



## European Security and Defence Assembly Assembly of Western European Union

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### **Assembly for a strengthened partnership with Africa**

**Paris, 1 December 2010** – On Wednesday the European Security and Defence Assembly (ESDA) called on the EU to increase its commitment to Africa through the EU-Africa partnership launched in Lisbon in 2007.

The report submitted by **Mr Piero FASSINO** (Italy, Socialist Group), Chairman and Rapporteur of the Political Committee, entitled “**EU-Africa: partnership for development and security**” comes in the wake of the third EU-AU summit in Tripoli on 29 and 30 November last and is based on the findings of the conference on “Development and Security” organised by the Assembly and held in Brussels in September with the support of the Belgian Parliament.

The high-level conference provided an opportunity to identify the broad lines of security and defence cooperation and gain awareness of “Africa’s growing influence” in the world, as seen in particular in its changing relationship with China and Brazil and other emerging countries. Mr FASSINO said that “Africa has two faces: that of famine and poverty and that of a continent which has been developing economically for 15 years”, adding that “in the years ahead, half of the 54 African countries will have GDP growth in excess of 5% per annum”.

Welcoming the fact that progress in the EU-Africa cooperation in itself bore “the seeds of a long-term strategic partnership”, the Rapporteur called on the countries of Europe to move beyond “bilateral relations” and promote cooperation between the EU and the African continent based on equality.

“Europe must share the fruits of its prosperity with Africa. Otherwise it will pay the price”, Mr FASSINO said. He called on the West to “make up for lost time” and fulfil the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

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