

Regional integration

IN SEARCH OF GREATER EFFECTIVENESS

In order to reinforce its capacities, the Guinea Gulf Commission (GGC) has published recruitment notices and it also hopes that its budget will be consistent with the new perspectives available to this institution.

The GGC, whose executive secretariat is established in Luanda (which holds the rotating presidency) is probably one of the newest regional organisations of the continent⁽¹⁾. It is headed by its first Executive Secretary, Miguel Anjos da Cunha Lisboa Trovoada, former President of Sao Tome and Principe, who was appointed to this post on November 25, 2008, at the end of a conference of the Heads of State and of government in Luanda, and started his mandate on January 21, 2009. Created ten years ago by the constitutive treaty of July 3, 2001, this institution held its first summit in Libreville in 2006, but it is only in 2007 that "the organisation started its administrative activities. In fact, this is still a new institution that is continuing its internal structuring and organisation. The GGC is in search of operating mechanisms oriented toward higher operational efficiency and the rational, transparent use of its resources", explains the Executive Secretary (read his interview p. 22- 23). With a scope of action which is different from that of CEMAC and CEEAC, the GGC takes care of security issues, piracy, organised crime, drug traffic (and all kinds of traffics), as well as of the protection of the environment, and mining, forest, fisheries, and petroleum resources. Since the Gulf of Guinea area produces around 5 million barrels of petroleum per day, the challenges of this regional institution have a strategic dimension.

As for the operating budget of the GGC in 2012, it is very difficult for the head of this institution to know now what is going to be the level of contributions approved by the States. His only indication is the following: "The budget of 2011, which was 4 million dollars, has been reoriented for 2012. Nevertheless, we cherish hopes to obtain a higher budget, as new opportunities open to the Executive Secretariat of the Commission of Gulf of Guinea. But these are only proposals; it is for the country members to decide. Nevertheless, at this stage, I

can say that the rate of project implementation is not 100%, which is in part due to the relatively modest amount of our budget for the implementation of our action plan." And he added verbally that the GGC started the year 2012 without budget allocation, because the ministerial meeting scheduled for budget approval in December 2011 could not take place, while hoping that the Council of Ministers takes place in the coming weeks to resolve the budget issue for the current year.

The search for new facilities for the headquarters of the institution is a priority in the 2012 action plan. "Our current premises are too small for all of our staff. By the third quarter

of this year, the Angolan government will have resolved this problem." Miguel Trovoada self-reassures, as during the year 2011, this institution published a number of recruitment notices for several management staff. "We are currently examining the proposals received. We will proceed with the recruitment of management staff and the start of new services as soon as we have the appropriate office space and the expected necessary budget."

Christian Lapeyre

⁽¹⁾The GGC includes eight countries: Angola, Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, Congo-Kinshasa, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, and Nigeria.



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