



Strengthening SPS Systems in Africa

Support to the implementation of Sanitary and Phyto
Sanitary Standards - Annex 7 of the AfCFTA
Agreement's Protocol on Trade in Goods

STDF Working Group – 21 October 2021

Background

- Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measures play a significant role in the AfCFTA, especially in trade in goods, as **agricultural and food commodities represent over 75% of the current trade in goods on the African Continent.**
- The AU SPS policy framework aims at providing a **roadmap** for all major stakeholders and representing a **guide to the operationalization of Annex 7 (SPS)** of the Protocol on Trade in Goods of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) (point 2.2).
- **The AU SPS Policy Framework implementation strategy** is an Africa-wide instrument adopted by the Specialized Technical Committee in Agriculture that AU Member States and **RECs will be called upon to integrate into their development plans.**



EU added - value

- The AU and EU decision to work on SPS draws from the **European Union unique experience to develop and implement a coordinated and harmonised Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) regime among its Member States** over the last decades and the EU engagement with **International Standard Setting Bodies**.
- The engagement is in line with the objectives of the European Commission “**Farm to Fork Strategy**” and “**the Green Deal**”.
- The action is financed in the framework of the **EU PANAF instrument**.



Building on ongoing AU programmes

- Rolling out implementation of the AU SPS policy framework:
 - Defining strategic actions, roles and responsibilities
 - Developing of strategies for operationalizing the SPS policy framework
i.e. Food Safety and Plant Health strategies
 - Strengthening regional frameworks and enhancing coherence and coordination at regional and continental levels.
- Supporting AU member states capacity building on SPS covering food safety (AUC), plant health (AU-IAPSC), animal health (AU-IBAR) and AfCFTA secretariat for the monitoring of annex 7 implementation.
- Supporting AU member states in SPS standards setting processes (OIE, IPPC and Codex)
- Convening AU member states to develop common position regarding various SPS priorities



