

THE AFRICA-EU STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND REGIONAL
INTEGRATION IN WEST AFRICA

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ABSTRACT

Globalization and its consequences have impacted on traditional patterns of North-South development cooperation in many ways, evoking varied responses. This paper examined the response of the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) to the challenges of globalization in the form of the Africa-EU strategic Partnership Agreement signed in Lisbon (2007). The paper analyses the various instruments designed to drive the implementation of the Partnership, and locating the new agreement in the historical context of Africa's cooperation with Europe. The paper concludes that the undeclared intention of the new partnership to lock out other external actors such as China, Russia, India and Brazil from Africa, may provide very little chance for the strategic partnership to actualize the objective of regional integration in West Africa

Keywords: African Union, European Union, Strategic Partnership.