Approved - SNA 26/5/25

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PAPERS LAID
DATE: 27 MAY 2025
TABLED BY: Chairperson, Committee on Regional Integration Hon. Irene Ntakerama, MP
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE: Getrude Chebet

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THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT- FOURTH SESSION

COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION

REPORT ON A STUDY VISIT TO THE EUROPEAN UNION AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
RECEIVED
23 MAY 2025
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
P. O. Box 41842, NAIROBI.

Directorate of Audit, Appropriations
and General Purpose Committees
The National Assembly
Parliament Buildings
NAIROBI

May, 2025

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ABBREVIATIONS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
CMP	Common Market Protocol
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy
EAC	East African Community
EC	European Council
EDF	European Development Fund
EEAS	European Union External Action Service
EEC	European Economic Community
ECJ	European Court of Justice
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
GoK	Government of Kenya
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
UK	United Kingdom

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

This report comprises presentations, observations, recommendations, and lessons learnt from a study visit to Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium, conducted by a delegation of the Committee on Regional Integration from September 9 to 15, 2024.

The study visit aimed at facilitating the delegation to better understand regional integration, its mechanisms, and operations while nurturing and strengthening diplomatic relations between Kenya and the Kingdom of Belgium. Furthermore, the visit was designed to bolster the expertise of Committee Members, equipping them with the essential skills needed to fulfil their roles effectively and efficiently in advancing regional integration within the East African Community and other relevant contexts.

The other key objectives of the visit included:

1. To exchange experiences and insights on the development of effective regional integration policies. It aimed to facilitate a constructive dialogue and knowledge-sharing among delegation members and representatives from EU on the successes and challenges faced in creating effective regional integration policies.
2. Assessing the positive developments within the EU region, the delegation aimed to identify and acknowledge these successes, which serve as benchmarks for what can be achieved in a well-integrated regional bloc.
3. Gain insights into the progress towards fully implementing the EU Common Market Protocol. This involved examining the protocol's practical aspects, such as removing trade barriers, the free movement of goods and services, labour, and capital, and other vital provisions.
4. The delegation also aimed to establish a framework for ongoing knowledge sharing and capacity building. It involves creating mechanisms for exchanging information, best practices, and expertise between Kenya and EU member states to enhance their capabilities in advancing regional integration.

The delegation comprised of the following –

1) Hon. Wanjiku Muhia,CBS, MP - Leader of Delegation
2) Hon Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP
3) Hon Julius Kipletting Rutto,MP ; and
4) Mr. Jimale Mohamed – First Clerk Assistant/Delegation secretary

The delegation visited the European Union Headquarters in Brussels, where fruitful discussions were held to explore joint efforts and identify key sectors where Kenya and the EU could leverage their strengths for multilateral benefits. The discussions emphasized the importance of fostering cooperation within the EU region, particularly in trade, infrastructure development, and socio-economic growth.

The Committee extends its gratitude to the leadership of the Kenya Embassy Chancery, led by Amb. Bitange Ndemo, PhD., CBS, European Union Representatives, and the Representative of the Belgian Government for their invaluable support during the study visit.

The Committee also extends its gratitude to the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly for the invaluable support during the visit. On behalf of the Committee on Regional Integration, I take pleasure in presenting to the House the **Committee's Report on the study visit to the Headquarters of the European Union and the European Parliament in Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium.**

Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, CBS, MP - Leader of Delegation

1. PREFACE

1.1 1.1 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

1. The Committee on Regional Integration is a select Committee of the House established under Standing Order 212 of the National Assembly's Standing Orders, which sets out the mandate of the Committee. The Committee was constituted in October 2023 following the House's adoption of a motion on membership of committees.
2. The Committee is also mandated to –
   a) Examine the records of all the relevant debates and resolutions of the East African Legislative Assembly meetings.
   b) Examine the Bills introduced in the East African Legislative Assembly and Acts of the East African Community.
   c) Examine the records of all the relevant debates and resolutions of the meetings of the Pan African Parliament, the African, Caribbean and Pacific European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly and other regional integration bodies; and inquire into and examine any other matter relating to regional integration generally requiring action by the House.

1.1. Committee Membership

3. The Committee comprises the following Members as reconstituted on 5th March, 2025: -

Hon. (CS) Irene Mayaka, MP – Chairperson
Nominated
Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Farah Salah Yakub, MP - Vice- Chairperson
FAFI Constituency
United Democratic Alliance

Hon. David Ochieng Ouma, MP
Ugenya Constituency
Movement for Democracy and Growth

Hon. Naomi Jillo Waqo, MP
Marsabit (CWR)
United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, CBS, MP
Kipipiri Constituency
United Democratic Alliance

Hon (Dr) Makali Mulu, MP
Kitui Central
Wiper Democratic Movement

Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP
Matayos Constituency
Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Joseph Gachoki Gitari, MP
Kirinyaga Central Constituency
United Democratic Party

Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP
Khwisero Constituency
Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Danson Mwashako Mwakuwona, MP
Wundanyi Constituency
Wiper Democratic Movement

Hon. Andrew Adipo Okuome, MP
Karachuonyo Constituency
Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Rael Chepkemoi Kasiwai, MP
West Pokot (CWR)
Kenya Union Party

Hon. Elizabeth Karambu Kailemia, MP
Meru (CWR)
United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, MP
Nyaribari Chache Constituency
United Democratic Party

Hon. Japheth Nyakundi Mokaya, MP
Kitutu Chache North Constituency
United Democratic Party

Hon. Julius Kipletting Rutto, MP
Kesses Constituency
United Democratic Party

Hon. Beatrice Chepng'eno Kemei, MP
Kericho (CWR)
United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP
Kwale (CWR)
Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Irene Njoki Mrembo, MP
Bahati Constituency
Jubilee Party