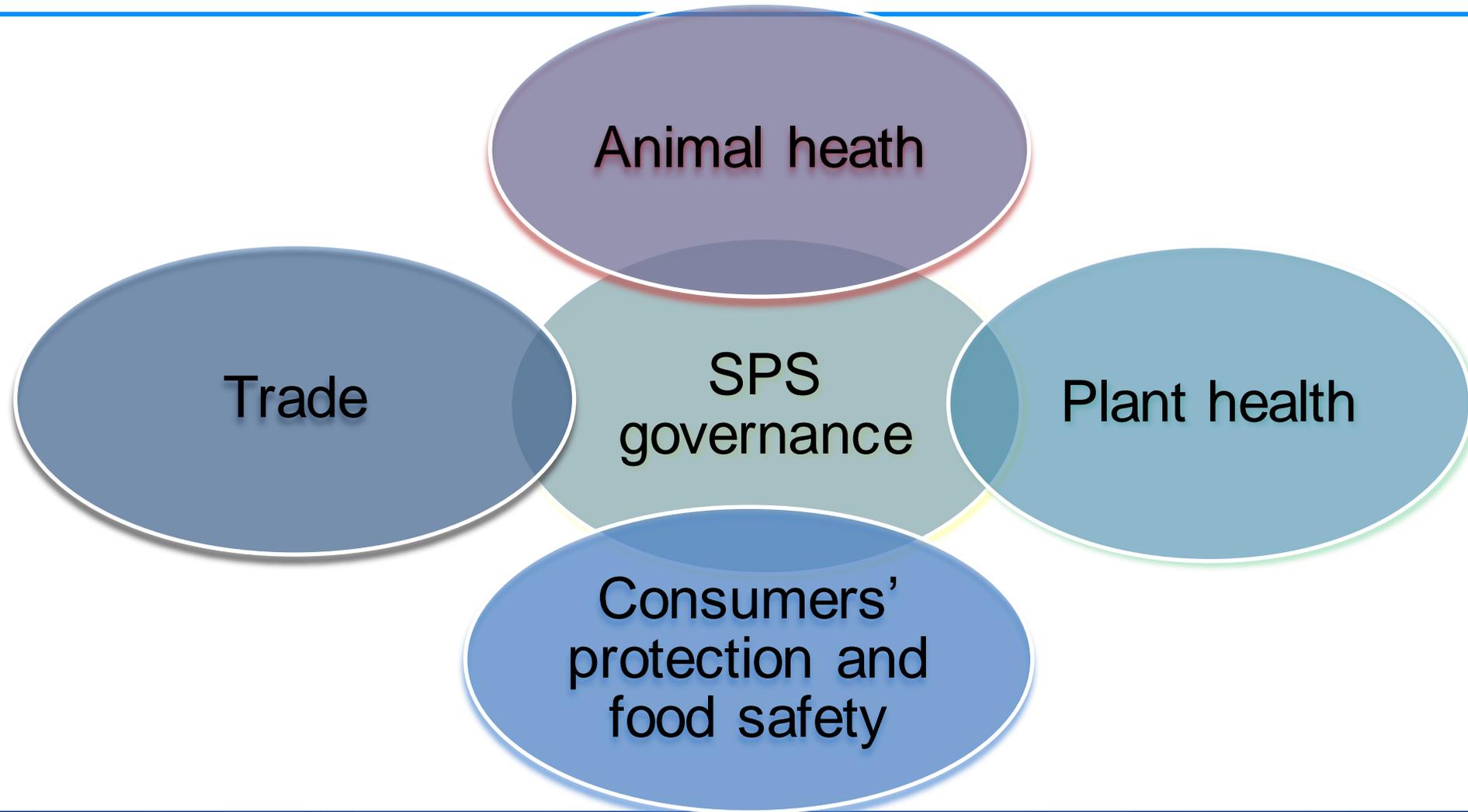
Conceptual framework

The programme intends to lay on **4 pillars**:

1. **Policy development and application**: the core governance element of the action will be primary implemented through the African Union **Department for Agriculture Rural Development, Blue Economy and Environment - DARBE** as the body responsible for designing, coordinating and harmonizing continental policies and for ensuring their translation into political decisions.
2. **International expertise**: International specialised bodies will complement the action providing specific expertise. Discussions are in progress with **FAO**, hosting the **CODEX** international standards related to food (safety, labelling, production) and the **IPPC** (plant protection convention Secretariats) and the **OIE** (for animal health).
3. **Sharing EU experience**: technical assistance and / or twinning style support will be provided upon request of the AU and MS.
4. **Integration into the AfCFTA strategy**: The **AfCFTA Secretariat** Sub-Committee for Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures is expected to work with DARBE to monitor and periodically review the Framework's implementation as it relates to Member States' commitment to Annex 7.



Conceptual framework



Stakeholders

To balance the capacities and weight of the multiplicity of stakeholders in the implementation, funding and enforcement of the SPS policy framework:

- **The private sector involved in trade in agricultural goods** and related inputs is generally well organized, able to mobilize substantial resources, well connected to political elites, and aiming at reducing trade barriers, especially non trade barriers, across countries and regions;
- **Private sector operators providing specialized support services**, inputs and value additions to agricultural commodities have limited interests in complying with SPS standards;
- **Public institutions** generally having weak technical and enforcing capacities, funding limitations and subject to political interferences and large private sector operators and traders



Stakeholders

- **Consumers** of locally produced agricultural produces and imported food commodities have limited organizational capacities to monitor and ensure enforcement of existing SPS standards and limited awareness of food safety standards and associated risks, especially those having long terms negative effects;
- **Producers** of agricultural commodities have limited capacities to implement SPS related standards and are often unable to compete with imported food commodities, especially those of sub-standard qualities;
- **General public** often unaware of the negative and long term impact of low quality food commodities, contaminants and residues (especially drugs).



