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AWEPA News

E-Newsletter | November 2014

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Strengthening Cooperation on Migration and Mobility

Parliamentarians from Africa and Europe met in Midrand, South Africa



In October, African and European Parliamentarians convened at the “High Level Seminar on Migration and Development”, hosted by the [Pan-African Parliament \(PAP\)](#) and co-organised by [AWEPA](#), to discuss migration within Africa and between Africa and Europe, and its implications for development. Read [here](#) the specific recommendations made with regard to intra-African migration, migration between Africa and Europe, and the particular vulnerability of women migrants.

[Read the article](#)

[Upcoming Activities](#)

17 November [Austrian AWEPA Section hosts event on human rights and economy](#)

10 - 28 November 2014 [Support to the Pan African Parliament in the Pre-Testing of a Capacity Self-Assessment Instrument](#)

[Recent Activities](#)

[Meeting on Somali Legislative Institutions](#)



4 November 2014. The Netherlands – The Dutch AWEPA Section organized an expert meeting focused on Somali legislative institutions at the Dutch House of Representatives, in The Hague. The main topic of discussion was AWEPA's involvement with legislative bodies in Somalia, an involvement which dates back to 2002.

[Read more](#)

[AWEPA-NIMD Benin Joint](#)

[Video Interview Mr. Chris Kaija - Kwamya](#)



November 2014. Amsterdam, the Netherlands - Mr. Chris Kaija-Kwamya, Coordinator of the [Supporting Legislative Institutions in Somalia](#) Programme, talks about AWEPA's involvement in Somalia, the training and the main issues addressed during a capacity-building workshop. He describes the challenges Somalian MPs face and what is done to overcome them.

[Watch here](#)

[Nanyuki Seminar \(VIII\): Inter-](#)

[Programme team meets in the Hague](#)



5-7 November 2014. The Hague, the Netherlands – The AWEPA-NIMD Benin Joint Programme Team met in The Hague and Amsterdam for meetings on programme coordination and activity planning for the end of 2014 and 2015. This programme is focused on strengthening the parliament and political parties in Benin and bridging the gap that exists between them.

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[AWEPA Members join fight against Ebola](#)



October 2014 - Belgian and Dutch AWEPA Members were part of an appeal to the European Commission for a coordinated

[Parliamentary Relations Seminar](#)



31 October - 1 November 2014. Kigali, Rwanda – The 8th Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar (Nanyuki Series), organized by the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) in conjunction with AWEPA, took place against a background of efforts to contain the heightened insecurity in the region.

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[Burundian MPs visit the country's natural endowment](#)



27 October - 9 November 2014. Burundi – Members of Burundi's National Assembly Standing Committee on Agriculture, Stock-farming, Environment and Rural Development, undertook a four-day field visit to the country's natural endowment to gain

European Action against Ebola. They called everyone to join forces and together with the existing international initiatives to reverse the crisis in West Africa. “An effective response to the crisis is crucial for gaining control of the spread of the virus”, the resolution mentioned.

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[Irish AWEPA Section participates in positive initiatives](#)



October 2014. Dublin, Ireland – The Irish AWEPA Section has been really active this autumn. Among others, AWEPA members helped Irish Civil Society to launch “The World’s Best News” at the gates of the Irish Parliament, a free newspaper containing stories of real and positive change in developing countries.

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[AWEPA Flanders has a new Head](#)

knowledge on Burundi’s environmental situation.

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[Lire l'article](#)

[Swiss and Flemish AWEPA members interact with SAPL](#)



30 September 2014. Johannesburg - During a mission to Johannesburg, the Political Coordinators for the AWEPA [South African Provincial Legislatures](#) Programme, Hon. Maja Ingold and Mrs. Therese Frösch from Switzerland and Hon. Johan Verstreken from Flanders visited a women’s workshop and were informed on the state of play regarding the advancement and empowerment of women in the provincial legislatures.

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Three new contracts with donors are signed

of Section



October 2014 - AWEPA welcomes Hon. Johan Verstreken as the new Head of the AWEPA Flemish Section. In the past, Hon. Verstreken has served as the alderman of the city of Ostend and, in 2004, became a member of the Flemish Parliament. In 2014, he was elected Senator. Currently, he is a member of several parliamentary committees, such as the Development & Cooperation, Home Affairs and Justice and Foreign Affairs.

[Read more](#)



November 2014. The Netherlands - AWEPA signed three new contracts with the following donors; the [Austrian Development Agency \(ADA\)](#) for the Aid Effectiveness and Oversight of Aid Programme 2014 – 2016, [Plan Netherlands](#) for the Early Child Marriage Programme 2014 – 2015 and [UNFPA](#) for the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Programme 2014 – 2015, on the basis of the contribution of Luxembourg. An agreement was also reached with [Norway](#) for a renewed East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) Programme 2014 – 2016.

Austrian AWEPA member hosts book presentation



24 October 2014. Vienna, Austria - Austrian AWEPA Section member and Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of

Upper Austria, Hon. Gerda Weichsler-Hauer, hosted a book presentation by Austrian author Ms. Margit Niederhuber, who spent many years in several African countries and promoted a change of perspective in her books *Meeting Nairobi*, *My Johannesburg* and *Destination Maputo*.



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