 2016, while less advanced countries face social and internal political difficulties.[6] Consequently, free trade agreements signed with Africa have always been dominated by sector interests: West and Central Africa aim at improving general economic conditions, while North and South Africa push to specific rules on a sector or a product.

---

[1] "Cotonou Agreement",
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=LEGISSUM:r12101&from=en
[2] The Africa-EU strategic partnership, "A Joint Africa-EU Strategy",
https://www.africa-eu-partnership.org//sites/default/files/documents/eas2007_joint_strategy_en.pdf
[3] "African Economic Outlook 2019"-Chapter 1 (p.2),
https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/2019AEO/AEO_2019-EN-CHAP1.pdf
[4] McKinsey Global Institute, "Lions on the move: the progress and potential of African economies" (p.5),
https://www.mckinsey.com/~/media/McKinsey/Featured%20Insights/Middle%20East%20and%20Africa/Lions%20on%20the%20move/MGI_Lions_on_the_move_african_economies_Exec_Summary.ashx
[5] The set of instrumental, material and immaterial assets, components of production processes, both for the individual company and for the economic system as a whole.
[6] "Communication concerning a new Africa alliance" (p.3),
https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2018/IT/COM-2018-643-F1-IT-MAIN-PART-1.PDF

To solve this problem and to allow a complete development of the African continent, I believe the EU should promote the "Africa-EU partnership", ensuring cooperation with African transition and pre-transition economies, investing on their potential, not only in raw materials, specific products or sectors. A proposal could be to set fair regulations for the distribution of investments and exports.

The last point to consider is the clear difference in economy and social conditions between the EU and Africa. The African economy is growing rapidly but has not reached the same level as those in Europe. In terms of exports, for example, 270 different European companies export almost the same value of goods ($1.5 billion dollars) as the 430 African national companies in the export survey.[7] Furthermore, the African population is the youngest in the world, but its workforce is the least qualified in the world.[8]

An economic growth should always be accompanied by a cultural growth. That is why the EU is called to support African education at local and regional level, from primary education to university, including professional and entrepreneurial training, so as to develop enough skills and qualifications of workers. Besides, the EU should cooperate with Africa in terms of research and innovation to stimulate the improvement of already existing techniques and production cycles on site.

In conclusion, I strongly believe the EU should, firstly, increase its awareness on the African economic and trade growth; secondly, maintain peaceful and constructive relationships with Africa to allow trade and economic cooperation; thirdly, support African countries which are still underdeveloped, through agreements and regulations on trade, products and investments; finally, promote and finance African youth's education so as to prepare the future workforce necessary for the progress and prosperity of the African continent.

---

[7] The Africa-EU Partnership, "2 Unions, 1 Vision" (p.80),
https://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/sites/default/files/documents/jaes_summit_edition2014_en_electronic_final.pdf
[8] Africa's Pulse (2017), World Bank Group

POSITION PAPER

Name	Raffaele	*Surname*	Tolazzi
Committee	Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)	*School*	I.S.I.S. A. Malignani

> **TOPIC: Trouble in Paradise: taking into account the important economic benefits of tourism, should the EU and the UNESCO try to control the tourist boom, in order to protect the locals and the cultural heritage sites, and if so, how?**

Although the European Union only covers 3% of the area, in 2016 it welcomed 500 million international tourist arrivals accounting for 40% of the world's total[9]. Indeed, the European Union is the most popular tourist destination in the world and has confirmed that, when responsibly managed, tourism has the capacity to support job creation, protect natural and cultural heritage, conserve biodiversity, generate sustainable livelihoods and spread culture. Furthermore, an UNWTO's long-term outlook "Tourism Towards 2030" shows that international arrivals to EU destinations are expected to increase by an average of 1.9% a year through 2030[1] .

While some European areas base their economy entirely on the tourism sector (Hallstatt, AT), other places in UE fail to control the growth of tourist activity, causing problems for cultural heritage sites and local citizens. The reasons for the damage are ineffective organization by local administrations, pollution caused by tourists and inadequate information of the population about the environmental stress generated by overcrowding.

