



BELGIAN FEDERAL PARLIAMENT



Brussels and Paris, 1 July, 2010

It is a great pleasure to invite you to attend the High Level Conference on **“EU-Africa: Partnership for Development and Security”** which the WEU Assembly and the Belgian Federal Parliament are organising on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 September 2010, in Brussels, as part of the programme of the Belgian Presidencies of the European Union and Western European Union. Please find enclosed the preliminary draft programme.

The conference will bring together members of the national parliaments of European and African countries in order to discuss development and security issues with a number of high-level institutional speakers, including representatives of the European Union and African Union.

The debates will focus on the state of play as regards the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership on development, as well as on Euro-African cooperation in the field of peace and security policy, including cooperation in crisis management. Special attention will be paid to the experience drawn from past and ongoing crisis-management and peacekeeping operations in Africa.

The conference will include a special session devoted to questions of medical cooperation in crisis-management operations, which will be organised in cooperation with the European Defence Agency.

We are looking forward to welcoming you or your representative in Brussels for this conference. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Michael Hilger, Head of the Assembly's Political Section (mhilger@assembly.weu.int, +33.1.54.67.24.81). For organisational purposes, we would be most grateful if you could return the enclosed reply form by 1 September 2010.

Yours sincerely,

Armand DE DECKER
Speaker of the Senate

Robert WALTER
President of the European
Security and Defence Assembly

Patrick DEWAELE
Speaker of the House of
Representatives