In recent years, renewable energy markets have emerged in various African countries. To complement the limited delivery capacity of the public sector in renewable energy markets, the private sector has an important role to play by employing its resources, flexibility, and entrepreneurial skills to bring about transformative action in the energy sector.

European companies have in the last two decades developed considerable capabilities in renewable energy. In partnership with European businesses, emerging African businesses with promising renewable energy project ideas can benefit from the transfer of know-how and technologies and trigger investments in their respective countries. Local value can be created through private sector skills transfer, as well as positive effects on economic development through local assembling and manufacturing of technology. Similarly, through Africa-EU business partnerships, capital-intensive renewable energy projects can be supported by European counterparts.

While there are some existing partnerships between businesses from the two continents, there is considerable scope to expand Africa-EU business links and opportunities. Activities that contribute to an increase in business links between African and European private sector actors may for example include:

- Matchmaking between different actors
- Alerting African and European businesses about opportunities in the renewables market
- Organising trade missions and trade fairs for African and European businesses
- Identification of renewable energy projects and support (“handholding”) e.g. with business plans, early-stage project preparation, etc.
- Market research, e.g. through technology or sub-sector/market studies, value chain analyses, etc.

To discuss the types of support interventions necessary to foster an active exchange and linking of African and European private sectors actors, as well to show some of the positive examples where European and African actors have successfully worked together, the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP) is organising a side event during the Vienna Energy Forum 2013, jointly with the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), and stakeholders from the Environment and Energy Partnership (EEP), supported by Austria and Finland.

The Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP) is a multi-donor and multi-implementer programme that aims to accelerate the use of renewable energy in Africa. It was launched by more than 35 African and European Ministers at the First High-Level Meeting of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP).
in Vienna in September 2010. The AEEP constitutes one of the eight partnerships of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, adopted by African and European Heads of State and Government in December 2007. The RECP focusses on four distinct Action Areas:

- Action Area 1: Policy Advisory Services
- Action Area 2: Private Sector Cooperation
- Action Area 3: Project Preparation and Flagship Investment Projects
- Action Area 4: Technology, Innovation, and Capacity Development.

Action Area 2 of the RECP seeks to create opportunities for African and European business cooperation to transfer know-how and technologies and promote renewable energy exports and investment.

Moderator: TBD

Format
Panel discussion, with short (3-4 minute) introductions by panel members (no PPT slides), followed by a moderated discussion, including questions below and others gathered from the audience:

- Would enhanced Africa-EU business cooperation help more valuable project ideas reach the implementation stage?
- Which sectors, geographies, and parts of the renewables value chain would benefit most from increased African-European business cooperation?
- What donor activities should be deployed to enhance Africa-EU business links in the renewables sector?

Potential Panellists:

Project-level:
- Inensus Senegal Mini-Grid?
- Energiebau and Hotpoint (Kenya)
- SMA and Dreampower (Kenya)
- Asantys Systems and African Solar Designs (Kenya)

Manufacturer-level:
- Mamadou Saliou Sow – Managing Director, SPEC Energy, Dakar (PV production line, set up with Swiss technology, accredited by German TÜV)
- Ubbink and Chloride Exide – PV plant (Kenyan/Dutch cooperation)

Programme level:
- EEP
- PDP

Organisational matters:
- Logistics relating to conference room, etc. to be organised by ADA

In cooperation with:

Austrian Development Cooperation
- Panellists/speakers to be brought in jointly (to be decided when clearer picture of panellists)
- Moderator to be brought in by EUEI PDF