

Global Gateway Support Project – CALAO

EU-Regional Business Forum - Unlocking Investment Along West Africa's Strategic Corridors

Agenda

Day 1: March 30, 2026

Time	Activities	Contents	Speakers	Location	Language
08 : 00 09 : 30	Home	Welcome coffee, registration and networking			
09 : 30 11 : 00	Opening Ceremony		1. Address by the Cocody City Municipality 2. Address by the European Commission (DG INTPA) 3. Address by WAEMU 4. Address by ECOWAS * * * Musical interlude * * * 5. Address by the Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire 6. Address by the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire	Room "Palais des Congrès"	Simultaneous translation into French and English



11 : 00 12 : 00	Regional Investment at a Glance	Presentation and speech on economic opportunities, strategies and challenges of regional and continental economic integration.	1. Secretariat, AfCFTA 2. Commission for Economic Affairs and Agriculture, ECOWAS 3. Commission for Enterprise Development, Mines, Energy and Digital Economy, WAEMU 4. Network of WAEMU Investment Promotion Agencies - RAPI WAEMU	Room "Palais des Congrès"	Simultaneous translation into French and English
12 : 30 13 : 30	Family photo followed by the Networking lunch				
13 : 30 14 : 30	Global Gateway & EU instruments for business	Presentation of the Global Gateway strategy and European international financing instruments.	1. Directorate-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission 2. European Investment Bank Global Directorate General	Room "Palais des Congrès"	Simultaneous translation into French and English
14 : 30 15 : 30	Panel 1 – Financing and Investments along the Corridors	<p><u>Theme: "Investing in infrastructure to boost FDI along African corridors"</u></p> <p><u>Objectives of the panel:</u> To explore the strategic role of infrastructure in the attractiveness of productive foreign direct investment in Africa. The panelists, representatives of European, African and international financial institutions, will share their experience on</p>	<p><u>Key Note speaker</u> : Federal Ministry of Transport, Nigeria</p> <p><u>Potentiel speakers:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. African Development Bank, Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization 2. International Partnerships Directorate at the European Investment Bank 3. Africa Finance Corporation 4. UBA Group 	Room "Palais des Congrès"	Simultaneous translation into French and English



		the financing and implementation of strategic infrastructure projects. The discussion will address both the opportunities offered by European and multilateral financial instruments and concrete solutions to implement projects that promote economic development along regional corridors.			
15 : 30 16 : 30	Visit to the exhibition stands			Room "Salle des fêtes"	
16 : 30 18 : 00	Networking cocktail				

Day 2: March 31, 2026

08 : 00 09 : 30	Welcome				
09 : 00 10 : 00	Panel 2 – Multimodal Transportation Corridors and Regional Integration(s)	<u>Theme: "What corridor model to strengthen regional integration in West Africa? »</u> <u>Objectives of the panel :</u>	<u>Key Note speaker</u> : Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure, Togo <u>Potentiel speakers:</u>	Room "Palais des Congrès"	Simultaneous translation into French and English



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore concrete models of development corridors capable of facilitating trade and regional mobility. Speakers will discuss best practices for corridor planning, financing and governance, with a focus on effective initiatives in the WAEMU and ECOWAS area. - Identify realistic solutions to improve transport fluidity, reduce costs and strengthen regional economic integration. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. European Union Delegation accredited to Burkina Faso 2. African Development Bank 3. Invest International 4. TradeMark Africa 		
10 : 00 11 : 00	Panel 3 – Urban Mobility	<p><u>Theme: "An integrated mobility plan as a response to the decongestion of cities"</u></p> <p><u>Objectives of the panel :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore how major cities in West Africa can transform fragmented and congested transport systems into coordinated and efficient urban networks. * Analyze the levers for developing structured public transport, integrating informal transport, improving metropolitan planning and promoting multimodal mobility. 	<p><u>Key Note speaker</u> : Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p><u>Potentiel speakers:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lagos State Government 2. Public Sector and Infrastructure Financing Division, European Investment Bank 3. Unit for Sustainable Transport and Urban Development, Directorate-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission 4. OJISER, Organisation of Young Ivorians for Road Safety 	Room "Palais des Congrès"	Simultaneous translation into French and English



