

International Meeting on African Regional Development

This week the Berne Union also plays host to a meeting of international and regional institutions financing trade and projects essential to development in Africa. As well as Berne Union members (export credit agencies (ECAs), multilateral agencies and private credit and political risk insurers), participants include local and regional development banks, multilateral and bilateral organisations who are active in finance, capacity building and risk transfer activities relating to trade and investment in Africa.

Participants will explore case studies highlighting cooperative risk-sharing amongst different institutions with the aim to identify replicable structures which can be applied to future initiatives to increase financing capacity for the continent.

Vinco David, the Secretary General of Berne Union noted “In 2017 Berne Union members collectively covered trade to African countries for an amount of USD 80 billion. That is a significant support for the development of this continent. In addition, last year Berne Union members also supported USD 9 billion of foreign direct investment into Africa in areas such as infrastructure, power generation including renewable energy, and mining.”

One case study will look at the African Energy Guarantee Facility (AEGF) – launched this week by ATI, in partnership with Munich Re and the European Investment Bank (EIB) – A USD1 billion facility providing significant long-term insurance capacity for African sustainable energy projects. The facility is expected to mobilise significant private financing in the form of debt and equity from banks and developers that are currently constrained to participate in the African energy sector. The programme should help start many new sustainable energy projects on the continent

George Otieno, the CEO of ATI commented during the event, “ATI is making tremendous inroads to attract the necessary insurance capacity to cover, in particular, Africa’s infrastructure ambitions. Our membership to the Berne Union and ATI’s ability to host this meeting successfully, with the support of the Government of Kenya, is proof that we are fulfilling our mandate: to change global perceptions about African risks and quite simply, to make these risks bankable. This is how we plan to continue paving the way at help Africa draw even greater levels of investments.”

About the Berne Union

The Berne Union is the international association of export credit and investment insurers. The 85 members include government-backed export credit agencies, private credit and political risk insurers and multilateral agencies from from 73 countries – representing all aspects of the industry worldwide.

Members collectively provide payment risk protection equivalent to approximately 14% of annual world trade, compensating banks and exporters for losses suffered due to defaults by buyers or other obligors and providing flexible risk capacity to support international trade transactions.

For more information and a list of members, please visit www.berneunion.org