

## PROGRAMME



SOUTHERN  
**AFRICA EUROPE**  
CEO DIALOGUE

2014  
2023 *10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

# SOUTHERN AFRICA EUROPE CEO DIALOGUE

10<sup>th</sup> edition

9-10 November 2023

*Johannesburg, Marriott Hotel Melrose Arch*

In cooperation with:



Main Partners



Institutional Partner



Junior Partners



With the patronage of:



## **Wednesday, 8 November 2023**

18:00 – 20:00    **Cocktail Reception – *by invitation only***  
**Hosted by the Chargée d'affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Italy in South Africa**  
**Mrs. Silvia Marrara**  
*257 Silver Oak Avenue, Waterkloof, Pretoria - Entrance from Lawley Street gate*

## **Thursday, 9 November 2023**

08:00 – 08:30    ***Registration***

***National Anthem***

08:30 – 08:50    **OPENING REMARKS**

Chair: **Nzinga Qunta** (Business News Anchor, SABC News)

**Pietro Mininni** (CEO, The European House - Ambrosetti Africa)

**Tasneem Motara** (MEC for Economic Development, Gauteng)

**Thursday, 9 November 2023 (continued)**

08:50 – 10:15    **THE AFRICAN GEOPOLITICAL, BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT OUTLOOK**

#### Session brief

The African geopolitical, business, and investment outlook presents a promising landscape with a growing potential. With a vast continent characterized by diverse resources, a young and dynamic population, and a growing middle class, Africa has become an attractive destination for global investors. Africa finds itself in a unique position within the new global order.

As the world undergoes significant geopolitical shifts, **Africa's rising influence** cannot be overlooked. In fact, the geopolitical landscape is witnessing positive developments as countries continue to strengthen governance structures, promote regional integration, and enhance economic stability. This, coupled with increasing political stability and peaceful transitions of power, has created an environment conducive to business and investment.

Furthermore, Africa is unlocking **new opportunities** for trade and commerce, mainly through new tools like the AfCFTA. Sectors such as agriculture, renewable energy, technology, and healthcare are experiencing rapid growth, fueled by innovation and entrepreneurship. As international investors recognize Africa's potential, they are increasingly drawn to the continent, seeking partnerships, and capitalizing on emerging markets. While challenges remain, Africa's geopolitical, business, and investment outlook is undeniably optimistic.

**Valerio De Molli** (CEO & Managing Partner, The European House - Ambrosetti)

**Enrico Letta** (former Prime Minister of Italy; EU Rapporteur on the Future of the Single Market; President, Jacques Delors Institute)

**Nomatamba Tambo** (Trustee, Oliver Tambo Foundation; CEO, Evening Star Manufacturing)

**Trevor Manuel** (Chairman, Old Mutual)

**Lorenzo Galanti** (Director General, Italian Trade Agency)

**Peya Mushelenga** (Minister of ICT, Namibia)

**Thursday, 9 November 2023 (continued)**

10:15 – 11:30 **CEOs' VIEWS ON AFRICAN BUSINESS**

**Session brief**

In 2023, businesses face a range of challenges that can impact their operations and growth prospects. Some of the key challenges include global economic uncertainty, the Covid-19 pandemic, international conflicts, supply chain disruptions, etc. Navigating these challenges requires a proactive and adaptive approach. Businesses must remain agile, foster innovation, leverage technology, and develop robust risk management strategies to thrive in the **ever-changing business landscape**.

Building strong local partnerships, establishing networks, and investing in market research are essential for success to do business in Africa. It is crucial to recognize the unique characteristics of each African country and tailor business strategies accordingly.

During this session, the collective expertise of successful African and European CEOs enables to understand innovative and functional **corporate strategies**.

**The session is broadcasted live on CNBC Africa website**

*Moderator:*

**Godfrey Mutizwa** (Chief Editor, CNBC Africa)

*Opening address:*

**Tasneem Motara** (MEC for Economic Development, Gauteng)

*Panel:*

**Saki Zamxaka** (CEO, Gauteng Growth and Development Agency)

**Danilo Dreolini** (CEO Africa, Danieli)

**Francesco Durante** (CEO, Sisal)

**Nhlanhla Nene** (Chairman, The European House - Ambrosetti Africa;  
Chairman, Thebe)

**Stavros Nicolaou** (Group Senior Executive, Aspen Pharmacare)

11:30 – 12:00 *Break*

**Thursday, 9 November 2023 (continued)**

12:00 – 13:15    **PERSPECTIVES AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE AFRICAN AGROINDUSTRY**

**Session brief**

The perspectives and development in the African agroindustry present a promising outlook for the continent's economic growth and food security. Africa's vast agricultural resources, fertile land, and favorable climatic conditions offer significant potential for agro-industrial development. Governments and stakeholders are increasingly recognizing the **importance of the agroindustry** in driving job creation, rural development, and export diversification.

There is a growing emphasis on value addition, modernizing agricultural practices, and improving supply chain infrastructure to **maximize productivity and competitiveness**. Furthermore, the adoption of technology, such as precision agriculture, remote sensing, and digital platforms, is revolutionizing farming techniques, enhancing yields, and optimizing resource management.

Investments in research and development and innovation are fostering agricultural entrepreneurship, attracting private sector involvement, and promoting sustainable practices. However, challenges such as limited access to finance, inadequate infrastructure, and climate change impacts remain. By addressing these challenges and harnessing the immense potential of the agroindustry, Africa can unlock transformative opportunities, improve livelihoods, and contribute to global **food security**.

