

# **The first EU People of African Descent (PAD) Week will take place in Brussels 14-17th of May.**

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**When: 14-17 May 2018**

**Where: European Parliament, other institutions and locations in Brussels**

The European Union will host the first ever People of African Descent Week in the European Parliament. This is a key initiative to increase awareness of the 15 million people of African descent living in Europe and discuss solutions to address the racial discrimination and violence they face.

The Week will consist of a series of events featuring experts, activists, and policymakers and is co-organised by the European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup, the Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference, the European Network Against Racism (ENAR), and Each One Teach One (EOTO).

“In addition to honouring the history and contribution of Europe’s Black population, the People of African Descent Week reaffirms European values by developing strategic and coherent responses to make our society more inclusive in the face of rising racial prejudice and violence across Europe,” said **Cecile Kyenge MEP, a founder of People of African Descent Week and member of the European Parliament’s Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup.**

“I am honored to join my European colleagues in hosting a Week dedicated to Black populations in Europe,” said **U.S. Congressman Alcee Hastings, a founder of the Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference.** “Whether in America or Europe, we must all do more to uphold the democratic values of our nations. Skin color should not determine one’s access to rights, protections, and opportunities in a democracy.”

“This week is an opportunity to highlight the reality of Black people living in Europe and address the racial discrimination and violence they face on a daily basis. We hope it will result in concrete actions at both European Union and government levels”, said **Michael Privot, Director of the European Network Against Racism**

MP Killion Munyama (Poland)  
MP Karamba Diaby (Germany)  
MP Momodou Jallow (Sweden)  
Councilor Abena Oppong-Asare (UK)  
Councilor Aminata Toure (Germany)  
Councilor Mpanzu Bamenga (Netherlands)  
Councillor Tracy Bibo-Tansia (Belgium)  
Councillor Sanchia Allasia (UK)

Maurice M. Owens, Libra Group; Former Advisor President Obama White House Chief of Staff  
Mireille Fanon-Mendes, Scholar; Former United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (France)

Daniel Gyamerah, Citizens for Europe; Each One Teach One (Germany)  
Rohkaya Diallo, Journalist, (France)  
Simon Woolley, Operation Black Vote (UK)  
Jeff Johnson, Journalist and Media Personality (US)

For media inquiries and interview requests, please contact Alfiaz Vaiya at [alfiaz.vaiya@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:alfiaz.vaiya@europarl.europa.eu)

**Event hashtag #PADweekEU**

**Web page: <https://www.ardi-ep.eu/people-of-african-descent-pad-week/>**