

# Press Release

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## Council of Europe North-South Centre co-organises seminar on Africa/Europe partnership

Strasbourg, 31.10.2007 – How to reinforce the dialogue between African and European parliamentarians and strengthen Africa/EU partnerships will be the focus of a seminar to be held in Lisbon (Portugal) on 7 November.

The event, called "Strengthening Euro-Africa partnerships: the role of Parliamentarians", will bring together more than 60 parliamentarians and representatives of international organisations from across Europe and Africa.

Participants will discuss the role of MPs from both continents in enhancing the effectiveness and quality of development cooperation strategies towards Africa. It will specifically focus on the Joint EU-Africa Strategy, the new Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and parliamentary oversight of development assistance.

Part of the European Development Days, the seminar is organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa and the Portuguese Parliament.

Key note speakers include Jaime Gama, Speaker of the Portuguese Parliament, João Gomes Cravinho, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid and Mahamat Saleh Anadif, Permanent representative of the African Union to the EU.

The Seminar will be followed on 8 November, by a side-event of the European Development Days on "the EU strategic response to situations of fragility in African countries".

The conclusions of the seminar will be presented at the upcoming EU-Africa Summit to be held under the Portuguese EU Presidency in Lisbon on 8 and 9 December 2007.

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