Hon. Richard Kipkemoi Yegon, MP
Bomet East Constituency
United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Didmus Wekesa Barasa Mutua, MP
Kimilili Constituency
United Democratic Alliance

1.2. Committee Secretariat

4. The secretariat facilitating the Committee comprises: –

Mr. Mohamed Jimale	-	Clerk Assistant I (Lead Clerk)
Ms. Jane Gathoni Ouko	-	Clerk Assistant II
Mr. Bernard Toroitich	-	Clerk Assistant III
Mr. Dominic Kyallo	-	Legal Counsel II
Mr. James Muguna	-	Research Officer I
Mr. Edwin Machuki	-	Fiscal Analyst III
Ms. Mercy Mayende	-	Media Relations Officer III

1.3. Objectives of the Study Visit

5. The objectives of the study visit was to: -

a) Hold consultative meetings with counterpart Parliamentary Committees of the European Parliament and to share legislators' experiences and challenges in developing and implementing progressive regional integration policies.
b) Exchange experiences and insights on the development of effective regional integration policies. It aimed to facilitate a constructive dialogue and knowledge-sharing among delegation members and representatives from EU on the successes and challenges faced in creating effective regional integration policies.
c) Assessing the positive developments within the EU region, the delegation aimed to identify and acknowledge these successes, which serve as benchmarks for what can be achieved in a well-integrated regional bloc.
d) Gain insights into the progress towards fully implementing the EU Common Market Protocol. This involved examining the protocol's practical aspects, such as removing trade barriers, the free movement of goods and services, labour, and capital, and other vital provisions.
e) Establish a framework for ongoing knowledge sharing and capacity building. It involves creating mechanisms for exchanging information, best practices, and expertise between Kenya and EU member states to enhance their capabilities in advancing regional integration.

2. BACKGROUND

Creation of the European Economic Community

6. On 25th March, 1957, the six European Coal and Steel Community members signed the two Treaties of Rome that established the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)—which was designed to facilitate cooperation in atomic energy development, research, and utilization—and the European Economic Community (EEC). The EEC created a common market that featured the elimination of most barriers to the movement of goods, services, capital, and labour, the prohibition of most public policies or private agreements that inhibit market competition, a common agricultural policy (CAP), and a common external trade policy.

7. The treaty establishing the EEC required members to eliminate or revise important national laws and regulations. It fundamentally reformed tariff and trade policy by abolishing all internal tariffs by July 1968. It also required that governments eliminate national regulations favouring domestic industries and cooperate in areas in which they traditionally had acted independently, such as international trade (i.e., trade with countries outside the EEC). The treaty called for common anti-competitive and monopolistic behaviour rules, common inland transportation, and regulatory standards. Recognizing social policy as a fundamental component of economic integration, the treaty also created the European Social Fund, which was designed to enhance job opportunities by facilitating workers' geographic and occupational mobility.

8. The treaty's common market reforms did not extend to agriculture. The CAP, implemented in 1962 and the costliest and most controversial element of the EEC and later the EU, relied on state intervention to protect farmers' living standards, promote agricultural self-sufficiency, and ensure a reliable supply of products at reasonable prices.

9. Like the ECSC, the EEC established four major governing institutions: a commission, a ministerial council, an assembly, and a court. To advise the Commission and the Council of Ministers on a broad range of social and economic policies, the treaty created an Economic and Social Committee. In 1965, members of the EEC signed the Brussels Treaty, which merged the commissions of the EEC and Euratom and the High Authority of the ECSC into a single commission. It also combined the councils of the three organizations into a common Council of Ministers. The EEC, Euratom, and the ECSC—collectively referred to as the European Communities—later became the principal institutions of the EU.

10. The Commission (officially known as the European Commission) consists of a permanent civil service directed by commissioners. It has had three primary functions: to formulate community policies, to monitor compliance with community decisions, and to oversee the execution of community law. Members appointed commissioners to renewable four-year terms, which were extended to five years. The Commission is headed by a president, who is selected by the heads of state or heads of government of the organization's members. In consultation with member governments, the president appoints the heads of the

11. Directorate-Generals, which manage specific areas such as agriculture, competition, the environment, and regional policy. The Commission has shared its agenda-setting role with the European Council (not to be confused with the Council of Europe, an organization that is not an EU body), which consists of the leaders of all member countries. Established in 1974, the European Council meets at least twice yearly to define the long-term agenda for European political and economic integration.

12. A president leads the European Council, and the office is initially rotated among the heads of state or heads of government of member countries every six months. Upon adopting the Lisbon Treaty in 2009, the presidency serves a term of two and a half years, renewable once, and functions as the "face" of the EU in policy matters. The first "president of the EU," as the office came to be known, was former Belgian prime minister Herman Van Rompuy.

13. The central decision-making institution of the EEC and the European Community (as the EEC was renamed in 1993) and the EU has been the Council of the European Union (originally the Council of Ministers), which consists of ministerial representatives. The composition of the council changes frequently, as governments send different representatives depending on the policy area under discussion. All community legislation requires the approval of the council. The council president, whose office rotates among council members every six months, manages the legislative agenda. Council meetings are chaired by a minister from the country currently holding the presidency. The exception to this rule is the Foreign Affairs Council, which, since the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, is under the permanent supervision of the EU High Representative for foreign affairs and security policy.

