

AGREED MINUTES

The Joint Commission between Flanders and South Africa was established under article 16 of the 2002 Agreement between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of Flanders on Cooperation. The aim of the Partnership is to significantly enhance Flanders – South Africa relations by building on our common values and interests; i.e. political dialogue and sustainable cooperation in economic, trade and other areas. Both sides welcomed the progress made thus far.

On 3 September 2015, representatives from the Flemish and South African Governments met for the 5th Joint Commission to review and discuss cooperation and mutual commitments for the period 1994-2015. The two parties furthermore discussed future cooperation and partnership.

(The composition of the delegations is attached in annexure 1.)

During the meeting both delegations:

1. Reviewed and assessed the cooperation initiated in 1994 and officially ratified by the Letter of Intent for cooperation between South Africa and Flanders signed in 1995. Both sides:
 - 1.1. Expressed their satisfaction with the intensity, continuity, broad variety and impact of the bilateral co-operation between South-Africa and Flanders from 1994 until today. Both sides appreciated the openness, effectiveness and strong commitment of their bilateral partnership and cooperation modalities.
 - 1.2. Acknowledged that cooperation was fully in tune with the policy priorities of both Governments, aligned with the UN *Millennium Development Agenda*, the *Paris Declaration*, the *Accra Agenda for Action* and the *Busan Outcome*.
 - 1.3. Observed that their cooperation had paved the way for intense diplomatic exchanges between both Governments over the last two decades – leading to 24 visits by South African members of national or provincial Government to Flemish counterparts and 23 visits by members of the Government of Flanders to their counterparts in South Africa.
 - 1.4. Recalled that these diplomatic exchanges resulted in the signing at ministerial level of an (extended) general *Cooperation Agreement*, a *Cultural Cooperation Agreement*, three *Memorandums of Understanding*, one of which pertains to development cooperation, and eight *Letters of Intent* – articulating both general and area-specific cooperation.
 - 1.5. Recalled the joint development and implementation of two 5 – year *Country Strategy Papers*, (*CSP I & II*), programming the international cooperation between South Africa and Flanders in support of the development needs, policies and priorities as set out by the Government of South Africa.
 - 1.6. Emphasized that the agreed cooperation has been partly embedded in a regional approach, including cross border programmes and the involvement of the African Union's NEPAD and international organisations such as the ILO, UNESCO and UNAIDS.

- 1.7. Observed that both partners invested substantially in the implementation of the cooperation programmes, registering that to date, the Government of Flanders made available 90 million euro (1994-2014) for its cooperation with South Africa.
 - 1.8. Recognised that bilateral trade between Flanders and South Africa grew substantially over the same period. Flemish exports to South Africa rose from 259 million (1994) to 1,235 billion euro in 2014. South African exports to Flanders increased from 1,212 billion (1994) to 1,847 billion euro in 2014, making it the 24th supplier of goods to Flanders.
 - 1.9. Noted that academic and scientific cooperation and the student mobility programme between South Africa and Flanders gradually increased since 1994 – peaking at 92 South African students studying at Flemish universities for a Master or PhD degree in 2013-2014. In the framework of academic cooperation between 2011 and 2015, the Flemish Department of Education financed travel expenses benefiting 351 persons to travel to South Africa.
 - 1.10. Welcomed the proliferation of joint projects and activities in the fields of culture, tourism, port management training, human rights, job creation (with emphasis on youth and women employment) and decent work (in accordance to ILO policy), small and medium enterprise development, education, youth volunteerism, environment, sports and other areas of cooperation.
 - 1.11. Acknowledged that the past cooperation in science and innovation has been very fruitful. Noteworthy examples include joint participations in the European framework programmes for research and technological development as well as bilateral project calls (initially between science departments Administratie Wetenschap en Innovatie (AWI) and Department of Science and Technology (DST), then between funding agencies Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (FWO) and National Research Foundation (NRF). The most important areas for cooperation in science and innovation comprise the health and life sciences, food and agriculture, earth observation, and environmental sciences. Some research institutes have shown a long lasting tradition of cooperation with a preferential partner institute in the other territory.
 - 1.12. Observed that various interesting opportunities for future cooperation in science and innovation between Flanders and South Africa exist that allow the strengthening and deepening of current cooperation as well as research of new topics and themes.
2. The meeting exchanged views on achievements, trends, developments and challenges on the national, regional and global scale to (re)shape the context and rationale for an extended South African-Flemish cooperation:
- 2.1. South Africa continues to be faced with persistent levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality, in this regard; the South African Delegation reiterated that Official Development Assistance (ODA) is needed to address historical imbalances of the past.
 - 2.2. South Africa acknowledged the generous ODA of the Government of Flanders to South Africa and underscored the centrality of the human development index when determining its future relations with South Africa when taking into consideration the Country Strategy Paper (CSP) for 2017-2021.
 - 2.3. South African and Flemish cooperation is premised on advancing their national, regional and global interests which are aimed at achieving a peaceful Africa in a better world.

