



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 24.10.2023
C(2023) 7322 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 24.10.2023

on approving the Memorandum of Understanding on Working Arrangements between the European Commission, the Government of the United States of America, the Government of the Republic of Zambia, the Government of the Republic of Angola, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the African Development Bank, and the Africa Finance Corporation, relating to the development of the Lobito Corridor and the Zambia-Lobito rail line

COMMISSION DECISION

of 24.10.2023

on approving the Memorandum of Understanding on Working Arrangements between the European Commission, the Government of the United States of America, the Government of the Republic of Zambia, the Government of the Republic of Angola, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the African Development Bank, and the Africa Finance Corporation, relating to the development of the Lobito Corridor and the Zambia-Lobito rail line

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 17(1) of the Treaty on European Union lists the powers of the Commission and provides in particular that the Commission is to ensure the Union's external representation, with the exception of the common foreign and security policy and other cases provided for in the Treaties, and lays down the Commission's coordinating, executive and management functions.
- (2) On the margins of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) event at the G20 in India on 9 September 2023, the United States of America and the European Union welcomed the commitment by Angola, Zambia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to develop the Lobito Corridor connecting southern Democratic Republic of the Congo and north-western Zambia to regional and global trade markets via the Port of Lobito in Angola on the Atlantic Ocean.
- (3) To accelerate this work in partnership with the three African countries, the European Union and the United States are partnering to support the development of the Corridor to enhance regional trade and growth and to advance the shared vision of connected, open-access rail from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean.
- (4) The Commission adopted the Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2021¹ under Regulation (EU) 2021/947². The action plan includes the action "Investments on Regional Infrastructures", which supports inter alia the move towards integrated, sustainable, smart and safe multi-modal transport corridor development along priority trade corridors that can best maximise EU-Africa and intra-Africa interlinkages.
- (5) In September and October 2023, discussions took place between representatives of the European Commission, the governments of the United States of America, the Republic

¹ Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)9814 of 20.12.2021.

² Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009, OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1–78.

of Zambia, the Republic of Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the African Development Bank, and the Africa Finance Corporation with a view to drawing up an administrative arrangement providing the overall complementary non-binding framework for the implementation of the project across multiple sectors and partners. The administrative arrangement between the European Commission, the governments of the United States of America, the Republic of Zambia, the Republic of Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the African Development Bank, and the Africa Finance Corporation, relating to the development of the Lobito Corridor and the Zambia-Lobito rail line is the result of those discussions.

- (6) The administrative arrangement does not, nor is it intended to, create any legal obligations on either side under domestic or international law. It does not entail any financial implications on either side. It also does not entail policy-making on behalf of the Union but, instead, deals with administrative matters that fall within the Commission's coordinating, executive and management functions.
- (7) Given the interest of the Commission in the partnership with the governments of the United States of America, the Republic of Zambia, the Republic of Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the African Development Bank, and the Africa Finance Corporation relating to the development of the Lobito Corridor and the Zambia-Lobito rail line, it is appropriate to sign the administrative arrangement.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Memorandum of Understanding on Working Arrangements between the European Commission, the Government of the United States of America, the Government of the Republic of Zambia, the Government of the Republic of Angola, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the African Development Bank, and the Africa Finance Corporation, relating to the development of the Lobito Corridor and the Zambia-Lobito rail line, as attached to this Decision, is approved.

Article 2

The Commissioner responsible for International Partnerships or the person designated by her is authorised to sign the administrative arrangement on behalf of the Commission.

Done at Brussels, 24.10.2023

For the Commission

Jutta URPILAINEN

Member of the Commission