14. The Common Assembly, renamed the European Parliament in 1962, originally consisted of delegates from national parliaments. Beginning in 1979, members were elected directly to five-year terms. The size of members' delegations varies depending on population. The Parliament is organized into transnational party groups based on political ideology—e.g., the Party of European Socialists, the European People's Party, the European Federation of Green Parties, and the European Liberal, Democrat and Reform Party. Until 1987 the legislature served only as a consultative body, though in 1970 it was given joint decision-making power (with the Council of Ministers) over community expenditures.

15. The European Court of Justice (ECJ) interprets community law, settles conflicts between the organization's institutions, and determines whether members have fulfilled their treaty obligations. Each member selects one judge, who serves a renewable six-year term; to increase efficiency, after the accession of 10 additional countries in 2004, the ECJ was allowed to sit in a "grand chamber" of only 13 judges. Eight impartial advocates-general assist the ECJ by presenting opinions on cases before the court.

16. In 1989, an additional court, the Court of First Instance, was established to assist with the community's increasing caseload. The ECJ has established two important legal doctrines. First, European law has "direct effect," which means that treaty provisions and legislation are directly binding on individual citizens, regardless of whether their governments have modified national laws accordingly. Second, community law has "supremacy" over national law in cases where the two conflict. The promulgation of the Lisbon Treaty signaled the

acceptance of these legal doctrines by national courts, and the ECJ has acquired a supranational legal authority.

3. ENGAGEMENT WITH INSTITUTIONS

17. The visit was aimed at enhancing the committee's understanding of the structure and function of the European Union Parliament while providing a broad understanding of the European Union as a supranational government and regional integration body. The following were the key deliberations at the various meetings held:

3.1 Kenya Embassy /Chancery

18. Amb. Bitange Ndemo, PhD, Head of Mission, received the delegation. He briefed them on the mission's functions, including its role in representing Kenya in the Kingdom of Belgium, the European Union, the World Customs Organisation, and the Organisation of African Caribbean and Pacific States. The following members of the Kenyan mission in Brussels met with the delegation:

    a) Amb. Daniel Tanui - Deputy Head of Mission,
    b) Mr. Evans Maturu - Head of Chancery,
    c) Dr. Florence Kaibi, Agriculture Attache,
    d) Prof. Fugich Wako, Education Attache, and
    e) Ms. Josephine Njambi - Second Secretary, Political Officer assigned to the delegation from the Kenya Mission in Brussels.

19. The meeting at the Chancery also highlighted the various institutions the delegation would visit. This included:

    i. Kenya Embassy Chancery
    ii. The Federal Public Service and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
    iii. European Union External Action Service (EEAS)
    iv. The European Union Parliament
    v. The Museum of the Battle of Waterloo, and
    vi. Port of Antwerp

3.2 Meeting with European Union External Action Service (EEAS)

20. The delegation was received by Mr. Jonas Jonsson, Head of Division, Horn of Africa, East Africa in the office of the European Union External Action Service (EEAS) to gain insights into the EU's foreign policy mechanisms, historical evolution, and integration challenges. The Mr. Jonas then provided a deeper understanding of the EU's institutional framework and its role in global diplomacy. The visit also provided valuable insights into the EU's institutional framework, integration history, and ongoing challenges. Understanding the various EU organs and their mandates is crucial for fostering international cooperation and learning best practices for regional governance.

21. The European Union traces its origins to the aftermath of World War II, when European nations sought to ensure lasting peace and economic stability. The journey began with the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1951, followed by the signing of the Treaty of Rome in 1957, which created the European Economic Community (EEC). Over the decades, the EU evolved into a political and economic union, formalized by

the Maastricht Treaty in 1993. Subsequent treaties, including the Lisbon Treaty 2007, strengthened EU governance and integration efforts.

22. The Union has nonetheless faced challenges in its integration, including:
    a) Political Differences: Balancing national sovereignty with collective decision-making remains a contentious issue among member states.
    b) Economic Disparities: Variations in economic development across member states pose a challenge to fiscal and monetary policies.
    c) Brexit: The United Kingdom's exit from the EU highlighted the complexities of political integration and raised questions about the future of the Union.
    d) Migration and Security Issues: Managing immigration, border security, and defence cooperation remains a pressing challenge.
23. The delegation was also briefed on the following institutions of the European Union and their mandate:
    a. **European Commission:** Proposes legislation, enforces EU laws, and oversees policy implementation.
    b. **European Parliament:** Represents EU citizens, legislates alongside the Council of the EU, and approves the EU budget.
    c. **Council of the European Union**: Composed of national ministers, it coordinates policies and adopts legislation.
    d. **European Council:** Defines the EU's overall political direction and priorities, composed of heads of state or government.
    e. **European Court of Justice (ECJ):** Ensures uniform EU law interpretation and application across member states.
    f. **European External Action Service (EEAS):** This service manages the EU's foreign and security policy and conducts diplomatic relations with third countries and international organizations.
24. The delegation further sought to understand the various roles of the EEAS and its specific contribution to European Union Integration. The delegation was informed that the European Union External Action Service (EEAS) is crucial in strengthening EU integration through its diplomatic and foreign policy functions. It enhances coordination among member states, ensuring a unified external representation. By managing relations with non-EU countries, international organizations, and security partners, the EEAS fosters cohesion in EU foreign policy, thus reinforcing political unity among the 27 member states. The coordination of foreign policy among EU member states is achieved through several mechanisms including:
    a) **Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP):** Guides joint EU diplomatic actions and external engagements.
    b) **High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**: Acts as the EU's chief diplomat, ensuring policy coherence.
    c) **Council of the EU and European Council:** Facilitate member-state discussions to align on strategic foreign policy directions.
    d) **EEAS Coordination Role:** Organizes diplomatic networks, task forces, and special envoys to harmonize foreign policy stances.
25. Regarding defence matters the delegation was informed that the EU has developed:
    a) Common European Union Defence Policy for Financing and Coordination

b) Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP): Aims at crisis management, peacekeeping, and security missions.
c) European Defence Fund (EDF): Provides financial support for collaborative defence research and technology.
d) Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO): Enhances defence collaboration among willing member states.
e) EU Operations and Missions: Under CSDP, military and civilian efforts are co-financed by the EU budget and member-state contributions.

