

**Question for oral answer O-000041/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 142

Bernd Lange

on behalf of the Committee on International Trade

Subject: The state of play of advancing EU-Africa trade and investment relations

EU-Africa trade and investment relations are of strategic importance, as they support sustainable economic development, value chain integration, and the green transition. However, recent geopolitical shifts are reshaping EU-Africa trade and investment. China is removing tariffs on African imports, while the future of the US African Growth and Opportunity Act is uncertain. Meanwhile, the Commission is developing new bilateral tools alongside existing trade agreements, such as Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships and Sustainable Investment Facilitation Agreements, including with South Africa and Angola. Some of these ‘mini deals’ do not require Parliament’s consent, giving rise to concerns regarding transparency and accountability.

In this context:

1. How does the Commission intend to operationalise and scale up its trade and investment policy toolbox vis-à-vis sub-Saharan Africa in response to evolving global competitive dynamics and with a view to mutually beneficial relations?
2. What specific mechanisms are being implemented to ensure that these instruments generate measurable, reciprocal benefits, including in terms of value addition, local industrialisation, and sustainable development outcomes?
3. How will the Commission ensure full compliance with the principles of institutional balance, including appropriate scrutiny and involvement of the European Parliament, in the negotiation, conclusion and implementation of new generation agreements?
4. What risk mitigation frameworks are being deployed to safeguard EU investments against the risks of corruption, governance deficiencies and regulatory instability in partner countries?
5. What procedural and substantive safeguards will be introduced in existing and future trade agreements and ‘mini deals’ to ensure systematic stakeholder consultation and compliance with human and labour rights, environmental, social and governance standards and sanitary and phytosanitary requirements?

Submitted: 1.10.2026

Lapses: 2.1.2027