



By Atayi Babs

The African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) has been assured of the renewed commitment of the European Union to explore new possibilities aimed at building on existing programmes in water supply, hydropower and water sector infrastructure.

Mr. Gary Quince, outgoing Head of the European Delegation to the African Union disclosed this today in Addis Ababa while playing host to the new AMCOW Executive Secretary, Dr. Canisius Kanangire.

Underscoring the highlights of the EU Commission's President Jean-Claude Juncker's 2016 state of the European Union address, the EU Head of Delegation revealed that the External Investment Plan provides Europe a unique platform to offer its experience and support to enable Africa fulfill its potential, ensuring continued political and policy dialogue, ownership of the strategies and the promotion of universal values, whilst stimulating the local economy.

Considered as a cornerstone towards a successful EU-Africa Summit in Abidjan November 2017, "the new European External Investment Plan (EEIP) to encourage investment in Africa and the EU Neighbourhood to strengthen our partnerships and contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals," Mr. Quince added.

The new AMCOW Executive Secretary, Dr. Canisius Kanangire thanked the EU for their support which has strengthened AMCOW as an institution over the years. He outlined further

strengthening of cooperation between regional economic groups, harmonisation of policies by River Basin organisations, and deepening the monitoring and reporting framework for the Water and Sanitation sector as his key priorities.

Others include reinforcing AMCOW as a regional hub for knowledge management resources on water and sanitation as well as coordinating CSOs and water_based groupings with a view to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals while enhancing understanding of the nexus between water, agriculture and climate change.