South Africa is one of the European Union’s 10 Strategic Partners and the EU is South Africa’s first investment, trading and development partner, accounting for a quarter of South Africa’s trade and three-quarters of its foreign direct investment. Both partners are committed to strengthen multilateralism, peace and security, democracy, rule of law, free and fair trade and sustainable development.

### Partners for Investment, Trade and Jobs

- **A large part of EU-South Africa trade is subject to privileged access each other’s markets.** The trade and investment relationship is governed by the EU-Southern African Development Community Economic Partnership Agreement (EU-SADC EPA). As of 2016, the Agreement applies to the EU and six Southern African countries. Since the signing of the EU-South Africa Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement in 2000, **trade in goods between the two has increased by more than 77%**. Since 2008, EU Foreign Direct Investment stocks in South-Africa has grown by 29%, to a total amount of €71bn in 2016.

- **South Africa is the EU’s largest trading partner** in Africa with exports to the EU growing and becoming more diverse, with an increase in the export of manufactured products.

- **South Africa’s primary exports to the EU are by order of importance**, machinery and transport equipment, fuels and minerals, agricultural products, as well as manufactured iron and steel products.

- **EU exports to South Africa are dominated by machinery** (electrical and non-electrical) transport equipment, chemicals and other semi-machinery.

- **Over 2,000 EU companies** sustain 500,000 jobs in South Africa.

### Development Cooperation

- **EU relations with South Africa date back to 1986 with a special programme for the victims of apartheid**.

- **On-going EU programmes focus on employment creation in particular through micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; education, skills development and innovation; and on strengthening the authorities’ ability to deliver better services**.

- **€2.6 billion** provided since South Africa’s first democratic elections in 1994.
TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

SOUTH AFRICA PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE MULTILATERAL AND REGIONAL FORA WHICH ENSURE A HIGH LEVEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

SOUTH AFRICA IS A SIGNATORY OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND EXCHANGES BEST PRACTICES AND STRATEGIES TO MEET THE GOALS SET UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT WITH THE EU

AS PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, SOUTH AFRICA AND THE EU ARE TAKING CONCRETE ACTIONS TO ENHANCE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE ECOSYSTEM TO SOCIETIES AND ECONOMIES

EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY

EU

MORE THAN 1670 students and academic staff have moved between European and South African universities since 2014 Under Erasmus+

MORE THAN 1030 South African students and staff from higher education institutions took advantage of short-term mobility to European Universities between 2015-2018

SOUTH-AFRICA

South Africa is successfully involved in Horizon 2020 (Framework Programme for Research and Innovation), which is mainly concentrated in the areas of health, climate change, environment and food with 119 grants signed and receiving so far €26.9 ml

13 ERASMUS+ capacity building projects to modernise, internationalise and improve the quality and relevance of South African higher education have been funded

110 South Africa participates actively in both Erasmus+ and the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions which finance international and inter-sectoral mobility with 110 South African fellowships, training and staff exchanges financed