		- Identify concrete solutions to reduce chronic traffic congestion, optimize the flow of people and goods, reduce environmental impacts and strengthen the quality of urban life, while preparing cities to sustainably absorb their economic and demographic growth.			
10 : 00 11 : 00	Solutions Workshop	<p><u>Theme: "How to obtain equity and mixed capital for bankable infrastructure in Africa?"</u></p> <p>This interactive workshop will provide project developers with practical information on how to access equity and blended finance for infrastructure in Africa. Panelists will share concrete criteria to strengthen project bankability, risk reduction approaches, and partnership models. Participants will leave with practical advice on how to better structure and finance their investment proposals.</p>	<p><u>Session Chair:</u> European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Côte d'Ivoire</p> <p><u>Potentiel speakers :</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Groupe AFG Holding 2. Groupe CORIS Bank 	Room San Pedro	Main language English
10 : 00 11 : 00	Side Event	Borderless Alliance	TBC	Room Bassam	



11 : 00 11 : 30	Pause				
11 : 30 13 : 00	Project pitching & early market engagement – PPP project opportunities (Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso)	Presentation of a pipeline of investment projects (10 projects) to partner countries in the five sectors of interest of the forum (port, rail, road, digital and logistics/industrial zoning) as well as potential on national strategic value chains.		Room “Palais des Congrès”	Simultaneous translation into French and English
11 : 30 13 : 00	Side event Investing in Young Business in Africa (IYBA)	Round Table: "MSMEs and Start-ups: Drivers of Innovation for Competitive Transport Corridors"	TBC	Room San Pedro	French.
13 : 00 14 : 00	Lunch				



14 : 00 15 : 00	Panel 4 - Port and Freight Competitiveness	<p><u>Theme: "Ports, catalysts of logistics performance and levers for the development of maritime cabotage in West Africa"</u></p> <p><u>Objectives of the panel :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore the necessary transformation of West African seaports and dry ports from a role of transport infrastructure operator to that of conductor of regional logistics performance and operational efficiency of development corridors. - Discuss the issues and challenges of sub-regional maritime cabotage as a potential lever for decongestion in ports in the port-city relationship and sustainability towards carbon-free transport. - Examine the role of human capital in the process of strategic transformation of ports in the dynamics of development corridors. 	<p><u>Key Note Speaker</u> : Ministry of Living Environment, Transport and Sustainable Development in Benin</p> <p><u>Potential speakers :</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Autonomous Port of Abidjan 2. Port of Antwerp Bruges International (partner Port Autonome de Cotonou) 3. Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC - LCT partner - Lomé Container Terminal) 4. AfricSearch Group 	Room "Palais des Congrès"	Simultaneous translation into French and English
15 : 00 16 : 00	Project pitching / Early market engagement -	Presentation of a pipeline of calls for tenders / investment projects, by the financial actors of Team	<p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. European Investment Bank/European Union 	Room San Pedro	Simultaneous translation into



	Team Europe investments	Europe, covering the 6 countries of the Abidjan-Lagos and Abidjan-Ouagadougou corridors in the five sectors of interest of the forum (port, rail, road, digital and logistics/industrial zoning)	2. French Development Agency / French Treasury 3. KfW / DEG 4. FMO/Invest International		French and English
16 : 00 17 : 00	Project pitching & early market engagement - Multilateral bank investments	Presentation of a pipeline of calls for tenders / investment projects, by multilateral financial actors, covering the 6 countries of the Abidjan-Lagos and Abidjan-Ouagadougou corridors in the five sectors of interest of the forum (port, rail, road, digital and logistics/industrial zoning)	<u>Potential speakers:</u> 1. African Development Bank 2. West African Development Bank - WAEMU 3. ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development 4. World Bank 5. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	Room San Pedro	Simultaneous translation into French and English
15 : 00 17 : 00	Side Event IYBA	B2B matchmaking/speed dating for entrepreneurs/SMEs (in partnership with Digital Africa and EABF Facility)		Room Bassam	
15 : 00 17 : 00	Side event Opportunity Driven Skills and VET in Africa	Panel Discussion: "Social and Economic Development Corridors: The Role of Investment, Employment and Skills Development"		Room "Palais des Congrès"	