26. The delegation noted that Kenya had ratified the Kenya-EU EPA and sought to understand the EU's role in supporting the Implementation of the EPA with Kenya. The EEAS indicated that the EU supports Kenya through:

    i. Trade Facilitation: Providing technical assistance to improve Kenya's export capabilities.
    ii. Infrastructure Development: Supporting transport and logistics networks to enhance trade efficiency.
    iii. Capacity Building: Training programs to enhance compliance with EU standards.
    iv. Investment and Funding: Financial assistance through the European Development Fund (EDF) and other investment mechanisms.

27. The meeting agreed that there is a need to enhance EU and East African Community (EAC) Cooperation in the following areas:

    i. Expanding trade agreements through expanding economic integration and trade facilitation beyond the EPA.
    ii. Enhancing political dialogue by establishing structured dialogues to address governance, security, and regional stability.
    iii. Boosting development cooperation by increasing support for infrastructure, digitization, and sustainable development initiatives.
    iv. Fostering security collaboration: through expanding joint efforts in counter terrorism, border security, and peacekeeping initiatives.

3.3 Meeting with the Federal Public Service and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

28. The delegation met with officials from the Federal Public Service and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium. The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral relations, discussing trade opportunities, and understanding Belgium's role in forming and evolving the European Union.

29. The delegation was informed of the crucial role played by Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands in the foundation of the European Union dating back to the signing of the Benelux Customs Union in 1944, which facilitated economic cooperation by eliminating trade barriers. This initiative laid the groundwork for broader European integration, establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1957 through the Treaty of Rome. Despite initial challenges, such as economic disparities among member states and political resistance, the integration process continued, eventually evolving into the EU we know today.

30. The Benelux Customs Union served as a model for the EU Customs Union, which became one of the fundamental pillars of the European project. Key contributions include:

i. Trade Facilitation: The customs union eliminated internal tariffs, fostering seamless trade between member states.

ii. Economic Growth: It enabled economies of scale, boosting industrial and commercial development across Europe.

iii. Harmonization of Policies: It ensured uniform trade regulations, reducing administrative burdens and increasing market efficiency.

31. The historical role of Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands in shaping the EU highlights the importance of customs unions in promoting economic stability and development, which can serve as a valuable reference for Kenya and the East African Community as they pursue deeper regional integration.

3.4 Visit to the European Union Parliament

32. The study visit provided an invaluable opportunity for meaningful dialogue between Parliaments, fostering a deeper relationship between the European Parliament, the Parliament of the Republic of Kenya, and, by extension, the East African Community Parliament.

33. It also offered unique and comprehensive perspectives on key areas such as education and migration, shedding light on the policies and strategies that have shaped the EU's approach in these fields. The discussions around labour migration were particularly enlightening, given the global nature of this issue and its relevance to Europe and Africa. The focus on education, including the EU's frameworks for higher learning and vocational training, also provided valuable insights into how Kenya and /the East African Community might strengthen our educational systems through legislation to better align with regional integration efforts.

3.5 Visit to the Museum of the Battle of Waterloo

34. The delegation visited the Museum of the Battle of Waterloo in Waterloo, Belgium. This Museum is a significant historical site commemorating the decisive battle fought in 1815. The museum offers an immersive experience, detailing the events of the Battle of Waterloo, where Napoleon Bonaparte's forces were defeated by the allied armies led by the Duke of Wellington and Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher. The visit included:

a) Interactive displays and multimedia presentations detailing the battle's strategy and tactics.

b) Authentic artefacts, including weapons, uniforms, and personal items from soldiers.

c) A panoramic 3D reenactment provides a vivid depiction of the battle.

d) The opportunity to visit the Lion's Mound, a monument symbolizing the battle's outcome.

35. The Battle of Waterloo has great historical significance because it marked a turning point in Europe, leading to a long period of peace and stability. It ended Napoleon's reign and reshaped the political landscape of Europe, reinforcing the importance of diplomatic alliances. The Museum of the Battle of Waterloo plays a crucial role in fostering European integration and unity by:

a. Promoting Historical Awareness: It educates visitors on the shared history of European nations and the importance of cooperation.

b. Encouraging Peace and Diplomacy: The battle's aftermath emphasized the need for diplomatic solutions that align with the EU's principles.
c. Cultural Exchange: The museum attracts visitors from across Europe, strengthening intercultural understanding and collaboration.

36. The visit to the Museum of the Battle of Waterloo provided deep insights into a pivotal historical event and its lasting impact on Europe. By preserving history and promoting unity, the museum serves as a reminder of the importance of cooperation, making it a valuable institution for European integration.

3.6 Visit to the Port of Antwerp

37. The Port of Antwerp, located in Belgium, is one of Europe's largest and most significant seaports. It serves as a major gateway for global trade, facilitating the movement of goods across Europe and beyond. The report provides an overview of a visit to the port, highlighting its operations, historical background, and role in European integration.

38. The Port of Antwerp has a long and rich history dating back to the Middle Ages. It flourished during the 16th century as a key trading hub in Europe, attracting merchants worldwide. However, the port experienced setbacks due to conflicts, including the Dutch closure of the Scheldt River in the 17th century. It was not until the 19th century, following the reopening of the Scheldt and extensive infrastructural developments, that the port regained its prominence. Today, it is one of the busiest ports globally, handling millions of tons of cargo annually.