Knowing that the EU has competence to carry out actions of support, coordination and integration of the Member States in the tourism sector[10], it could intervene for the resolution of the problem of over-tourism. However, a direct intervention by the EU could clash with the local conditions, laws and rights in force in each Member State. The Committee of the Regions, an advisory body composed of representatives of local and regional authorities, can work together with the Council of Europe in the definition of European policies and actions.

Therefore, site protection measures are the result of cooperation between Member States and UE bodies. Local administrations start and monitor protection actions against over-tourism while the UE is responsible for the funding of these actions and the definition of European policies and directives. To this regard, the EU should strengthen the Committee of the Regions to allow greater effectiveness, transparency and speed in the resolution of problems connected to the tourist boom and the protection of cultural sites and local residents.

Regions are often blamed for squandering funds without useful effects, building structures that will never be used. In order to avoid this, funded projects are subject to the supervision of the European Court of Auditors. By favoring such administrative decentralization, the European Court of Auditors would also need to be empowered. Furthermore, an increase in the control of cultural sites, in particular those that are unattended (like in Rome, IT), would lead to a substantial increase in jobs, contributing to the reduction of unemployment and the conservation of cultural sites and of the environment.

It is universally acknowledged that tourism can cause the same forms of pollution as any other industry[11] in terms of atmospheric emissions, noise, solid waste, waste water. Thus tourism has a direct effect on the environment producing pollution and climate change[12], which in turn damages historical and cultural sites. The inevitable and constant degradation of the cultural and natural heritage determined by the climate change will negatively affect the

---

[9] https://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284419470 by UNWTO, (pag. 9)
[10] Article 6(d) and Title XXII, Article 195 of the (TFEU), https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT&from=IT
[11] Report by CIHEAM http://om.ciheam.org/om/pdf/a57/04001977.pdf
[12] Report by UNESCO, "Case Studies on Climate Change and World Heritage", https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/319/

tourism sector in the future, reducing the attractiveness of destinations and the economic opportunities for local communities.

A possible solution could be to encourage Slow Tourism, which promotes quality experience by contrasting mass tourism and fast consumption of art and beauty. Slow Tourism implies the knowledge and discovery of organic and zero Km foods, preferring destinations that are energy saving and inspired by the principle of recycling goods. This would encourage tourism to less known areas, in smaller groups, more respective of the environment. A proposal is to create online platforms, services and links aimed at providing the flow of people to a specific place in direct time, so as to encourage self-regulation by the tourists.

However, the main problem is the lack of information by the population, not only in Europe, but worldwide. Tourists are not only Europeans and European tourists also travel outside the EU. Therefore, European Bodies and Member States should implement measures to favour sustainable tourism (also in accordance with the goals of the 2030 agenda[13]) by:
  i.   Rising awareness of the need to combine the curiosity of the tourist with the respect of the environment
  ii. Promoting advertising and social events to create good habits in travelling tourists

In conclusion, I believe the EU should firstly strengthen direct communication with local administrations through the empowerment of the Committee of the Regions; secondly, encourage Slow Tourism to less known areas, with the help of online platforms, services and connections. Thirdly, the sensibility of the population for the protection and preservation of natural and artistic sites should be cultivated by means of school education and social happenings. UNESCO initiatives should become more popular worldwide to guarantee the protection of the natural, cultural and historical heritage, the precious product of human creativity in centuries of history.

---

[13] 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, (goal 13) https://www.unric.org/it/images/Agenda_2030_ITA.pdf

POSITION PAPER

Name	Asia	*Surname*	Pecile
Committee	Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)	*School*	ISIS A. Malignani

> **TOPIC:** *Workforce of the future: with 15% of youth unemployed in Europe and the rise in technological change, future employers find innovation skills more valuable and suitable employees harder to find. How can Member States prepare the youth to meet the demand of the future labour markets?*

Realising that 50% of the global workforce in the EU is composed by youngsters, it is vital to find a way to reduce youth unemployment. The main problem is the mismatch between the skills required by the world of work and the skills inexperienced employees possess. As a matter of fact, nowadays employers are striving for workers endowed with technological and innovation skills, but they hardly find them. Why is there a discrepancy between the skills needed and those currently available in the labour market? The answer is too fast technological development, inadequate preparation provided by schools and companies, little flexibility employers show towards youngsters.

