



## **Committee Issues for MEP-BSR session in Vienna**

### **1. Committee on International Trade (INTA) Clara Falkenek/Connie Clarke-Foster**

*The question of EU-AU relations.*

In 2019 the African Union (AU) ratified its entry into the African Continental Free Trade Area, creating the world's largest free trade area, by EU model. The EU and the AU are long-standing partners where European investment has been key in job-creation growth in Africa. Now the relationship between Europe and Africa is shifting from Africa being the recipient of European aid to a trade partnership. Moreover, Chinese influence on the African continent has increased dramatically, potentially posing a threat to European and African interests. *How can the EU deepen economic and trade relations between Africa and Europe? How should the EU continue to support the African Union in harnessing its economic potential? How can the EU best promote European interests in Africa through aid and/or investment strategies?*