39. The delegation visited the Port of Antwerp, which fosters European economic integration. It is a strategic logistics hub, linking major European economies and facilitating trade among EU member states. Key aspects of its contribution include:

    i. Economic growth: The port significantly contributes to Belgium's GDP and employs thousands of people.
    ii. Trade facilitation: As a key entry point for international goods, it enhances European trade flows and supports the EU's single market policy.
    iii. Infrastructure connectivity: Its integration with trans-European transport networks ensures seamless movement of goods across borders.
    iv. Sustainability efforts: The port aligns with EU environmental policies by investing in green logistics and reducing carbon emissions.

40. The visit to the Port of Antwerp provided firsthand insight into its vast infrastructure and sophisticated logistics. Key observations included:

    a. Extensive container terminals equipped with advanced automation and crane systems.
    b. Large warehouses and storage facilities ensure efficient cargo handling.
    c. A well-organised transportation network connects the port to inland waterways, rail, and road systems.
    d. Sustainable initiatives, such as eco-friendly shipping and green energy projects, aim to reduce the port's environmental impact.

41. The visit to the Port of Antwerp highlighted its importance as a global maritime hub and a pillar of European economic integration. Its historical resilience, advanced infrastructure, and

commitment to sustainability make it a vital component of the EU's trade and transport framework. As Europe continues to enhance its economic and logistical connectivity, it is evident that the Port of Antwerp will remain at the heart of these developments.

42. The delegation was informed of ongoing collaboration between the Port of Mombasa and the Port of Antwerp. There have also been attempts by the Kenya Ports Authority to pursue possible collaborations in port management. The delegation observed that this collaboration can be pursued further bilaterally. Some key issues to be followed up on could include:

    i. Building on the KPA- Port of Antwerp linkage;
    ii. Developing a joint Workshop around port concessions- demystifying concession agreement;
    iii. Developing a tailor-made training centre for the Committee on Regional Integration and KPA, as well as the Port of Antwerp;
    iv. Development of a joint Market analysis for the Port of Mombasa;
    v. Development of the National strategic plan for the Port of Mombasa; and
    vi. Development of port master plans.
    vii. Acceleration of the implementation of the EU EPA and a robust regulatory framework on EAC and Kenyan goods going through the Port of Antwerp, and
    viii. Capacity Building for KPA Terminal Operators.

4. LESSONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KENYA AND THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

43. The delegation learned lessons that can be instrumental in enhancing the East African Community as a regional political integration block. As one of its founding members, Kenya can bring the findings of this study visit to the East African Community, particularly the East African Legislative Assembly. The lessons learned and recommendations are as follows:

1) **Importance of Strong Regional Integration Frameworks** - The European Union's success in integration has been largely due to its clear and consistent framework for economic, political, and social cooperation, which Kenya and the East African Community (EAC) could consider strengthening for more effective regional integration.
2) **Role of Historical Agreements in Regional Integration** - The Benelux Customs Union played a crucial role in forming the EU, demonstrating that successful regional integration often begins with smaller, targeted agreements between neighbouring states. Kenya and the EAC could enhance their foundational agreements to promote economic cooperation and help harmonize trade policies.
3) **Value of Shared Policy Mechanisms** - The EU's various mechanisms for balancing national sovereignty with collective decision-making, such as the European Commission, Parliament, and the External Action Service, highlight the importance of shared governance systems that address domestic and collective needs.
4) **Significance of Trade Facilitation** - The EU's internal market, which eliminates barriers to the free movement of goods, services, and labor, underscores the importance of efficient trade facilitation. Kenya and EAC should strengthen trade and infrastructure networks to promote seamless intra-regional trade.
5) **Diplomacy and Foreign Policy Coordination** - The EU External Action Service showed how diplomatic coordination between member states enhances regional and global influence. Kenya and the EAC could benefit from better coordination in their foreign policies and diplomatic engagements.
6) **Role of Sustainable Infrastructure** - The Port of Antwerp's sustainable logistics and infrastructure development emphasized the need for eco-friendly projects in regional integration. EAC countries, including Kenya, should adopt more sustainable development practices in their ports and transportation systems. Adopt EU - inspired sustainable practices in regional development projects, particularly infrastructure and trade, to reduce environmental impact and promote long-term growth.
7) **Capacity Building in International Trade** - The delegation learned that the EU supports capacity building for member countries through training and technical assistance. Kenya and the EAC should prioritize capacity-building programs to ensure they meet international standards for trade and compliance. This will also keep countries informed and ready for any trade and tariff decisions.
8) **Benefits of Cultural and Educational Exchange** - The European Parliament and museum visits emphasized the value of cultural and educational exchange. Kenya and the other EAC Partner States could strengthen regional integration by fostering similar frequent cultural and education exchanges. This can be realized by fostering education and cultural exchange programs. Strengthen educational exchange programs within the

EAC to share best practices in governance, education, and vocational training, aligning regional standards with the EU's.