Firstly, technological development needs to be controlled. According to a report[14] published in 2017 by distinguished economists of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston University, each industrial robot was determined to reduce employment by 5.6 workers. Up to 2017, 670,000 Americans lost their jobs due to automation in the USA. To solve this problem the EU could provide funds to those companies which maintain an artisanal production, or reduce the taxes imposed on handmade products to encourage people to buy them.

Secondly, more communication between companies and schools should be advocated. In Austria's educational system pupils are given the opportunity to carry out company-based traineeships. This learning system produces young men and young women who, having already taken part in the labour market, are experienced and can manage their future jobs. "Youth on the move"[15] and the programme for Employment and Social Innovation[16] are initiatives implemented by the EU to facilitate the entry of young people in the labour market. The ultimate goal is to reach the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy[17]:
- reducing youth unemployment by providing a job to 75% of people between the age of 20 and 75;
- achieving a high level of education with 40% more graduations and 10% less early school leavers.

Thirdly, company managers need to achieve high performance results. Every employer wants the best in the shortest time for their company, consequently every employee has to respond to specific requests in time. Efficiency does not go hand in hand with inexperience. The youth, being inexperienced, need some time to learn and could be the best choice for companies in the long run. The way out is flexicurity[18], a strategy promoted by the EU to combine flexibility and security in the labour market, a solution to help the young generation to join in, in spite of their initial slow time of productivity. Flexicurity relies on flexible and reliable contractual arrangements and comprehensive lifelong learning (LLL) strategies.

Employers should be encouraged to employ youngsters by means of incentives: fewer taxes to pay to the state, free

---

[14] https://www.nber.org/papers/w23285

[15] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52010DC2020

[16] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=legissum%3A170501_1

[17] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3Aem0028

[18] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52007DC0359&from=EN

training courses for the young workers releasing qualifications to be added to their CV. The Youth Guarantee[19], which is a commitment to ensure that those under 25 receive interesting employment offers, life-long learning education, apprenticeships and traineeships, has helped millions of youngsters to find proper jobs. This valuable initiative, based on building relevant skills and preparing the youth for the labour markets, has been successful, but needs more wide spread media advertising. So far not enough employers, nor youngsters know about it. The European Union should make its actions more visible and well known.

In conclusion, technological development should be controlled by human actions. A more human vision of the future world should emerge, where technology is at the service of man and not the other way round. The UE has to put the welfare of its citizens in the first place and provide them a dignified job. It is fundamental to offer more study and work opportunities to the youth, to let them join companies making the most of their talents and their expertise. Today's youngsters have the right to become active and meaningful resources in the labour market. After all, they are the future leaders of the world, those who will take important decisions and honourably represent their nations in the peaceful, progressive and prosperous arena of the world: both in the political and economic spheres.

---

[19] https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1079&langId=en

POSITION PAPER

Name	Daniele	*Surname*	Cisilino
Committee	ITRE	*School*	I.S.I.S. A. Malignani
TOPIC: Is green really green? With European citizens becoming active consumers, prosumers, crowdsourcers and crowdfunders of the energy transition, what can the EU do to provide the correct information and tools to empower its citizens when it comes to the energy they use?			

According to Eurostat, Europe is heavily dependent on imported energy; in fact, 53.6% of the EU energy consumption comes from imported sources[1]. Moreover, the production of energy in the EU is decreasing: for example, in 2016 the production of primary energy was 1.6% lower than the previous year [2]. This demonstrates that the EU is beginning to become dependent on non-members countries as to energy consumption. In addition, the most substantial source of energy produced in the EU is nuclear energy (28.7% of the total energy produced[3]). The energy coming from renewable sources is just a step behind (27.9% of the total energy produced[4]), but it is slowly increasing. It is estimated that this type of energy will help the EU decrease its dependence on non-member countries from today's 55% to 20% in 2050[5].

To become more autonomous from external countries, the EU has to start educating its citizens, to change their energy habits. In fact, many consumers in the EU do not feel confident and competent in their use of energy, simply because they tend to ignore the source of such energy. If energy consumers are ignorant, they end up buying grey energy (energy coming from non-renewable sources, such as carbon or oil plants) instead of green energy (energy coming from renewable sources, such as solar panels or hydroelectric plants). Being unaware of their rights, European consumers can become highly vulnerable to fraud[6].

