

**Question for written answer E-001680/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Benoit Cassart (Renew)

Subject: From development aid to economic diplomacy

Many African countries yearn to take control of their economic future. The continent is experiencing unprecedented population growth: it will have a population of 2.5 billion by 2050, and an educated, connected and urbanised youth is emerging, in search of economic opportunities and industrialisation.

Dynamic economic hubs – such as Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Morocco and Egypt – are asserting their desire for internally generated development, focusing on strategic sectors such as renewable energies, the digital sector, agro-industry and services. Africa is therefore seeking reciprocal economic partnerships that integrate investment, technology transfer, innovation and the development of local economies.

1. Given the rapid development of Africa's economies and mounting global competition, can the Commission continue to rely solely on a development aid approach or should it bring about a paradigm shift, establishing genuine economic diplomacy that is more agile, more proactive and better coordinated, based on partnerships of equals with Africa?
2. Should the Commission not ensure a greater role for Europe's private sector – often absent from the major Global Gateway operations – and improve financing and guarantee mechanisms for EU companies willing to invest on the African continent?

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