

Tuesday, 11 December 2007 - Strasbourg

Second EU/Africa Summit (Lisbon, 8 and 9 December 2007) (debate)

Ana Maria Gomes (PSE). - (PT) The EU-Africa Summit was held thanks to the diplomatic and political persistence of the Portuguese Presidency. Europe has reported a success but it is doubtful that Africa will do the same, particularly those men and women fighting oppressive and kleptomaniac regimes. They know that the majority of their representatives have absolutely no intention of abiding by what was legitimately agreed at the summit. Future trialling of the joint strategy and the action plan adopted will be in the hands of the Portuguese Presidency.

As the terrible tragedies that Africa is facing in Darfur and Somalia were only briefly mentioned at the summit, we need to move on to practical measures. When will European forces advance into Chad, as promised for last summer? When will the EU take vigorous action against the Sudanese regime which is preventing the hybrid force mandated by the UN Security Council from protecting the civilian population in Darfur? When will European troops or other contributions be sent in to make the invading Ethiopian troops withdraw from Somalia, as decided by the UN Security Council?

The organisation of summits does not justify allowing such urgent issues to be forgotten, as this calls into question the EU's credibility among millions of Africans and Europeans. We need to demonstrate that the protection of lives in the Sudan, in Somalia, in East Congo and other countries in Africa counts for more than the signature of contracts in the tents of the criminal Gaddafi.