Status of the implementation

- **Pillar 1: in progress – 6.5 M Euro contract signed in October 2021**
- **Pillars 2.1 and 3: in pipeline – formulation to be finalised by December 2021 for an estimated amount of 6.5 M Euro**
- **Pillar 2.2: in identification phase**
- **Pillar 4: cross cutting – ongoing**



Intervention logic

Impact: Safe trade in agricultural commodities for inclusive economic growth and consumers protection

(SPS Policy Framework facilitate trade while safeguarding human, animal or plant life in the territory of the Member States)

Outcome: Governance of the SPS systems in Africa improved and aligned with international Standards



Intervention logic

Output 1.1: Policies and Plans for African SPS governance and competency developed, implemented and regularly documented

Output 1.2: African SPS system alignment with international standards and related competencies is improved



Intervention logic – DARBE component

Output 1.1: Policies and Plans for African SPS governance and competency developed, implemented and regularly documented

Activity 1.1.1 **Mapping** institutions and SPS coordination mechanisms and support functioning and reporting

Activity 1.1.2: **Develop and implement SPS continental policies and plans** to strengthen SPS governance and systems at continental, regional and national levels. Policies and plans development will be informed and guided by the analytical work undertaken under output 1.2

Activity 1.1.3: **Generate information** on the advancement of the SPS continental policy framework and regularly report to existing accountability mechanisms

Activity 1.1.4: Support the development of **coordinated African position** in SPS standards setting organizations and support **African participation** to their meetings and other relevant international fora

Activity 1.1.5: Establishment of the **African Food safety Agency**

Activity 1.1.6: Design and implement **programs for capacity strengthening** at continental, regional and national levels on priority competencies identified under output 1.2

Activity 1.1.7: Develop and promote **knowledge management systems and information sharing platforms** on food safety and plant and animal health

Activity 1.1.8: Develop and implement **advocacy and communication** plans on SPS



Intervention logic – DARBE component

Output 1.2: African SPS system alignment with international standards and related competencies is improved

Activity 1.2.1: **Undertake SPS capacity appraisal** using internationally validated tools and methodologies and formulate costed plans to address identified capacity gaps and priorities. This activity will inform and guide activities implemented under output 1.1 and will be carried out initially in the COMESA region and targeting its member states that have ratified the AfCFTA Agreement.

Activity 1.2.2: Provide **technical assistance to competent authorities** to address identified capacity gaps and to prioritize food safety, animal and plant health hazards and risks, including contaminants, at continental, regional and national levels.

Activity 1.2.3: Identify **regional transboundary value chains** and formulate plans for targeted SPS system enhancements.



Partnerships

In addition to the involvement of the key implementing partners the development of SPS standards, guidelines, regulations will also require the engagement in the programme cycle of a very large spectrum of:

