



**INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS FORUM ON THE GAMBIA, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018**  
**IN THE MARGINS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE GAMBIA BRUSSELS,**  
**BELGIUM**

The Government of The Gambia and the European Business Council for Africa (EBCAM), with the support of the European Union, will co-host an **International Business Forum on The Gambia, on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 at 9:00am at the Charlemagne Building of the European Union in Brussels,** in the margins of the International Conference on The Gambia.

The new Government of The Gambia has initiated reforms that have now significantly improved the business environment and has also developed a number of policies including for Private Sector Development, National Industrial Policy and Trade Strategy all of which are aimed at strengthening collaboration and partnership with the private sector for increasing investments to harness new opportunities in The Gambia.

The objective of the Business Forum, of which a detailed programme is provided below, is to engage with partners and private sector businesses in the priority trade capacity development areas and investment opportunities in line with The Gambia National Development Plan. The discussion will be structured in sector-specific panels gathering experts from the Gambian and the European private sector, as well as representatives from the Gambian government and the International Financial Institutions, assisted by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

It is in this regard that the European Union, The Government of the Republic of The Gambia and the European Business Council for Africa (EBCAM) are inviting you to participate in this High-level Business Forum. We will be grateful if you can show your interest by 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018, registering through the following link: <http://thegambia.onetec.eu/reg4.html>

We look forward to your participation,

Sincerely,

Hon. Dr. Isatou Touray  
Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment

## PROGRAMME OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS FORUM ON THE GAMBIA

| Time  | Title  | Room/Logistics  |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| 08:30 – 09:00   | Welcome and Registration   |   |   |  |
| 09:00 – 10:00   | <p><b>Opening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming words by the co-hosts               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government of The Gambia</li> <li>- European Union</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Introductory remarks by the European Business Council for Africa about the Business Forum’s dynamics</li> <li>• Panel discussion:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Gambia Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>- International Finance Corporation</li> <li>- African Development Bank</li> <li>- European Commission – DG TRADE</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Master of Ceremony: European Business Council for Africa</p>  | Mansholt Room   |   |  |
| 10.00 – 10.30   | Coffee Break   | Hall  |   |  |
| 10:30 – 11:30   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Two Parallel Panels – Establishing conditions for private sector development</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> panel – Energy</b><br/>           Moderator: European Business Council for Africa<br/>           Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gambian government representative – Presentation of 2-3 NDP energy sector priority projects</li> <li>• One representative of the IFIs/Financing agencies – Financing aspects</li> <li>• 2 representatives of the private sector with experience in the regions – Discussion on access to finance, business and investment environment, etc.</li> </ul> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> panel – Tourism</b><br/>           Moderator: European Business Council for Africa<br/>           Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gambian government representative – Presentation of 2-3 NDP tourism sector’s priority projects</li> <li>• One representative of the IFIs/Financing agencies – Financing aspects</li> <li>• 2 representatives of the private sector with experience in the regions – Discussion on access to finance, business and investment environment, etc.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table> | <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> panel – Energy</b><br/>           Moderator: European Business Council for Africa<br/>           Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gambian government representative – Presentation of 2-3 NDP energy sector priority projects</li> <li>• One representative of the IFIs/Financing agencies – Financing aspects</li> <li>• 2 representatives of the private sector with experience in the regions – Discussion on access to finance, business and investment environment, etc.</li> </ul> | <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> panel – Tourism</b><br/>           Moderator: European Business Council for Africa<br/>           Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gambian government representative – Presentation of 2-3 NDP tourism sector’s priority projects</li> <li>• One representative of the IFIs/Financing agencies – Financing aspects</li> <li>• 2 representatives of the private sector with experience in the regions – Discussion on access to finance, business and investment environment, etc.</li> </ul> | <p>Panel 1 in Mansholt Room</p> <p>Panel 2 in Jenkins Room</p> |
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|-------------------------|---|---|--|
| <p>11:30<br/>–12:30</p> | <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> panel – Infrastructure</b><br/>Moderator: European Business Council for Africa<br/>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gambian government representative – Presentation of 2-3 NDP infrastructure sector priority projects</li> <li>• One representative of the IFIs/Financing agencies – Financing aspects</li> <li>• 2 representatives of the private sector with experience in the regions – Discussion on access to finance, business and investment environment, etc.</li> </ul> | <p><b>4<sup>th</sup> panel – Agriculture and value-chains</b><br/>Moderator: European Business Council for Africa<br/>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gambian government representative – Presentation of 2-3 NDP Agricultural and value-chains sector’s priority projects</li> <li>• One representative of the IFIs/Financing agencies – Financing aspects</li> <li>• 2 representatives of the private sector with experience in the regions – Discussion on access to finance, business and investment environment, etc</li> </ul> | <p>Panel 3 in Mansholt Room</p> <p>Panel 4 in Jenkins Room</p> |
| <p>12.30 – 14.00</p>    | <p><b>Lunch and networking</b></p>  |   |  |
| <p>14.00 – 15.00</p>    | <p><b>Innovative financial instruments</b><br/>Introducing European Commission instruments: External Investment Plan including the European Fund for Sustainable Development guarantee and Blending operations.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Commission - innovative financial instruments &amp; hands-on guidance for private sector</li> <li>• IFI – concrete examples</li> <li>• Young entrepreneurs - testimonials</li> </ul>   |   | <p>Mansholt Room</p>   |
| <p>15:00 – 15.15</p>    | <p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Gambian Government</li> <li>• European Business Council for Africa (EBCAM)</li> <li>• European Union</li> </ul>  |   | <p>Mansholt Room</p>   |