9) **Strategic Cooperation in Security** -The EU's development of a Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) for crisis management and peacekeeping initiatives demonstrated the value of regional security cooperation. Kenya and the other EAC Partner States should deepen cooperation in security matters, particularly in counterterrorism and border security. By enhancing regional security cooperation, a comprehensive regional security strategy that addresses shared threats, such as terrorism and illegal migration, and ensures better peacekeeping and crisis management coordination is needed.
10) **Promote Joint Infrastructure Projects** - Investing in shared regional infrastructure projects, such as transport and energy networks, can boost trade and facilitate economic growth. The collaboration between the Port of Antwerp and Mombasa is a good example of such a project.
11) **Focus on Capacity Building in Key Sectors** - Implement capacity-building programs to enhance key stakeholders' skills in regional integration, especially in trade compliance, policy development, and regulatory standards.
12) **Deepen Diplomatic Engagement with the EU-** Engage more actively with EU institutions to learn from their foreign policy and diplomatic coordination mechanisms, improving Kenya's and the EAC's influence in international affairs.
13) **Invest in Technological Innovation and Digital Integration-** Prioritize the development of digital infrastructure and e-commerce policies to facilitate seamless trade and economic activities within the region, drawing lessons from the EU's digital single market.

Signed: ..... **Date:** 22/5/2025 .....

HON. (CS) IRENE MAYAKA, MP – CHAIRPERSON

5. ANNEXURES

1. Adoption list
2. Minutes

COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION

ADOPTION LIST

Adoption of the Report on the Study Visit by the Committee on Regional Integration to the European Union and European Parliament in the Kingdom of Belgium

We the undersigned, hereby affix our signatures to this Report to affirm our approval:

No.	HON. MEMBER	SIGNATURE
1.	Hon. CS Mayaka Irene Nyakerario, MP- **Chairperson**	Virtual Meeting Present
2.	Hon. Farah Salah, MP – **Vice Chairperson**	
3.	Hon. David Ochieng', CBS, MP	
4.	Hon. Naomi Waqo, CBS, MP	Present
5.	Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu, CBS, MP	
6.	Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, CBS, MP	
7.	Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP	
8.	Hon. Joseph Gitari, MP	
9.	Hon. Danson Mwashako, MP	
10.	Hon. Andrew Adipo Okuome, MP	
11.	Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP	
12.	Hon. Rael Chepkemoi Kasiwai, MP	
13.	Hon. Elizabeth Karambu Kailemia, MP	
14.	Hon. Beatrice Chepng'eno Kemei, MP	
15.	Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP	
16.	Hon. Irene Njoki Mrembo, MP	
17.	Hon. CPA Julius Kipletting Rutto, MP	
18.	Hon. Richard Kipkemoi Yegon, MP	
19.	Hon. Japheth Nyakundi Mokaya, MP	
20.	Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, MP	
21.	Hon. Didmus Barasa Mutua, MP	

MINUTES OF THE 6TH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION HELD ON TUESDAY, 22ND APRIL, 2025 IN COMMITTEE ROOM 17, 3RD FLOOR BUNGE TOWER, AT 12.23 NOON

PRESENT

1. Hon.(CS) Mayaka Irene Nyakerario, MP - **Chairperson**
2. Hon. Farah Salah, MP - **Vice Chairperson**
3. Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu, CBS, MP
4. Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, CBS, MP
5. Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP
6. Hon. Joseph Gitari, MP
7. Hon. Elizabeth Karambu Kailemia, MP
8. Hon. Beatrice Chepng'eno Kemei, MP
9. Hon. Irene Njoki Mrembo, MP

APOLOGIES

1. Hon. David Ochieng', CBS, MP
2. Hon. Naomi Waqo, CBS, MP
3. Hon. Danson Mwashako, MP
4. Hon. Andrew Adipo Okuome, MP
5. Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP
6. Hon. Rael Chepkemoi Kasiwai, MP
7. Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP
8. Hon. (CPA) Julius Kipletting Rutto, MP
9. Hon. Richard Kipkemoi Yegon, MP
10. Hon. Japheth Nyakundi Mokaya, MP
11. Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, MP
12. Hon. Didmus Barasa Mutua, MP

IN ATTENDANCE

Committee Secretariat

1. Ms. Jane G. Ouko - Clerk Assistant II
2. Mr. Bernard Toroitich - Clerk Assistant III
3. Mr. James Muguna - Research Officer I
4. Mr. Dominic Mwedwa - Legal Counsel II
5. Ms. Mercy Mayende - Media Relations Officer III
6. Ms. Florence Wanja - Public Relations Officer
7. Mr. Daniel Wachira - Pupil (Directorate of Legal Services)
8. Ms. Georgia Kangogo - Pupil (Directorate of Legal Services)

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/037 PRELIMINARIES

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m. by welcoming the Members present and thereafter said the Prayer and followed by introductions.

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/038 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously adopted as listed hereunder on the proposal of Hon. Elizabeth Karambu Kailemia, MP and seconded by Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu, CBS, MP.

AGENDA

1. Prayer & Preliminaries;
2. Adoption of the Agenda;
3. Confirmation of the Previous Minutes (5th sitting);
4. Matters Arising;
5. **Consideration of the brief regarding the status of preparedness by the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports to host African Nations Championship (CHAN) and African Cup of Nations AFCON scheduled for 2027;**
6. **Adoption of the Report on the study visit to the Headquarters of EU and the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium;**
7. Any other Business; and,
8. Adjournment.

MIN.NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/039 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the 5th sitting were confirmed as a true record of the previous meeting as having been proposed by Hon. Farah Salah, MP and seconded by Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu, CBS, MP.

MIN.NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/040 MATTERS ARISING

Under MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/033 - Consideration of Business on the upcoming meeting with the State Department for Sports, regarding Kenya's preparedness to Host African Nations Championship (CHAN) and African Cup of Nations (AFCON) scheduled for 2027 the following issues were raised:

1) The Chairperson informed the Committee that the State Department for Sports had confirmed that they would be in attendance during the Committee's meeting on Thursday, 24th April 2025;
2) The Committee observed the need for the state department to furnish it with an elaborate report on the country's preparedness to host CHAN in August 2025 and also be apprised on which country(s) would be hosting the opening and the closing ceremonies respectively; and
3) Further, the Chairperson urged Members to attend the upcoming Committee meeting to discuss the aforementioned issues with the Principal Secretary.