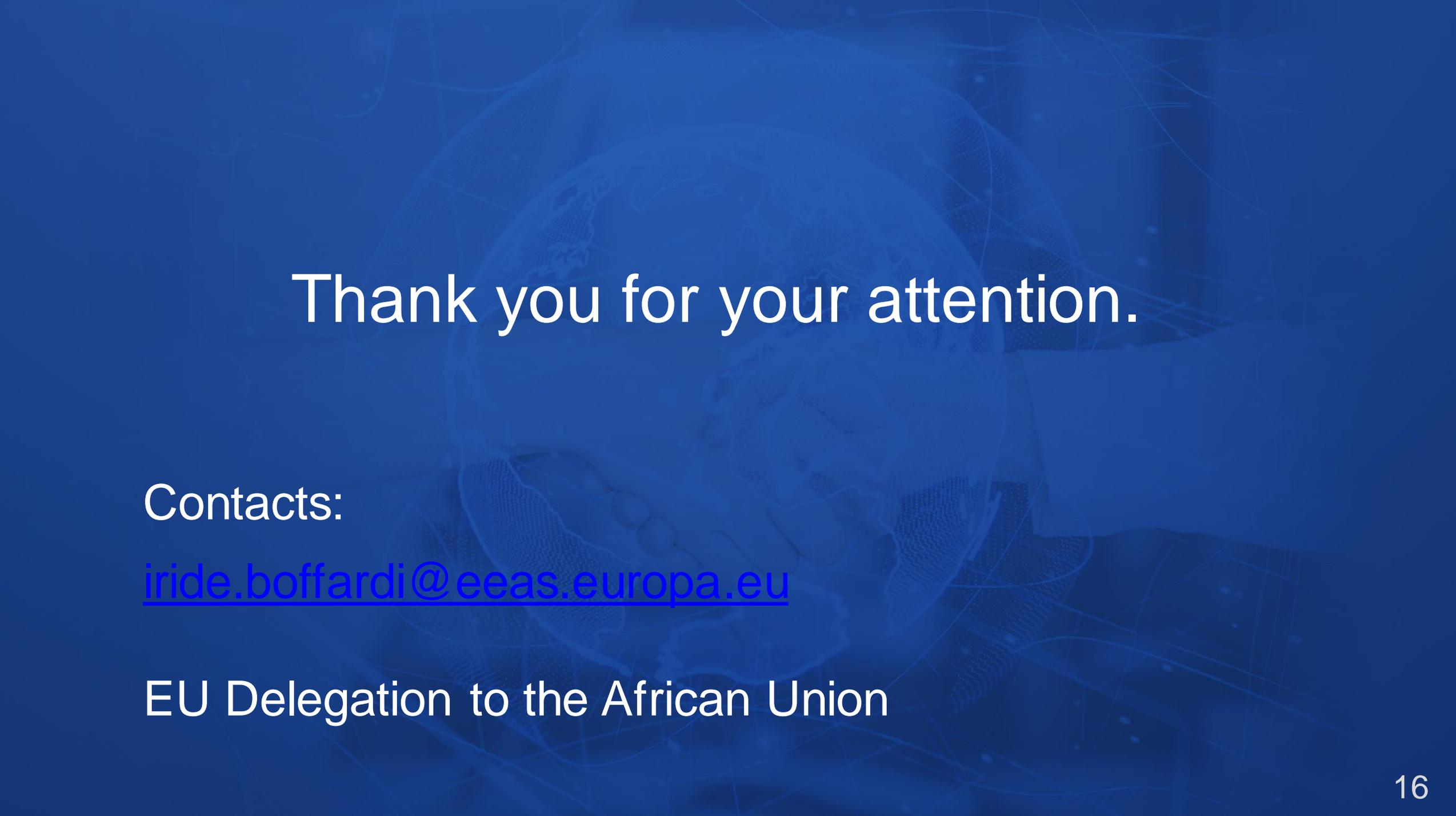
- **Stakeholders representing:**
 - Trade
 - Consumers protection
 - Production interests
- **Strong institutions and accountable governance systems** going behind the Departments and DG directly involved to not only contribute to the development of policies and regulatory frameworks, but also to ensure their coordination, implementation and funding.
- **On the AU side:** involvement of AU-IBAR, AU-IAPSC (and African Food Safety Agency once established under DARBE) AUDA-NEPAD, RECs and Member States
- **On the EU side:** involvement of DG SANTE, EFSA, Member States



Linkage with STDF

- Identification and formulation was done in **consultations** with relevant services and stakeholders, including the EU and AU services working with STDF
- In implementation phase we will need to work to create **coordination and complementarity** among initiatives



The background of the slide features a blue-tinted image of two hands shaking over a globe, symbolizing international cooperation and agreement. The globe is centered, and the hands are positioned on either side, with fingers interlaced in a firm grip. The overall aesthetic is professional and diplomatic.

Thank you for your attention.

Contacts:

iride.boffardi@eeas.europa.eu

EU Delegation to the African Union