- 2.4. Both delegations reiterated the importance of the strategic partnership and underscored the crucial role South Africa plays as a gateway to markets on the African continent.
 - 2.5. The international community places great importance on South Africa's constructive engagement with the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Agenda conceived within the United Nations to replace the Millennium Goals Agenda from 2015.
 - 2.6. The European Union has continued its path of further integration and strengthened its common foreign and security policy under the Lisbon Treaty (2009) – requiring alignment of Flanders' international actions with the EU's external policies.
 - 2.7. Flanders has expanded its constitutional powers as a consequence of the Fifth and the Sixth Belgian state reform – the latter resulting in enlarged responsibilities for health care, economic and labour market policies, amongst others.
 - 2.8. In Flanders, exports are steadily becoming more and more important as the backbone of a sustainable economic development.
3. Both sides recognised the positive role that the Joint Cooperation had played in the focus areas and modalities of cooperation and agreed that:
- 3.1. South Africa and Flanders will make economic and trade cooperation a priority in their joint cooperation, with a special focus on ports and the blue economy. This focus can also be reflected in other areas of policy and cooperation.
 - 3.2. Support to job creation through SMME's development, social entrepreneurship and social innovation will remain priority areas in cooperation between both partners as an important flag ship initiative to strengthen cooperation.
 - 3.3. Mutually beneficial cooperation in science, technology and Innovation, as well as academic exchanges, will be stimulated and supported.
 - 3.4. Cooperation in the field of Science and innovation will continue to grow and that future funding for Science, innovation and research would depend on the positive outcome of an evaluation of past cooperation, including all involved funding organizations.
 - 3.5. Other areas of cooperation will include: human rights, youth policy, environment, energy, climate change, arts and culture and other topics proposed by both sides.
 - 3.6. The cooperation will be implemented through various partners, both government, international organizations, civil society and private partners.
4. Future cooperation:
- 4.1 The meeting agreed on priority orientations for future cooperation, which will be the result of continued joint dialogue between both parties and subject to frequent consultation at governmental level.
 - 4.2 Both sides expressed their support and commitment to future cooperation, that will be in accordance with the UN Post- 2015 Agenda, and aligned with the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2014 -2020 between South Africa and the European Union.

- 4.3 Future cooperation between Flanders and South Africa will be part of a broader regional policy/strategy of the Government of Flanders towards the Southern African Region.

Done in Brussels on 3 September 2015

For the Government of Flanders



Koen Verlaeckt
Secretary – general Flanders Department
of Foreign Affairs

For the Republic of South Africa



Mxolisi Nkosi
Ambassador of South Africa

Annexure 1 – Composition of the delegations for the 5th Joint Commission

Annexure 2 – Minutes Bilateral Consultation on Development Cooperation between South Africa and Flanders - Pretoria 2 march 2015.

