

Discussion Forums

Thursday 26th June 2025

Join our discussion forums - side events of the ECAS 2025 conference - featuring key stakeholders, including representatives from the European Commission, the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and non-governmental organisations.

Sahel Forum - How the Sahel Communicates

10:00 – 12:30

Czernin Palace, Loretánské náměstí (Loreta Square) 5, Prague 1

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the Swiss NGO Foundation Hirondelle are organising a roundtable on the Sahel, entitled "How the Sahel Communicates". The keynote speaker: Ms. Caroline Vuillemin, director of the Fondation Hirondelle (accompanied by her colleagues with Sahel experience).

Kindly confirm your attendance at lenka.pokorna@mzv.gov.cz and afr@mzv.gov.cz.

Czech Nonprofits in Africa: Achievements, Lessons and Challenges

11:15 – 13:00

Small Hall, Municipal Library, Mariánské náměstí (Virgin Mary Square) 98/1, Prague 1

Join us for a special morning session highlighting the diverse African experiences of Czech non-profit organizations united under FoRS – the Czech Forum for Development Cooperation. The session will feature a dynamic mix of short films and photo presentations, followed by a panel discussion with NGO representatives sharing their insights, challenges, and success stories from across different African regions.

No prior registration needed.

Europe-Africa Discussion Forum with Roland Sourd

Deputy Head of Cabinet of European Commissioner for International Partnerships Mr. Jozef Síkela

14:30 – 16:30

Great Hall, Municipal Library, Mariánské náměstí (Virgin Mary Square) 98/1, Prague 1

The Europe-Africa partnership is at a pivotal moment, driven by the need to tackle climate change, advance the green transition, and secure critical minerals. As Europe seeks to meet its climate goals, Africa is a key partner and supplier of essential resources like lithium and cobalt. This growing interdependence raises important questions about sustainability, fairness, and governance. This forum will explore how cooperation can support shared climate and development goals while avoiding past extractive models. Key topics include the EU's Global Gateway, projects like the Lobito Corridor, and how to ensure African countries shape global climate governance and benefit from sustainable investments. No prior registration needed.

„How the Sahel Communicates“

Discussion Forum co-organized by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss NGO
Foundation Hironde

Thursday 26th June 2025 10:00 – 12:30

Czernin Palace, Loretánské náměstí (Loreto Square) 5, Prague 1

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the Swiss NGO Fondation Hironde are organising a roundtable on the Sahel, entitled "How the Sahel Communicates". The event will take place as a side-event of the 10th European Conference of African Studies 2025.

The keynote speaker: Ms. Caroline Vuillemin, director of the Fondation Hironde (accompanied by her colleagues with Sahel experience).

The Sahel is a region undergoing a turbulent period characterised by deep political upheavals, fragile state structures, inter-ethnic conflicts, coping with religious extremism, clashes between generational aspirations, environmental challenges caused by climate change, influences of foreign state and non-state actors or coming to terms with a colonial past. At the same time, the communication environment of the Sahel region is also undergoing fundamental changes. As it has been the case for centuries, information is disseminated by “word of mouth“, but today radio and increasingly internet-based social media platforms also play a key role. Thanks to these modern means of communication, people have the opportunity to access objective information, but there is also room for the spread of misinformation, hate speech and content with destabilising consequences.

The aim of the roundtable will be to:

- 1) Update our understanding of current communication channels in the Sahel region and outline possible further developments in this area in the short, medium and long term
- 2) Reflect on how to use existing communication means to promote social cohesion of fragmented Sahelian societies
- 3) Identify the key enablers and barriers shaping people’s access to and trust in reliable information about their country and global events
- 4) Identify existing and emerging international support mechanisms and good practices that enhance Sahelian populations’ access to reliable information.

Please confirm your participation and direct any further inquiries to:

Ms Lenka Pokorná, Special Envoy for Sahel, Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs
lenka.pokorna@mzv.gov.cz and afr@mzv.gov.cz

Registration of participants: 9:30 – 10:00 at the venue

Europe-Africa Discussion Forum with Roland Sourd

Deputy Head of Cabinet of European Commissioner for International Partnerships Mr. Jozef Sikela

Thursday 26th June 2025 14:30 – 16:30

Great Hall, Municipal Library, Mariánské náměstí 98/1, Prague 1

The partnership between Europe and Africa is at a critical juncture, shaped by the urgent need to tackle climate change and accelerate the green transition. As Europe strives to meet its climate commitments and reduce dependence on fossil fuels, Africa emerges as both a key partner and a strategic supplier of essential resources such as lithium, or cobalt - materials vital for renewable energy technologies and electric vehicle production. However, this growing interdependence also raises critical questions about sustainability, equitable economic benefits, and governance. This discussion forum will explore how Europe-Africa cooperation can be structured to support mutual climate and sustainable development goals while avoiding extractive models of the past. A key focus will be the EU's Global Gateway initiative and its projects such as the Lobito corridor, and the potential of Global Gateway to mobilize sustainable investments in Africa's green economy, including renewable energy projects, infrastructure, and value chain development. The forum will also address the role of African countries in shaping global climate governance, ensuring that international partnerships deliver tangible benefits for local communities while safeguarding environmental and social standards.

- Chair:** **Ms. Tereza Němečková**
Head of the African Studies Centre at Metropolitan University Prague (Czechia)
Chair of the Czech Research Network for Global Development and Sustainability (CRENDES)
- Key guest:** **Mr. Roland Sourd**
Deputy Head of Cabinet of Mr. Jozef Sikela, European Commissioner for International Partnerships
- Panelists:** **Mr. Olayinka Ajala (Nigeria)**
Associate Professor at Leeds Beckett University (United Kingdom)
Climate Security Expert of the African Union
- Ms. Petra Vránová (Czechia)**
Program Director for Africa at People in Need (Czechia)
- Ms. Patience Mususa (Zambia)**
Senior Researcher at The Nordic Africa Institute (Sweden)
- Mr. Tim Zajontz (Germany)**
Interim Professor at University of Freiburg (Germany)
Senior Research Fellow at Centre for International and Comparative Politics, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
- Mr. George T. Mudimu (Zimbabwe)**
Researcher at German Institute of Development and Sustainability, Bonn (Germany)

No prior registration needed. Event is open to broader public. Direct any further queries to terezka.nemeczkova@mup.cz.

Czech Nonprofits in Africa: Achievements, Lessons and Challenges

Thursday 26th June 2025 11:15 – 13:00

Small Hall, Municipal Library, Mariánské náměstí 98/1, Prague 1

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No prior registration needed. Event is open to broader public. Direct any further queries to lucie.ambrozova@fors.cz.