They need to change their attitude and become more active, innovative and competitive consumers. To make a difference in a sustainable economy, they need to pay more attention to what they buy and, for example, to compare offers in order to choose the best energy product or service. So, the EU has to raise the awareness of the consumers with measures like GO (Guarantee of Origin[7]), which helps consumers recognise the energy they purchase.

Yet, the problem of consumer awareness comes back when the consumer chooses to become prosumer and produces his own renewable energy, mainly buying, installing and using solar panels on house roofs to catch solar rays or investing money on small hydroelectric plants on rivers. Nowadays, this idea of producing one's own energy is becoming quite popular among consumers, who are sensitive to climate change and want to invest money in order to be crowdsourcers of the energy transition. But in order to invest their money effectively, they need to be well informed; otherwise, they are going to waste their money on inefficient projects, such as putting wind turbines in zones where the wind is inconstant, not to count the negative result of ruining the landscape.

In conclusion, the EU needs to raise public awareness about RES (Renewable Sources of Energy) by informing its citizens of successful projects such as Citizenergy[8]. Secondly, the EU should educate the younger generations involving them in inspiring projects: namely, the project 10ACTION[9] ,which included 1303 teenagers, or the project ENERGY2B[10], which enhanced the students' entrepreneurial and creative mindset in relation to energy innovation ideas. Thirdly, the UE must put all its efforts, even through advertising, to positively condition human beings to open up to renewable energy sources and sustainable economy. The only future lies in a fast and mindful energy transition.

POSITION PAPER

Name	Eleonora	*Surname*	Munaro
Committee	ENVI		
		School	ISIS Malignani
TOPIC: Healthcare sans-frontieres: in an era of interconnectivity and increased mobility, how can we safeguard patients' rights whilst realizing the potential provided by cross-border healthcare?			

European citizens have the right to access healthcare in any EU country and to be reimbursed for care by their home country when abroad. The cross-border healthcare includes several associations that work together according to the Directive 2011/24/EU[20] and the Regulation S2/E112[21]. The framework is based on the cooperation among Member States in order to guarantee quality and safety of care. However, focusing on surveys and statistics, the results are not good: the Eurobarometer Survey Results, published in May 2015, report that fewer than 20%[22] of citizens feel well informed about their cross-border healthcare rights and in 2014 only 4,6 %[23] of citizens report cross-border mobility. Besides, the reimbursement system is not transparent and easy to understand.

The lack of information is the problem. First, only 10 % of the Europeans are aware of the existence of National Contact Points. Second, the language barrier is an obstacle in case of low levels of health literacy or marginalized and vulnerable situations. In order to find a solution, communication and information must be implemented by:
  i.   Informative meetings in schools or other health care associations about cross border healthcare,
  ii.   Advertising National Contact Point and the European Reference Network (ERNs),
  iii.   Helping citizens with low levels of health literacy,
  iv.   Creating a specific community number for calls to specialized treatment centers

Another relevant issue is the reimbursement system. Patients from poor countries may not be able to afford treatment across borders due to high costs. In fact, not all costs are covered. Following the Directive route, the reimbursement of the cross-border care equals the cost of the same treatment in the Affiliation State and the patient is charged for the extra expenses. On the contrary, the Regulation S2/E112 route guarantees all reimburses but there are co-payment fees. Furthermore, the insurance coverage of each Member State must be added and also travel costs. All these factors must be taken into consideration by the patient before choosing the best option.

Considering that most citizens cannot afford the treatments, I would suggest taking out private insurance, to cover the part of care not paid by the state of affiliation or the co-payment charge. It would also be advisable to establish an income limit to cover all the patients' treatment. Furthermore, it is necessary to clarify the consequences when patients' rights are violated to safeguard citizens undergoing cross border treatments.