Annexure 3 – Minutes Bilateral Meeting Flanders – South Africa on Youth Policy – Midrand 28 may 2015

Annexure 1 - Composition of the delegations 5th Joint Commission South Africa - Flanders

Flanders:

- Mr. Koen Verlaeckaert, Secretary General Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. Claire Tillekaerts, CEO Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT)
- Mr. Koen Jongbloet, Head of Division Foreign Affairs, Flanders Department Foreign Affairs
- Ms. Anne Van Autreve, Head of division Global Challenges, Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. Geraldine Reymenants, General Representative of the Government of Flanders in southern Africa
- Mr. Peter Spyns, Department Economy, Science and Innovation, Coordinator international policy
- Ms. Catherine Van Ransbeeck, Area-manager Sub Saharan Africa, Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT)
- Mr. Peter Desmet, Policy officer Division Foreign Affairs, Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs

South Africa:

- H.E. Mr. Mxolisi Nkosi, ambassador South Africa
- Mr. Elwynn Beck, Minister plenipotentiary South African Embassy
- Mr. Boitshoko Ntshabeler, Minister Agriculture South African Embassy
- Ms. Vinny Pillay, Minister Science & technology South African Embassy
- Ms. Busi Mpungose, Counselor Politics South African Embassy
- Mr. Dolph Ramolotsi, 1st secretary South African Embassy
- Ms. Bulelwa Kiva, Director Benelux countries , Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO)
- Ms. Lorenci Kloppe, Deputy director Benelux countries, Department of international Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO)



national treasury
Department:
National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**Government
of Flanders**

**BILATERAL CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN SOUTH
AFRICA AND FLANDERS**

MINUTES

Date of the meeting: Monday 2 March 2015

09.30 – 14.00

Participants and Apologies

A list of participants and apologies is attached as Annexure 1.

1. Word of Welcome and Introduction

The bilateral consultation on development cooperation was opened by Ms. Seema Naran, welcoming all present.

In the introduction, Ms. Naran stated that the bilateral consultation on development cooperation aims to review and discuss progress made in the implementation of the Country Strategy Paper on Development Cooperation between the governments of Flanders and South Africa. It was noted that the last consultation was held in Pretoria, on 9 November 2009.

Ms. Van Autreve extended a word of gratitude to the Government of South Africa for hosting the bilateral consultation. She further expressed the hope that this consultation be effective in coming up with a number of shared conclusions to keep the cooperation on the right track.

2. Approval of agenda

Ms. Naran presents the agenda for the meeting. The agenda was accepted by the participants and is attached as [Annexure 2](#).

3. Introduction on Flanders in southern Africa

Dr. Reymenants made a presentation on the presence of Flanders in southern Africa ([Annexure 3](#)).

Since 1994, South Africa has been a priority partner within the foreign policy of Flanders. Dr. Reymenants touched upon the initiatives, cooperation and partnerships between Flanders and South Africa since 1994 and among others highlighted activities in the domains of arts and culture, education and science, economy and trade, and youth policy. She further mentioned that the remit of the General Representation of the Government of Flanders extends to 6 other countries in the region: Malawi, Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and Swaziland. For further details on the 20 years of cooperation see [Annexure 4](#).

Dr. Reymenants briefly presented some projects that have been supported by the Government of Flanders, either through bilateral cooperation or via multilateral organisations.

With regards to development cooperation, Dr. Reymenants informs that the Government of Flanders focuses its development cooperation in southern Africa, and more specifically in three partner countries: Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa. For a general overview of programmes see [Annexure 5](#).

The Flanders International Cooperation Agency (FICA), which was in charge of the implementation of the development cooperation, was merged into the Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs, as from the 1st of April 2014. Dr. Reymenants underlined that it did not create any discontinuity in the cooperation with the partners in South Africa, nor the financing, the monitoring and implementation of the programmes.

4. Context of development cooperation between Flanders and South Africa

The Country Strategy Paper 2012-2016 is being implemented in a changing context. Both the Governments of Flanders and South Africa held elections in May 2014 and developed new policy priorities for 2014-2019.

Ms. Naran explained how development cooperation is coordinated and managed in South African context ([Annexure 6](#)). South African government continues to ensure that all ODA is aligned with government policies (such as National Development Plan – Vision 2030), outcomes and priorities (in the Medium Term Strategic Policy Framework). ODA in South Africa is used for *value addition* and not necessarily as a gap-filler to the government budget; it is for innovation, piloting, risk mitigation, skills transfer, capacity building and catalytic initiatives.

Ms. Naran also re-iterated the role of government within development cooperation and the role of government ownership anchored in one of the spheres of government and/or its entities. The role of the National Treasury was also re-iterated as the entry point and coordination of development cooperation in SA.

