
IN THE NEW SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA'S RESOURCES, EUROPE TRIES TO RIGHT OLD WRONGS

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24.11.2025

Politico (24 November 2025)

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Ursula von der Leyen says African countries should benefit from resource extraction □ but Brussels has yet to deliver on that promise.

When the colonial governments of Belgium and Portugal ordered the construction of a railway connecting oil- and mineral-rich regions in the African interior to the Atlantic, their primary objective was to plunder resources such as rubber, ivory and minerals for export to Western countries.

Today, that same stretch of railway infrastructure, snaking through Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola to the port of Lobito, is being modernized and extended with U.S. and EU money to facilitate the transport of sought-after minerals like cobalt and copper. Just this month, Jozef Síkela, the EU commissioner for international partnerships, signed a □□□ million investment package for the corridor, often hailed as a model initiative under Global Gateway, the blocs infrastructure development program.

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