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**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE  
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**Interconnecting Africa: the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Following the Council's decision, on 19 December 2005 on the EU Strategy for Africa the Commission took the steps to prepare a proposal for the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure.

The Partnership is the EU's response to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Infrastructure Action Plan. It provides a reference framework for enhancing coherence of EC and EU Member State actions at the continental and regional level, and within national programmes. Based on the EU Strategy for Africa, it represents a concrete proposal for EU Member States to channel, in a coordinated way, their scaling up of aid to Africa.

The Partnership aims to support programmes that facilitate interconnectivity at a continental and regional level. Partnership operations will also complement the EU's sectoral approach for infrastructure at a country level and contribute to the implementation of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). These approaches will assure that investments at a continental and regional level are coherent with national poverty reduction and infrastructure sector strategies. Such complementarity will also increase the sustainability of operations at regional and country levels.

In this Impact Assessment the Commission identifies three possible options for action, (i) a "no policy change" scenario, (ii) an African Agency for Infrastructure scenario, and (iii) the "Partnership" scenario. For reasons of effectiveness, efficiency and consistency the Commission prefers the third option in the form of the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure.

Given the considerable level of EU financing of infrastructure in Africa, the proposed EU-Africa Partnership will have a considerable impact on the work of all EU stakeholders that support infrastructure. In Africa, this Partnership will have an impact on the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and many African countries as well as stakeholders that demand and benefit from infrastructure and its services. The specific impact will vary between sectors and stakeholder and over time.

Regular monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken of the operations carried out in the framework of the Partnership, to assess outcomes and impacts towards meeting the objectives of the Partnership.