

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002617/24
to the Commission
Beatrice Timgren (ECR), Charlie Weimers (ECR), Dick Erixon (ECR)
(21 November 2024)**

Subject: Transparency, priorities and financial risks of the ‘Scaling up renewables in Africa’ campaign

The ‘Scaling up renewables in Africa’ campaign, part of the EUR 150 billion Global Gateway Africa-Europe investment package, risks wasting EU taxpayer money on inefficient initiatives. Previous EU-funded projects in Africa have been plagued by corruption, inflated costs and a lack of tangible results for local communities. Furthermore, the campaign prioritises experimental projects, such as hydrogen production, while neglecting immediate, cost-effective means of meeting energy needs, such as solar and wind. With inflation and economic instability already pressing concerns, the financing structure of this campaign could deepen dependency on EU funding without producing sustainable outcomes.

1. What guarantees can the Commission provide to EU taxpayers so they can be sure that this campaign will not lead to mismanagement, corruption or ineffective use of funds, as seen in past projects?
2. Why is the campaign prioritising speculative hydrogen technologies over proven, lower-cost solutions such as solar and wind power, especially when African nations urgently need affordable and reliable energy ⁽¹⁾?
3. How will the Commission ensure that EU investments do not perpetuate dependency or economic instability in African countries, while also safeguarding EU taxpayers against inflationary and financial risks resulting from poorly structured financing models?

Submitted: 21.11.2024

**Answer given by Mr Sikela on behalf of the European Commission
(7 March 2025)**

The Commission applies strict rules for the management of all projects, according to the rules and procedures applicable to external instruments as set in the Financial Regulation ⁽¹⁾. These provisions help to ensure full transparency and appropriate use of public funds.

Working in a Team Europe ⁽²⁾ approach the EU ensures strong coordination and tangible impact on the ground. A key Team Europe Initiative on sustainable energy under the EU Global Gateway strategy ⁽³⁾ is the Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative ⁽⁴⁾ (AEGEI).

The campaign showcases AEGEI investments jointly identified by the African partners and the EU. Ownership, transparency and accountability are at the core of the EU and African partners cooperation.

Improving access to affordable and reliable energy is a cornerstone of the EU's partnership with African countries. AEGEI aims to establish 50GW of additional renewable energy generation capacity, including with solar and wind power. In addition, it strives to bring electricity access to at least 100 million people by 2030.

The objective of the campaign is to leverage further commitments in renewable energy access, renewable power generation, grids and storage. Increasing access to affordable and reliable energy and green hydrogen industrialization are complementary goals. Both can create sustainable prosperity, jobs, and services for people.

The Commission thoroughly reviews the macroeconomic outlook of partner countries to safeguard EU taxpayers against inflationary and financial risks.

The Commission supports capacity building investments that contribute to creating a self-sustaining economy. Local communities are actively engaged in the projects to ensure that investments meet their needs and lead to sustainable development.

¹ Löhr, K. et al., ‘Just Energy Transition: Learning from the Past for a More Just and Sustainable Hydrogen Transition in West Africa’, *Land*, Vol.11, Issue 12, 2022, article no: 2193, <https://doi.org/10.3390/land11122193>.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/eu-financial-regulation_en

⁽²⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/team-europe-initiatives_en

⁽³⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/global-gateway_en

⁽⁴⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/global-gateway/africa-europe-green-energy_en