Ms. Van Autreve highlighted the strategic objectives of the new Flemish Policy on Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Development Cooperation. She informed that the priorities on development cooperation remain the same and that Flanders intends to contribute actively to the 0,7% GNI-ODA target. She further re-iterated that similarly to other governments in Europe, the budget for development cooperation was cut. So far, this did not affect the commitments with the partner countries in Southern Africa.

Flanders is also an active participant in the UN-discussions on the Post-2015 sustainable development agenda. Flanders' government administration has put forward the following priorities: *(1) water and sanitary facilities, (2) access to health services and promotion of health for all, (3) sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition, (4) access to education, (5) transition to inclusive and sustainable economic growth, decent work, social protection and sustainable production- and consumption patterns*, and is awaiting formal approval by the Government of Flanders.

The new Government of Flanders has proposed to review development cooperation with South Africa due to its status as an upper middle income country. The review will be held in 2015. Ms. Van Autreve stressed that this evaluation will not affect the engagements made within the CSP II.

5. State of affairs with regard to the implementation of CSP II

Ms. Katrien Dejongh presented a general overview of the status of implementation of the Country Strategy Paper II (Annexure 7).

For the period 2012-2016, development cooperation between Flanders and South Africa focuses on two priority areas in the sector of investment and employment in South Africa: *(1) job creation through small business development, and (2) smallholder agriculture and food security*. In addition, CSP II pursues a number of crosscutting themes, with the main focus on gender and climate change. Projects with an implementation impact remain focused on three provinces namely, the Free State, Limpopo and KwaZulu Natal.

Over the CPS II period, Flanders committed a total budget of €25million (twenty-five million Euros). To date €12,753,973 have been committed to SME Development, and €2,311,450 to Good Governance and Civil Society Participation. Currently 40% of the total budget remains uncommitted. However, of these uncommitted funds, 70 % has been assigned to specific projects still to be signed-off. Thus to date, 11 % of the total budget is uncommitted and unallocated (i.e. €2.994.577).

Many projects within the CSP II have been based on the success of earlier projects. A list of current projects was provided to the participants (Annexure 8).

The Government of Flanders has worked closely with state and non-state actors and has centered its support on piloting innovative ideas and concepts, capacity building and stimulating knowledge sharing and dialogue between the different spheres of government, and between government, private sector and civil society. Ms. Dejongh further explained that the financial support of the

Government of Flanders has to be seen as catalytic funding for innovative projects that strengthen and promote the role of different actors in poverty reduction and in sustainable development.

It was clarified that although the CSP II ends in 2016, the implementation of the projects can go beyond the timeframe of the CSP.

6. Presentation of CSP II programmes

6.1. Social Enterprise Fund

A detailed progress of the Social Enterprise Fund was presented by Mr. Stuart Bartlett, Head: Agency Development & Support of the Industrial Development Corporation ([Annexure 9](#)). The Fund is managed by the Industrial Development Corporation. The IDC and Flanders agreed to provide matching funds of 100 million Rand. Flanders has committed €4 million for a first phase (2014-2015). The programme started on 1 April 2014 and has put a lot of attention on start-up activities. Thus far, 2 social enterprises received support through the Flanders contribution: GreenABLE and Xanopia. A midterm evaluation is planned in 2015.

Conclusions and recommendations:

- to improve the visibility of the Social Enterprise Fund.
- to discuss the composition of the Project Advisory Committee.
- clarification on the selection procedures for the approval of the projects.
- that IDC-NT receive project reports which include a narrative and financial component.

6.2. Sustainable Enterprise Development Facility

A detailed progress on the Sustainable Enterprise Development Facility was presented by Mr. Seleke from the Free State Department of Economy, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTE) ([Annexure 10](#)). The project is a follow-up programme of the Free State Small and Medium Enterprise Development Initiative (2011-2014). It started officially in January 2014, for a three year period. The project highlights were presented, as well as the main challenges,

Conclusions and recommendations:

- to continue the alignment of the project with the Development Priorities of DESTE.
- the ILO and the Free State DESTE make further efforts to improve the joint ownership and the mutual accountability.
- that IDC-NT receive project reports which include a narrative and financial component.