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/041 **CONSIDERATION OF THE BRIEF REGARDING THE STATUS OF PREPAREDNESS BY THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, CREATIVE ECONOMY AND SPORTS TO HOST AFRICAN NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP (CHAN) AND AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS AFCON**

Members considered the brief and possible questions to the Principal Secretary during the upcoming meeting with the Committee and expressed their satisfaction on areas covered. However, Members observed the need to have additional questions addressing African Nations Championship (CHAN) considering the fact that it is taking place in about three months' time.

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/042 **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE STUDY VISIT TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF EU AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**

The Committee unanimously adopted the Report on the Study visit to the Headquarters of European Union and European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium on the proposal of Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, CBS, M.P. and seconded by Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, M.P.

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/043 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The following issues were raised –

(1) Retreat with the Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development - The Committee resolved to have the retreat with the Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development on 19th to 24th May, 2025 in Mombasa County to have the Ministry's input on EALA reports committed to the Committee;
(2) Inspection visits to the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) and Kenya Maritime Authority - Members also resolved to undertake an inspection visit to the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) and Kenya Maritime Authority during this retreat;
(3) Fact finding visit to the State Department of Immigration and Citizen Services - Members further resolved to reschedule the visit to the State Department of Immigration and Citizen Services at Nyayo House to a later date;
(4) Further, the Committee was reminded of the upcoming meeting with the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Trade scheduled for Tuesday, 29th May 2025.

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/044 **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm. Next meeting would be held on Thursday, 24th April 2025.

Signed: ..... **Date:** 24/04/2025

Hon. (CS) Mayaka Irene Nyakerario, MP – Chairperson

MINUTES OF THE 4TH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION HELD ON TUESDAY, 10TH APRIL, 2025 IN COMMITTEE ROOM 20, 3RD FLOOR BUNGE TOWER, AT 12.00 NOON

PRESENT

1. Hon.(CS) Mayaka Irene Nyakerario, MP - **Chairperson** (*Virtual attendance)*
2. Hon. Farah Salah, MP - **Vice Chairperson** (Chairing)
3. Hon. Naomi Waqo, CBS, MP - (*Virtual attendance)*
4. Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, CBS, MP
5. Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP
6. Hon. Joseph Gitari, MP
7. Hon. Danson Mwashako, MP
8. Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP
9. Hon. (CPA)Julius Kipletting Rutto, MP
10. Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP
11. Hon. Rael Chepkemoi Kasiwai, MP
12. Hon. Richard Kipkemoi Yegon, MP

APOLOGIES

1. Hon. David Ochieng', CBS, MP
2. Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu, CBS, MP
3. Hon. Andrew Adipo Okuome, MP
4. Hon. Elizabeth Karambu Kailemia, MP
5. Hon. Beatrice Chepng'eno Kemei, MP
6. Hon. Irene Njoki Mrembo, MP
7. Hon. Japheth Nyakundi Mokaya, MP
8. Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, MP
9. Hon. Didmus Barasa Mutua, MP

IN ATTENDANCE

Committee Secretariat

1. Mr. Jimale Mohamed - Clerk Assistant I
2. Ms. Jane G. Ouko - Clerk Assistant II
3. Mr. Bernard Toroitich - Clerk Assistant III
4. Mr. Dominic Mwendwa - Legal Counsel II
5. Ms. Jimmy Muguna - Research Officer I
6. Ms. Mercy Mayende - Media Relations Officer III
7. Mr. Daniel Wachira - Pupil (Directorate of Legal Servcies)
8. Ms. Doreen Mwita - Pupil (Directorate of Legal Servcies)

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/022 PRELIMINARIES

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:29 pm by welcoming the Members present and thereafter said a Prayer followed by a round of introductions.

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/023 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously adopted as listed hereunder on the proposal of Hon. Danson Mwashako, MP and seconded by Hon. Richard Kipkemoi Yegon, MP.

AGENDA

1. Prayer & Preliminaries;
2. Adoption of Agenda;
3. Confirmation of the Previous Minutes (3rd sitting);
4. Matters Arising;
5. **Consideration and Adoption of the Report on the study visit to the Headquarters of European Union and the European Parliament in Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium;**
6. Any other Business; and,
7. Adjournment.

MIN.NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/024 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the 3rd sitting were confirmed as a true record of the previous meeting as having been proposed by Hon. Danson Mwashako, MP and seconded by Hon. Richard Kipkemoi Yegon, MP.

MIN.NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/025 MATTERS ARISING

i. Under MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/019 on consideration and adoption of the Report of the Kiswahili version. The Committee was informed that the Report on the inspection visit to the semi-autonomous institutions of the East African Community and the central corridor in the United Republic of Tanzania was tabled on Wednesday, 9th April, 2025 and is awaiting to be listed for debate.

ii. Under MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/020 on Shirika Plan, the Committee was informed that the shirika plan aims at transitioning refugee camps into integrated settlements to support the sustainable socioeconomic inclusion of refugees and host communities in Garissa, Turkana and urban areas. Members were informed of the following four strategic objectives the Shirika Plan:-

   i. Transitioning refugee management from camps to integrated settlements.
   ii. Transitioning refugee management from camps to integrated settlements
   iii. Ensuring coordinated support for refugee-hosting communities
   iv. Shifting basic service delivery to a government-led, development-oriented model.
   v. Promoting socioeconomic inclusion for self-reliance and resilience.

iii. Committee resolution on the Shirika Plan - the Committee resolved to consider the matter during the subsequent meeting whereby the secretariat was tasked to highlight and analyse the risk of the ***Shirika*** Plan.

