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GovInn
Centre for the Study of
Governance Innovation

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome,
the Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation (GovInn) and the
Delegation of the European Union to South Africa are delighted to invite
you to a Roundtable Discussion entitled:

Reflections on Sixty Years of the European Union in Africa

This month marks the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, the foundational document of what is now the European Union. The Treaty created the common market in goods and services, which played a vital role in facilitating Europe's economic prosperity. Crucially, the Treaty of Rome helped bind a continent torn apart by decades of catastrophic war. Today, despite its troubles, the EU remains a unique example of economic and political integration.

The anniversary of the EU is also fully entwined with the post-colonial history of Africa. The continent was just beginning to emerge from colonial rule at the time of the Treaty of Rome. Most newly independent states became linked to the EU through a series of trade and aid agreements. A more explicit political relationship developed over time as well. Relations with South Africa in particular stand most prominent. South Africa is one of only ten strategic partners of the EU in the world.

This roundtable discussion will serve as an opportunity to reflect on these sixty multifaceted years of the EU in Africa, including South Africa.

The roundtable participants are:

Birgitte Markussen is the European External Action Service's new Director, Deputy Managing Director for Africa. She is the former Director for Africa at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mzukisi Qobo is an Associate Professor and Deputy of the SA Research Chair on African Diplomacy and Foreign Policy, University of Johannesburg.

Samuel Oloruntoba is a Senior Lecturer at the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute, University of South Africa. His most recent book is "Regionalism and Integration in Africa: EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements and Euro-Nigeria Relations".

Elizabeth Sidiropoulos is the Chief Executive of the South Africa Institute of International Affairs. She is also editor-in-chief of the South African Journal of International Affairs.

Date: Thursday, 23 March 2017

Time: 15:00 – 17:00 (*proceedings will be followed by a cocktail reception*)

Venue: Club Hall, University of Pretoria Main Campus (Hatfield)

RSVP essential: Tanya.CLARKE@eeas.europa.eu by 21 March 2017.

[parking will be available at the Engineering Parkade accessible from the University Road entrance]