Finally, there are discrepancies in the costs of the treatments among Member States. For example, not all the countries have adopted the technical resources promoted by eHealth system. The low level of health literacy in the poorest states is one of the reasons why the patients' mobility has not increased significantly in the last years. Regarding the dis-homogeneous costs of medical treatments, it is difficult to find a solution because the European Commission cannot establish fixed prices for all the Member States.
However, the problem could be solved through:
  i.   Regular meetings to update scientific results and best practices in Member States,

---

[20] Directive 2011/24/EU https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32011L0024&from=EN

[21] https://www.crossborderhealthcare.org/en/legal-information/

[22] https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/BP_CBH/BP_Cross-border_healthcare_EN.pd

[23] www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

In conclusion, I believe that the cross-border health care system could be the solution for patients that deserve the highest level of care possible in the EU. Effective communication is adamant, so information about the citizens' health rights and the necessary steps for reimbursement could be clearly conveyed by implementing visual mind maps in case of cross-border treatments.

POSITION PAPER

Name	Sara	Surname	Buonincontri
Committee	LIBE	School	Malignani

TOPIC: *The right to end? Considering the diverse legal framework of Member States on euthanasia, what should, if any, be the response of the EU on this matter?*

Euthanasia is one of the subjects that have faced intense debate over time. The legalization of euthanasia has been debated for many years with different views presented in terms of ethical and legal consideration for both patients and health care providers. Healthcare providers are faced with ethical dilemmas when caring for terminally ill patients. They are forced to make tough decisions by using their moral reasoning to overcome some of the ethical dilemmas related to euthanasia.

During the last 100 years, medicine has advanced incredibly. Humanity has learned to treat diseases that have killed thousands of people throughout centuries. However, there are still many sicknesses that not only cannot be cured at present, but also cause incredible suffering to people who have them. Patients with such diseases might want to ask for euthanasia, as life can be torturous for them. However, societies and laws of different countries regard euthanasia as something immoral and illegal—which is not necessarily right.

Terminally sick people, who are in extreme pain or suffering, should be granted the right to euthanasia. Often, a patient's life is much worse than death. There are numerous diseases that modern medicine cannot cure, and which cause severe pain and suffering to patients. For example, the "locked in" syndrome: people who have it cannot move a single muscle. One of such sufferers, Tony Nicklinson, in 2010 and 2012 was denied his right to die by the British High Court. Unable to commit suicide himself and also unable to ask anyone to help him end his life (sufferers of the "locked in" syndrome cannot move even their tongue or eyeballs), Tony starved himself to death. The number of patients suffering from this and other diseases, who have no other way to stop their suffering, is uncountable, but they are doomed to live. Is it not unfair that they are not allowed to end this suffering?

The opponents of euthanasia claim that helping a person to die is wrong, because one can never know when the cure for a terminal disease will be invented, or when recovery will occur. Consequently, the opponents claim euthanasia reduces the life span of patients. However, according to statistics, in 86% of the cases[1], euthanasia shortened a patient's life no more than one week—usually, just a couple of hours. Patients ask for euthanasia when their chances for recovery are nearly impossible; besides, the last days of a patient's life are usually full of agony and excruciating pain, and euthanasia is the only way to stop it.

There are other factors people often forget about euthanasia: for instance, economic costs. There is a limit on human resources in the world and in some countries there is a serious shortage of hospital space. The energy of doctors should be put on people's lives that can be saved instead of lives bound to die very soon. This would increase the general quality of care and would shorten waiting lists. Furthermore, it is also very hard for families to deal with terminal dear ones without the option of euthanasia. These terminal patients are like helpless creatures lying passively in bed, unable to feed themselves, annihilated by pains.

In conclusion, in some extreme cases, euthanasia is justified. There are diseases that cause severe suffering; sometimes, a patient might try to commit suicide to end this suffering; life for such patients is worse than death. Euthanasia is not killing; it is more like bringing a patient's inevitable death closer. According to statistics, patients usually ask for euthanasia approximately one week before dying. In addition, keeping a person alive against his will and in agony is not different from torture, and thus should be abolished. If a patient wants to die, and his clinic condition is objectively hopeless, relatives, doctors, and the law should not prevent euthanasia.

https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=10950
https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/FS_Euthanasia_ENG.pdf
https://www.eapcnet.eu/eapc-groups/archives/task-forces-archives/euthanasia/ArtMID/1195/ArticleID/471/euthanasia-and-physician-assisted-suicide-a-view-from-an-eapc-ethics-task-force
http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/euthanasia/overview/problems.shtml
1. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8098087