6.3. Technical and Management Support Programme

A detailed progress of the Technical and Management Support Programme was presented by Mr. Newton Stoffels and Ms. Sheila Edwin ([Annexure 11](#)). In the introduction, Mr. Stoffels explains the background of the TMS programme, as a decision between the Governments of Flanders and South Africa to allocate unspent past ODA resources for a specific time-bound project that supports project implementation in South Africa, both within and beyond the framework of Flemish – South African Development cooperation, by capacity building activities, by piloting innovative ideas and models, and by compiling and sharing lessons learned. Mr. Stoffels highlights the innovative nature of this project. The project started in 2012. In 2015 a midterm-evaluation will be conducted.

Conclusions and recommendations:

- that IDC-NT receive project reports which include a narrative and financial component.

6.4. Social and Environmental Entrepreneurship Programme

In absence of the DEA project responsible and SEED project coordinator, Ms. Katrien Dejongh gave a short presentation on the SEED Initiative ([Annexure 12](#)). The project started in 2013 and aims to advance entrepreneurship, particularly social and environmental entrepreneurship, in South Africa with a focus on Limpopo, KwaZulu Natal, and Free State. The project duration is 44 months, and the total budget committed by Flanders is € 771,047.

7. Other official business

7.1. Outstanding CSP I programmes

The Limpopo Agribusiness Development Alliance programme, in partnership with the Limpopo Department of Agriculture, came to an end in 30 September 2011 and was subsequently subject to an external financial and compliance audit. The audit was conducted in 2013 and the results of the audit were communicated to all parties. Recovery of funds would be returned through National Treasury to Flanders.

There are two outstanding projects in Limpopo (Community Based Rehabilitation Centres project - CBR, and the Integrated Service Deliveries for people with disabilities project - ISDP). Recovery of funds would be returned to National Treasury and added to the budget of the TMS project.

7.2. Remaining budget within CSP II

Ms. Dejongh explained that 11 % of the total CSP II budget is uncommitted and unallocated (i.e. €2.994.577). The Government of Flanders would prefer to identify a single pilot project, in partnership with a South African Government Department. The promotion of social innovation is a new and emerging issue in the development community, which is closely connected to the themes associated with the social economy and social entrepreneurship. The Government of Flanders raised interests to extend its support in this field to promote the use of social innovation as a means of finding practical solutions to social and economic problems and contribute to employment creation. Initial exploratory meetings are currently conducted with the Department of Small Business Development and the Department of Science and Technology.

7.3. Midterm review

Ms. Mieke Govaerts stated that, according to the Country Strategy paper 2012-2016, a mid-term review of the implementation of the CSP 2012-2016 should take place in 2015. The purpose is to review the implementation of the country strategy paper, identify possible bottlenecks and problems, and formulate recommendations for improvement and adjustment of the current programmes, as well as for future cooperation. Ms. Govaerts spoke to the Terms of Reference and the process on the midterm evaluation ([Annexure 13](#)). It is anticipated that the mid-term review will start in May 2015, and the final report is expected to be delivered by the end of August 2015. The recommendations of the Review will be discussed by both governments.

8. Closing of business

Some of the participants mentioned that this meeting was very important to understand the different levels of cooperation on which Flanders is engaged in South Africa.

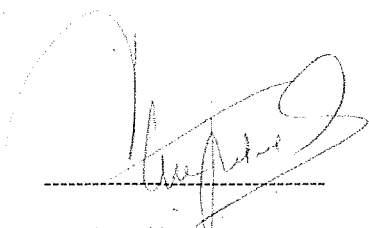
Ms. Naran indicated that the meeting was very useful since it allowed to take stock and to move forward. She proposed that in the next meeting there would be more focus on the content and that sufficient time should be allocated to the presentation of the projects and discussion.

Ms. Van Autreve stressed the importance of dialogue and communication at all levels and a good understanding and respect of each other's roles and procedures.

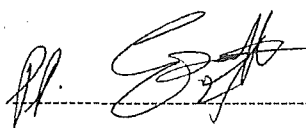
It was agreed that future bilateral meetings be held on an annual basis and that representatives of the three provinces would be invited.

Both the chairs thanked all participants from the Flanders and South Africa for their constructive inputs and discussions.