***Presentation of the position paper “Unlocking the potential of agro-industry in Africa” by The European House - Ambrosetti***

**Hennie Heymans** (CEO, DHL Express Sub-Saharan Africa)

*Panel:*

**Carlos Lopes** (Honorary Professor, Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town; 8<sup>th</sup> Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations)

**Faith Mukutu** (CEO, Zambeef)

**Sergio Montesinos Fuster** (Director, Agritech Murcia)

**Lehlogonolo Masoga** (CEO, Musina Makhado Special Economic Zone)

**Lammie Griesel** (Director, Spiro Greens)

13:15 – 14:30    *Lunch*

**Thursday, 9 November 2023 (continued)**

14:30 – 15:30    **ENERGY TRANSITION AND CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS**

#### **Session brief**

The energy transition, critical raw materials, and the automotive sector in Africa are intertwined, presenting both challenges and opportunities for the continent. As the world **shifts towards renewable energy and decarbonization**, Africa has immense potential for renewable energy generation, including solar, wind, and hydroelectric power. This transition requires the development of robust energy infrastructure, investment in clean energy technologies, and fostering partnerships for technology transfer and capacity building.

However, the transition also highlights the **need for critical raw materials**, such as lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements, which are essential for renewable energy technologies and **electric vehicle (EV) batteries**. Africa boasts significant reserves of these resources, positioning the continent as a key player in the global supply chain. The growing demand for EVs and the automotive industry's transition to electric mobility present an opportunity for Africa to leverage its raw material reserves, attract investments, and develop a sustainable automotive sector.

By promoting local value addition, implementing supportive policies, and establishing robust supply chain networks, Africa can harness its natural resources to drive economic growth, create jobs, and participate actively in the global energy transition and automotive industry.

#### *Panel:*

**Henk van der Merwe** (CEO Africa, MA Automotive)

**Stefano Papale** (CEO Africa, FATA)

**Stanley Steenkamp** (CEO Southern Africa, Veolia)

Kenneth Maduna (CEO, Bluedrop Energy)\*

*\*To be confirmed*

**Thursday, 9 November 2023 (continued)**

15:30 – 17:30 **TEHA Special Panel**  
**THE FUTURE OF SOUTH AFRICA: 30 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY AND BEYOND**

**Key issues**

- Towards a prosperous and equal nation: the Party's agenda for the future of South Africa
- South Africa's role in the international scenario
- Economic priorities and reforms for a better Country
- Tackling unemployment and poverty: Party's proposed measures
- General elections in 2024: what to expect?
- Does South Africa have a national interest?

*Moderator:* **Godfrey Mutizwa** (Chief Editor, CNBC Africa)

*Discussion with the leaders of the major South African political parties:*

**Fikile Mbalula** (Secretary General, African National Congress)

**John Steenhuisen** (Leader, Democratic Alliance)

**Herman Mashaba** (President, ActionSA)

**Julius Malema** (President, Economic Freedom Fighters) – connected virtually

17:30 – 17:40 **CLOSING REMARKS**

**Paolo Borzatta** (Board Member, The European House - Ambrosetti; Deputy Chairman, The European House - Ambrosetti Africa)

19:00 – 21:00 **GALA DINNER – by invitation only**

Marriott Hotel Melrose Arch (42 The High Street, Melrose Arch)

*Introduction of guest of honour:*

**Nhlanhla Nene** (Chairman, The European House – Ambrosetti Africa; Chairman, Thebe)

*Keynote address:*

*“The importance of the justice system in economic performance”*

**Ronald Lamola** (Minister of Justice, South Africa)

## **Friday, 10 November 2023**

09:30 – 11:00    **DOING BUSINESS IN GAUTENG**

09:30 – 09:35    **Introduction by the moderator**

Chair: **Muziwethu Mathema** (Group Executive: Macro Business Intelligence,  
Gauteng Growth and Development Agency)

09:35 – 09:40    **Opening remarks**

**Pietro Mininni** (CEO, The European House - Ambrosetti Africa)

09:40 – 10:00    **Doing business in the Gauteng**

**Saki Zamxaka** (CEO, Gauteng Growth and Development Agency)

10:00 – 10:40    **Roundtable discussion**

**Jens Papperitz** (CEO South Africa, B Braun)

**Manuele Battisti** (CEO South Africa, Enel Greenpower)

10:40 – 11:00    Discussion and closing remarks



**Friday, 10 November 2023 (continued)**

09:30 – 11:00 **YOUNG BUSINESS LEADERS: FOSTERING SOUTH AFRICA'S LONG-TERM GROWTH**

*Chair: Filippo Malinverno* (Chief Strategy, The European House - Ambrosetti Africa)

09:35 – 09:30 **Introduction by the moderator**

09:35 – 09:50 **Keynote address**

Ketso Gordhan\* (CEO, SA SME Fund)

09:50 – 10:25 **Presentations by:**

**Lwando Xaso** (writer, lawyer, and Founder of Including Society)

**Sanna Sebone** (Founder & MD, Sebongi Construction)

**Isaac Mbatha** (Founder & CEO, SkyTents)

**Thobile Nyawo** (Founder & MD, Isambane Energy)

**Ludwick Marishane** (Co-Founder and Chief Partnerships Officer, Excel@Uni)

**Bruce Diale** (Founder & MD, Brucol Global Development)

10:25 – 11:00 **Open discussion**

11:00 **Closing remarks**

09:30 – 11:00 **B2B AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

Hosted by the Italian Trade Agency

*\*To be confirmed*