

Volkmar Guido Hable meeting with Foreign Ministers of Ethiopia, Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of Congo

Volkmar Guido Hable to discussed social issues regarding mining and energy projects with foreign ministers

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We need a new social contract for mining and energy projects, something totally new, so that the local and often poor population really can benefit directly from foreign investments."

VOLKMAR GUIDO HABLE

On 13 January, Honorary Diplomatic Representative Volkmar Guido Hable and Foreign Ministers of Ethiopia, Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of Congo participated in a meeting of the mining and energy council in Kinshasa. At the meeting, Volkmar Guido Hable and the foreign ministers discussed the African nuclear issue and matters related to the future of uranium exploration and production in Africa and its high awareness and social sensitivity among the population and the international community.

Volkmar Guido Hable and the foreign minister also talked

about measures to integrate worker's unions into mining and energy projects as a measure to raise the acceptance among the population and to promote further investments in Africa.

Volkmar Guido Hable will contribute with his experience and track record in dealing with, negotiating and reaching agreement with worker's unions worldwide.

Volkmar Guido Hable stated that he feels that international support for Africa's foreign investment must continue. "The African community needs a comprehensive approach to mining and energy that should be a key part of any economic stabilization strategy," Volkmar Guido Hable said.

The Foreign Ministers support the activities in finding a sustainable regional solution. "In addressing the effects of mining and energy projects, we must turn our attention to the root of the problem, which is poverty and the lack of alternatives for earning a living," Volkmar Guido Hable added.

During the meeting with ministers of development held within the framework of the Foreign Affairs Council, topics included also strategies to attract foreign investment.

During the General Affairs Council, the foreign ministers discussed preparations for the European Council taking place on 17 June. Another topic addressed was the development of the European External Action Service. The council also approved conclusions on the strategic review of the commission dealing with the implementation of cohesion policy programmes as well as on Europe's outermost regions. The General Affairs Council also discussed the regulation aimed at implementing the European citizens' initiative.

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