Signed in Pretoria on 13 March 2015



Ms. Anne Van Autreve
For the Government of Flanders



Ms. Seema Naran
For the Government of the Republic
of South Africa



NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



Flanders
State of the Art

Bilateral meeting Flanders - South Africa

28 May 2015

NYDA Offices, Midrand, South Africa

Flemish Delegation: Jan Vanhee (afdeling Jeugd/Vlaamse overheid), Eva Hambach (Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk), Sofie Van Zeebroeck (JINT vzw), Guy Redig (University of Brussels), Steven Vanonckelen (Flemish Youth Council), Hanjo Schild (EU-CoE youth-partnership / European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy)

NYDA delegation: Nthuseng Mphahlele (Executive Manager NYS and Skills Development), Patrick Mphale (General Manager NYS), Tine Cornillie (Programme Manager NYS)

Report: Tine Cornillie (NYDA)

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

An extra agenda item on the presentation of the European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy was added to the agenda.

2. Minutes June 2014

The minutes of the bilateral meeting in June 2014 were adopted. Logo's of NYDA and Flemish Government (the new one) should be put on the first page of the minutes.

3. Political state of play in South Africa and in Flanders/Belgium

State of play South Africa

It's an interesting time in South Africa. Youth are asking for more transformation in higher education institutions. They are destroying statues that still represent previous times as symbol of demand for transformation. Youth is tired that South Africa is still importing skills from Cuba etc while there's huge unemployment. Unemployment is again up with 2%. Economic growth is slow.

The major opposition party (Democratic Alliance) has changed face of leadership. DA has previously been led by white minority and now a young black leader has been elected, Mmusi Maimane. He's a very good communicator and gets called the 'Obama' of South Africa. This can cause a big problem for the ANC in next year's municipality elections. Also for provincial elections, DA might win the 2 most powerful provinces, Gauteng and Western Cape.

Xenophobia: small businesses in cities and rural areas owned by foreigners were attacked. Uprisings against humanity. Government stood firm against those uprisings but anger is still there in communities. Social dialogue is needed. Government is tightening immigration laws and cleaning up illegal immigrants.

National youth service: there's interest from the Presidency to scale up the National Youth Service again. When the NYDA came into place, the programme was scaled due to lack of funding. Now the Deputy Minister wants it to be up scaled again. A coordination framework has been worked on with other government departments. This offers an opportunity to redefine the work of National Youth Service. NYDA can set tone in terms of design, reporting,...

National Youth Service exists of 3 categories of programmes:

- Category 1: offers structured programmes
- Category 2: focuses on higher education
- Category 3: is all about promoting volunteering: can give this meaning on how we want this framed. Is important linked to the cooperation.

NYDA Act: changes in how the organisation is governed. When the NYC and Umsobomvu act was repealed, there was a lack of legislation on how youth development would be implemented in provinces. Provincial departments include it in their budget vote and decide independently on what budget to use on youth development and how. This will now change through a change in the NYDA act.

The NYDA is currently working on a turn around strategy which involves serious restructuring. There will be more decentralisation to the branches.

State of Play Flanders

The new government elected last year is a "centre right wing" oriented.

There was a restructuring and the division of Youth is now housed in a new department (Department for Culture, Youth, Sports and Media).

There's also a reshuffling on funding for youth policy in municipalities. Separate funding for youth policy and youth work won't exist anymore from 2016. The funding will be put together in the total budget of municipalities. Budgets were also reduced. Level of civil society organisations and youth council are scared because the funding will now no longer earmarked for youth policy and youth activities and it's up to local municipalities to decide.

22nd May 2015: Flemish government approved youth and children rights policy plan. Based on a consultation process.

For the past 6 months, Belgium had the chairmanship of the Council of Europe and was very active in the youth field. Three major actions were organised whereby the first action was about the issue of Roma children and youngsters. The second action was a conference on general interest of children

within framework of convention of Childrens' right. Third action was second European youth work convention. The organising committee worked with all European shareholders and actors to set an agenda based on a Common ground.

Agenda of youth work also becomes more difficult in Europe with economic crises.