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/026 **CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE STUDY VISIT TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF EUROPEAN UNION AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN BRUSSELS, KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

The Committee was taken through the Report by Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga,MP who was part of the delegation that undertook the study visit to the EU Union and EU Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. He then said as follows -

1) The primary aim of this study visit was to gain a deeper understanding of regional integration, its mechanisms, and operations while also nurturing and strengthening diplomatic relations between Kenya and Kingdom Belgium . Furthermore, this visit was designed to bolster the expertise of committee members, equipping them with the essential skills needed to fulfill their roles effectively and efficiently in advancing regional integration within the East African Community and other relevant contexts.
2) The report comprises of presentations, observations, and recommendations as well lesson learnt from the study visit conducted by a delegation of the Committee on Regional Integration to Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium, on September 9 - 15, 2024. As a critical EU member, Belgium served as the visit's focal point. The other key objectives included:
   i. To exchange experiences and insights on the development of effective regional integration policies. It aimed to facilitate a constructive dialogue and knowledge-sharing among delegation members and representatives from EU on the successes and challenges faced in creating effective regional integration policies;
   ii. To assess the positive developments within the EU region. The delegation aimed to identify and acknowledge these successes as they serve as benchmarks for what can be achieved in a well-integrated regional bloc;
   iii. Gain insights into EU's progress toward fully implementing the Common Market Protocol. It involved examining the practical aspects of the protocol, such as the removal of trade barriers, the free movement of goods and services, labor, and capital, and other vital provisions;
   iv. The delegation also aimed to establish a framework for ongoing knowledge sharing and capacity building. It involves creating mechanisms for exchanging information, best practices, and expertise between Kenya and EU member states to enhance their capabilities in advancing regional integration.

The delegation comprised of –

1. Hon. Wanjiku Muhia,CBS, MP - Leader of Delegation
2. Hon Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP
3. Hon Julius Kipletting Rutto,MP ; and
4. Mr. Jimale Mohamed - Clerk Assistant/Delegation secretary.

He noted that the delegation engaged in a series of productive meetings and discussions to enhance collaboration and strengthen regional integration efforts by EU countries. The visit offered valuable insights into areas of mutual interest and cooperation. He further noted The delegation had the opportunity to visit the European Union Headquarters in Brussels, where fruitful discussions were held to explore joint efforts and identify key sectors where Kenya and EU could leverage their strengths for multilateral benefit. The discussions emphasized the

importance of fostering cooperation within the EU region, particularly in trade, infrastructure development, and socioeconomic growth.

The Report contains presentations, discussion, observations, and recommendations/key lessons learnt from the study visit conducted by the delegation of the Committee on Regional Integration to Brussels, Kigdom of Belgium from 9th to 13th September 2024. The Committee extends its gratitude to the leadership of the Kenya Embassy Chancery led by Amb. Bitange Ndemo, PhD., CBS, European Union Representatives; and the Representative of the Belgium Government for their invaluable support during the study visit.

Hon Odanga further stated that the following were key lessons for Kenya and the East African Community (EAC) as highlighted in the Report:-

i. The study visit by the delegation was critical with key learning objectives that can be instrumental in enhancing the East Africa Community as a regional political integration block
ii. Developing a tailor made training centre for Committee on Regional Integration and KPA as well as Port of Antwerp.
iii. The delegation benefited greatly from the presentations made and experiences shared by various Members of the European Parliament (MEP) on the various aspects of governance and accountability which have made EU be amongst the developed countries

H emphasized the lessons learnt and recommendations -

i. Collaboration, the Committee recommends greater collaboration between Parliament of Kenya and the European Union Parliament on capacity building to ensure more Members of the Committee on Regional Integration benefit from such programs and undertake a study visit geared towards enhancing their capacity to perform their constitutional mandates.
ii. Meeting with European Council, the Committee recommends to undertake a second study visit to Brussels, Belgium in the Financial Year 2025/2026 to interact with the European Council considering the fact the team that traveled only met with the European Commission and European Parliament.

Resolution

The Committee deferred adoption of the Report on the study visit to the Headquarters of European Union and the European Parliament in Brussels, Kingdom to next meeting.

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/027 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following matters arose.

1) **New tariffs introduced by the USA government** - the Committee also tasked the secretariat to prepared a brief on the New tariffs introduced by the USA and the anticipated effect on Kenyans to be cosndiered during the next meeting.
2) **Capacity building Training**, the vice Chairperson reported on the upcoming capacity building training scheduled from 5th to 9th May,2025 in Kigali, Rwanda , 2025 alongside other Committee organized by the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST).

The Committee proposed the following Members to participate in the training -

1. Hon.(CS) Mayaka Irene Nyakerario, MP- Chairperson - Leader of delegation.
2. Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu, CBS, MP
3. Hon. Rael Chepkemoi Kasiwai, MP
4. Hon. Danson Mwashako, MP

The Committee noted that the aim of the training is to among others -

a) Enhance the committee's knowledge on the best way to legislate policy issues on economic integration, international cooperation, international relations and diplomacy, security, peace and conflict resolutions in promoting regional integration.
b) Learn good practices and policies regarding conventions and protocols in enhancing regional cooperation.
c) Share experience in the legislation of Bills, Protocols and Resolutions concerning integration.

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/028 ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm. Next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 15th April 2025.

Signed: ..... **Date:** 15/4/2025

Hon. (CS) Mayaka Irene Nyakerario, MP – Chairperson