Day 3: April 1, 2026

08 : 00 09 : 30	Welcome				
09 : 00 10 : 00	Panel 5 – Rail transport: challenges and opportunities	<p><u>Theme: "Rail at the service of logistics competitiveness and the ecological transition of the Abidjan-Lagos and Abidjan-Ouagadougou corridors"</u></p> <p><u>Objectives of the panel:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Position rail transport as a pillar of the strategy for sustainable decongestion in the region's major port hubs and connectivity to the hinterland. - Highlight investment and partnership opportunities in the rail sector for regional logistics. - Illustrate the contribution of rail to the decarbonisation of freight transport and the competitiveness of economic players. - Discuss the challenges of implementing railway development programmes 	<p><u>Key Note speaker</u> : Ministry of Roads and Highway, Ghana</p> <p><u>Potentiel speakers:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AGL Group – SITARAIL Concessionnaire (Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso) 2. World Bank 3. National Bureau of Major Projects of Burkina Faso (structure attached to the Presidency of the Republic of Burkina Faso) 4. VIATTECH 	Room "Palais des Congrès"	Simultaneous translation into French and English



		faced by the states of the Abidjan-Lagos and Abidjan-Ouagadougou corridors			
10 : 00 11 : 00	Panel 6 - Road Transportation	<p><u>Theme: "Road transport" Issues and challenges of decarbonising transport on strategic corridors"</u></p> <p>Objectives of the panel :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * To shed light on the issues of road transport decarbonisation on CALAO corridors, by presenting trends, technological, regulatory and economic challenges. * Share regional and international experiences related to fuel improvement, the development of electromobility and the eco-responsible professionalization of the sector. * Identify the levers of action that will enable the countries of the corridor to structure a coherent and coordinated energy transition. * Strengthen collaboration between governments, the private sector, international 	<p><u>Key Note Speaker</u> : Ministry of Transport, Urban Mobility and Road Safety, Burkina Faso</p> <p><u>Potentiel speakers:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dangote Group 2. CFAO group 3. SOTRA Management 4. Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission 	Room "Palais des Congrès"	Simultaneous translation into French and English



		partners and users to implement concrete solutions.			
11 : 00 11 : 30	Coffee break				
11 : 30 12 : 30	Public-Private Dialogue Session	<p><u>Theme: "Optimizing and simplifying access to export financing instruments in Africa"</u></p> <p>In a context of increased international competition, African and European companies need quick and effective access to export financing instruments to develop their business activities and partnerships. This session will bring together public and private actors to exchange best practices, identify obstacles and propose concrete solutions. Discussions will focus on optimising and simplifying financial instruments, while exploring how initiatives such as the Global Gateway can strengthen synergies between African and European</p>	<p><u>Session Chair:</u></p> <p>The Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture Belgium-Luxembourg-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific (CBL-ACP), member of the European Business Council for Africa</p> <p><u>Potentiel speakers:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Afrexim Bank 2. Ecobank Group 3. Unit for External Action Guarantees, Directorate-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission 	Room "Palais des Congrès"	Simultaneous translation into French and English



		companies and support concrete exportable projects.			
09 : 00 12 : 00	Side Event Opportunity Driven Skills and VET in Africa	A workshop to present the Technical Assistance Facility (TA), focusing on private companies and their specific needs		Room San Pedro	
12 : 30 14 : 00	Closing Ceremony		1. Enabel, Belgian agency for international cooperation 2. European Union Delegation accredited to Côte d'Ivoire 3. Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire 4. Presidency of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire	Room "Palais des Congrès"	Simultaneous translation into French and English
End of the Forum					