Attacks in Brussels on Jewish museum but also in Paris and Copenhagen resulted in a High level Conference linked with the 'no hate speech' campaign to become a movement which has now been running for 3 years. No hate speech material could also be used in SA as it's available.

Minister of Youth, Mr. Sven Gatz, expressed his wish to visit South Africa in (European) spring 2016.

August 2016: Minister President Bourgeois wants to visit South Africa so it would be good if he can see one project we are working on.

Joint Standing Committee hosted by Flanders: 3 September 2015.

Nthuseng thanks the Flemish minister for fighting for the cooperation as in the light of budget cuts, it must not be easy to motivate for funds going abroad.

Welcome by CEO NYDA, Khathu Ramakumba

The CEO of the National Youth Development Agency, Mr. Khathu Ramakumba, comes to welcome the Flemish delegation and explains the following:

- National Youth Policy: framework that provides for youth development in SA. Cabinet approved the new National Youth Policy, 5 year plan. This policy will inform the NYDA Act. Must provide integrated youth development to the country and cut across public and private sector and civil society.
- Started process of amending the NYDA Act to address issues that are hampering the speed of delivering services to young people. Key thing is presence of NYDA in the provinces. Currently the NYDA is operating as a national entity. The agency needs to be localised so that the agency is legislated within provincial legislatures and budget also come from provinces. Challenges that faces young people are different in different provinces. Also opportunities that exist in provinces are different. Amending the act should be finalised by September.
- Based on approval of National Youth Policy, NYDA now needs to develop an integrated youth development strategy in South Africa which is intended for the country holistically and requires to be implemented by government, private sector and civil society.
- Management of NYDA has taken a decision to develop a Youth Employment Strategy, 2015–2030. This strategy is informed by the National Development Plan and should suggest interventions to address unemployment.
- The Deputy Minister is advocating to introduce a gap year. After grade 12, before young people go to university/college/... they have a gap year to volunteer aimed at community and nation building. Element of patriotism and social cohesion. Must be builders of their own communities and their own country.
- As NYDA, when we speak about volunteerism, we prioritise national youth service as a programme. In the new structure, NYS becomes a stand alone division within the Agency. The NYDA wants all government departments (national, provincial, local) to at least implement one national youth service programme.

- Every year we are losing 700 000 learners from schooling system. These young people don't have skills to offer to economy. They are unemployable and become a lost generation. They depend on social grants which compromises the future of the country. We must be able to get these young people in national youth service programmes and provide them with useful skills that they can then use to enter the economy.
- Our interventions must be done for a purpose. Exit point should be employment and entrepreneurship. That should be the objective of the programmes. People shouldn't go back to same situation as before.
- Strengthen and capacitate monitoring and evaluation wing of the NYDA so we can follow up on young people.

4. Presentation on EPWP YouthBuild Programme and Myhandsandheart

See Attached Annexures.

The 'myhandsandheart' database needs to be integrated in the NYDA communications so it becomes a NYDA platform which will ensure it gets properly resourced.

5. Presentation on EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership and European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

See attached Annexure

<https://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int>

6. 5 Year Framework

See attached Annexure

Discussion:

- Action plan should clarify the actions. Respecting the timeline and framework of subsidy.
- Define where Flemish contribution is needed
- Skype meetings in between to guarantee follow up

7. Action plan 2015-2016

Capacity building

- Recommendation to do 2 training courses on the Volunteer Management Toolkit: one in English and one in an indigenous language. The training course in indigenous language serves as testing and validation of the translation.

- The Capacity Building Toolkit and its training should have a link to the EPWP programme since all organisations work with volunteers.
- Development of local training and capacity building plan local offices: include the provincial level. The country is still struggling with capacity in local municipalities. There's a plan for NYDA to place interns with local youth offices, 230 interns youth development drivers in youth local offices. Timelines need to be aligned to the turn around strategy so the training of these interns/officers might only happen in 2016.
- Development volunteer guidelines which is more or less a 'code of conduct' for volunteers. NYDA is looking at cooperation with volunteer organisations. Request for input from Flemish steering committee on the draft guidelines. Flemish partners to send existing material which could be useful, e.g. T-kit on international volunteering, recommendation of council of European union on volunteering (2008), charter of European Youth Forum,...
- Mentoring Programme: How to make sure you assist NPO's to get to a higher level and also be able to apply for funding. This is a pilot programme. As we contract EPWP NPO's, we will ask them to mentor another organisation. This will be tightened in the contract. We will agree on components of mentoring. Give the NPO's incentives towards that. Organisational development can be done by one of the capacity building NPO's or the NYDA itself. We need to look at the budget and look at the administrative burden on NPO's.
- To appoint service providers for this cooperation should also involve strengthening civil society organisation e.g. when looking for training organisation for organisational development of to be mentored organisations.

