

EU–Zambia Lobito Corridor Business Forum: High-Level Signatures Ceremony

12 November 2025, Ciela Resort, Lusaka

As part of the EU–Zambia Lobito Corridor Business Forum, European Union and the Team Europe partners announced committed to new grants to support Zambia.

In the presence of President Hakainde Hichilema and Commissioner for International Partnerships Jozef Síkela, **ceremonial signatures of ten new funding agreements** confirmed the **partnership between the European Union, the Government of Zambia, and private and international partners** and the commitment to advance, under the Global Gateway strategy, to advancing a 360° approach to the development of the Lobito Corridor.

The following actions highlight the **depth and diversity of the EU–Zambia partnership**, ranging from **infrastructure** and **renewable energy** to **governance, green industry, and skills development**.

1. Railway Sector Support Programme (RSSP) in Zambia

Objective: To enhance the operability and efficiency of Zambia Railways Limited (ZRL) and strengthen the regulatory framework of the railway sector, promoting rail freight competitiveness and safety.

Impact: The programme will rehabilitate key sections of Zambia's railway network, improve signalling systems, and update the *Railways Act of 1984* to incorporate open access, safety, environmental, and gender equality standards. It will directly contribute to the Global Gateway Strategic Corridors No. 10 (North-South) and No. 12 (Lobito Corridor).

Budget: EUR 117.5 million total (ZMW 3 billion) | EU contribution: EUR 50 million (KMZ 1.3 billion) | Co-financed by the Government of Zambia, the private sector, and the World Bank.

2. Nexus Energy Water in the Zambian Provinces Served by the Lobito Corridor (NEWZA 2.0)

Objective: To improve water supply through renewable solar energy and energy efficiency in the North-Western and Copperbelt provinces.

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Impact: NEWZA 2.0 will enhance energy autonomy and operational performance of three Commercial Utilities (Solwezi, Ndola, and Chingola) ensuring climate resilience, efficiency, and better service delivery for communities and industries along the Lobito Corridor.

Budget: Team Europe contribution EUR 41 million total (ZMW 1.08 billion) | EU: EUR 20 million (ZMW 526 million) | Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ): EUR 21 million (ZMW 550 million)

3. Zambia-EU Partnership for Education reforms

Objective: To support the Government of Zambia's policy and ongoing reforms to deliver quality, equitable, and inclusive education for all children, with a focus on improving learning outcomes and access to secondary education.

Impact: The programme will enhance school infrastructure, provide updated teaching and learning materials aligned with the new curriculum, strengthen teacher professional development, and advance education policy reforms. Implemented over two years and fully led by the Government of Zambia, it aims to empower youth, foster national development, and build skills essential for the labour market, particularly supporting opportunities along the Lobito Corridor.

Budget: EUR 40 million (ZMW 1.05 billion)

4. Protecting Human Rights along the Critical Raw Materials Value Chain

Objective: To empower local communities along the Critical Raw Materials (CRM) value chain and the Lobito Corridor to defend their rights, access justice, and promote accountability.

Impact: The programme supports civil society and legal aid initiatives that enhance awareness of social, environmental, and economic rights—particularly for women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

Budget: EUR 6 million (ZMW 150 million)

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New projects that contribute to development around the Lobito economic corridor in specific sectors:

In agriculture:

5. ENTERPRISE Zambia 2.0 – Boost Agriculture Market Access Programme

Objective: To drive sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient agricultural growth by empowering smallholder farmers and improving access to markets.

Impact: Focusing on legumes and horticulture value chains, the programme promotes deforestation-free production and supports investments along the Lobito Corridor through capacity building and a matching grant facility.

Budget: EUR 36 million total | EU: EUR 28 million (ZMW 736 million) | Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ): EUR 8 million (ZMW 210 million)

In the private sector:

6. GREENTech4CE – Green Transition for Circular Economy

Objective: To support economic diversification and SME development in Zambia's mining and manufacturing sectors through green, circular, and digital innovation.

Impact: Five Zambian companies operating in the Copperbelt and North-Western provinces will receive EU-funded grants totalling EUR 1.65 million (ZMW 43 million, 50% of the total investment of EUR 3.4 million, (ZMW 90 million), boosting local innovation, sustainable industrial practices, and job creation.

To support skills development:

7. Skills for Decent Employment in Zambian Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM)

Objective: To promote inclusive and sustainable employment opportunities in Zambia's mineral value chains by upskilling artisanal and small-scale miners, especially women and youth.

Impact: Implemented by UNIDO, the action will enhance technical capacity, environmental sustainability, and formalization of ASM activities in the Copperbelt, North-Western, and Luapula provinces.

Budget: EUR 9.8 million (ZMW 257 million)

In the energy sector:

8. Ilute Solar Project (Serengeti Energy – Kwama Energy – ElectriFI Partnership)

Objective: To develop a 32 MWp solar photovoltaic plant in Sesheke District, Western Province, providing clean and reliable energy for Zambia and the Southern African Power Pool.

Impact: The project pioneers market-based power trading in Africa through a power purchase agreement with GreenCo Power Services. It will create local employment, strengthen community development, and foster regional energy integration along the Lobito Corridor.

Budget: USD 26.5 million (ZMW 600 million) blended finance package, including USD 3.5 million (ZMW 60 million) from the EU-funded Electrification Financing Initiative (ElectriFI). Other funding come from: Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank (FMO), The Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) managed by the African Development Bank (AfDB), and Triodos Investment Management.

European Union works as Team Europe. European Investment Bank is the lending institution of the EU, owned by its Member States.

9. EIB–ZICB Partnership

Objective: To boost access to finance for Zambia's agri-food SMEs and smallholder farmers through a €30 million (ZMW 790 million) financing and risk-sharing agreement between the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Zambia Industrial Commercial Bank (ZICB).

Impact: The initiative promotes climate-resilient, women-led, and sustainable investments in key agricultural value chains, supporting Zambia's green and inclusive growth agenda.

Budget: €15 million (ZMW 395 million) EIB financing matched by ZICB; €4 million (ZMW 105 million) EU risk-sharing facility.

10. MoU between the Zambia Chamber of Mines and Mining Finland

Objective: To enhance cooperation between the Zambia Chamber of Mines and Mining Finland in areas of knowledge exchange, capacity building, and joint initiatives promoting responsible mining.

Impact: The MoU will strengthen networking opportunities, foster co-hosted trade missions and research, and advance innovation across Zambia's growing mining sector, key to the Lobito Corridor's value chains.