Knowledge Generation

- Volunteer policy: generate knowledge that informs policy and practice.
- With the new focus of the Presidency on National Youth Service, the research component could be focussing on National Youth Service, level 3: how to roll it out, coordinate,...

National Youth Service target groups:

- o Level 1: unemployed youth, structured programmes with stipend
- o Level 2: higher education students
- o Level 3: promote youth volunteering e.g. skilled and unskilled volunteering, ad hoc, initiative of young people,
- Share Green Paper on National Youth Service with Flemish Delegation
- The Task Team won't only be a team of NPO's but will be involving government, private sector and civil society, run by the Presidency and NYDA. Task Team to define research proposal on policy. Key immediate activities is a national dialogue on the topic.
- Share coordination framework and terms of reference for Task Team, concept and evaluation report on NYS with Flemish Delegation.
- Send report on 'policy and legislation on volunteering in South Africa' to Hanlo.
- Knowledge seminar: could be useful to involve civil society in Flanders. Researchers should be added as part of the target group.

Marketing and Communication

- Marketing and communication plan: start with using basic communication:

- Communicate about the 5 year plan.
- Document and share events and beneficiary stories.
- Use database of participants of knowledge seminars and summit. Keep them informed with newsletter.
- Use website of Flemish government.
- Page on cooperation on NYDA website should be operational.
- Reflect together on the message that is being spread

Summary input Flemish contribution

Capacity Building

- Development volunteer guidelines

Knowledge Generation

- Reflection on shaping the national agenda
- Knowledge seminar, depending on focus: NGO's and researchers

Marketing and Communication

- Reflect on the message of marketing campaign

8. Calendar

- June: report bilateral meeting + check diary Minister of Youth
- 3 September 2015: Joint Standing Committee
- October 2015: Knowledge Seminar
- December 2015: bilateral meeting in Flanders: discussing draft "year 2": 30 November – 4 December 2015
- Mid term report submitted at bilateral meeting
- Visit Minister Gatz: possibly week of 23 February, 29 February or 7 March
 - With a two full day focus on youth! Also to check with the colleagues for his other responsibilities
- 30 April 2016: final report "year 1"

9. Meeting on Network of Youth Researchers

Flemish Delegation: Jan Vanhee (afdeling Jeugd/Vlaamse overheid), Guy Redig (University of Brussels), Hanjo Schild (European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy)

South African delegation: Nthuseng Mphahlele (Executive Manager NYS and Skills Development), Conrad Sebege (Research division), Lwazi Mboyi (Chairperson SAAYC)

- Presentation of the NYDA Research Institute (in cooperation with University of Johannesburg)

- Presentation of the website of the EU-Council of Europe youth-partnership website and in particular the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

See attached Annexures

- Follow up meeting with Lwazi Mboyi and Khadaffi.
- Heart of interest in South Africa is to develop the capacity of young researchers in South Africa.
- Other stakeholders need to be involved, besides the Research Institute. There should be a national approach. Approach could be to have a team of young researchers. A technical reference group from different universities would be set up, looking at institutions where youth development is a subject. E.g. Stellenbosch, Venda, Nelson Mandela University,... The reference group will be responsible to define the research topics, mentor the young researchers and quality assurance. This minimizes cost as all regions do their own research in their region, about the same topic.
- Possible coordination partner of this Research Network could be SAYWA (South African Youth Work Association) and SAAYC (South African Association of Youth Clubs). They are NPO's and can work with a wide variety of stakeholders. Lwazi to explore this option with SAAYC and SAYWA.
- A draft concept document on the Research Network will be submitted by end of June.