EU to Support Public Procurement in The Gambia

The European Union will provide financial support to the ongoing public procurement reform under its new Governance Programme in The Gambia. The €10 million programme is intended to strengthen political and economic governance in the country through interventions in three key areas, namely: Access to Justice and Legal education, support to the Media, and Public Finance Management.

During a workshop on support to Public Procurement held on 25th April, the EU Chargée d’Affaires disclosed that a little over €1 million would be used to support public procurement in the country. The proposed intervention aims to achieve the objectives of (i) strengthening The Gambia’s Public Procurement institutions, (ii) improving the efficiency and transparency of the country’s public procurement system, and (iii) enhancing the compliance of the national procurement system with international quality standards.

The Gambia Public Procurement Act was passed in 2003. It started a public procurement reform process in The Gambia. In December 2011 the World Bank confirmed the findings of the Gambian Government’s 2010 self-assessment that progress had been limited, and that the Public Procurement system remained far from being fully operational in accordance with the Act. EU intervention in this area will definitely improve PFM effectiveness and efficiency, and strengthen linkages between public policy, planning and expenditure management.

EU Delegation to The Gambia Launches Website!

We are delighted to inform you that the EU Delegation to The Gambia website is now online. We hope that you will find this a useful and interesting source of information on EU policies and activities, both in The Gambia and more generally.
Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on Europe Day – 9 May 2012

EU Chargée d’Affaires a.i., Mme Agnès Guillaud, was invited to close the NGO forum, which provided recommendations and resolutions to the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights during their 51st Ordinary Session, held between 18th April and 3rd May. The Forum, which brings together NGOs and human rights defenders from across Africa and beyond each year, dealt with human rights violations, torture, prisons and detention conditions, the death penalty, freedom of expression, discrimination on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion and beliefs, amongst other issues.

During her speech, Mme Guillaud paid tribute to the dedication and courage of human rights defenders, who not only shouldered the responsibility of helping others and raising awareness of their plight, but were also exposed to the risk of becoming targets of human rights violations themselves. She lamented the fact that state actors, including Government officials, state security forces and the judiciary, were all too often the perpetrators of these violations.

She drew attention to the increasing role of social media as a tool for promoting and underpinning change, particularly during the 2011 Arab Spring. She noted that social media could serve as a vehicle for defending human rights and exposing violations, and deplored attempts to restrict such modes of freedom of expression and internet access by Governments around the world.

Every year we celebrate Europe Day by looking back at the history of European integration and the things we have accomplished together. But it should also be an opportunity to look forward. We read a lot in the press about the financial crisis and the economic problems we are facing. But the basis of the European economy remains strong. And the common values that bring us together are more important than ever.

The coming year will be crucial for Europe’s recovery – and for Europe’s future. Not only the steps we take internally in the European Union on the economy and with Croatia joining in July. But also how we engage globally.

Europe has always been outward looking and open. We have consistently influenced the way the world thinks – about trade, the environment, climate change, the death penalty, the International Criminal Court, human rights, and many other important issues.

EU Chargée d’Affaires gives statement at closing ceremony of forum on participation of NGOs in the 51st Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights

EU Chargée d’Affaires a.i., Mme Agnès Guillaud, and Mr Abdou Kolley, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, at a function organised by the EU Delegation to celebrate Europe Day.

We have seen the drastic impact that social media can have in carrying messages, allowing activists and individuals to break free from their isolation, to disseminate ideas and to denounce oppression, notably in the 2011 Arab Spring. The EU condemns restrictions by Governments on this mode of freedom of expression and access to the internet and encourages the use of such tools in the struggle to defend human rights and expose violations.” Mme Agnes Guillaud

Every year we celebrate Europe Day by looking back at the history of European integration and the things we have accomplished together.

Everywhere I go, I take a message on behalf of Europe, about 27 countries working together to help solve problems. Everywhere I go, I hear that others from outside Europe want to work with a Europe that is active and committed.

I am convinced that Europe must remain actively engaged around the world. And equally that our international work can help to underpin our economic recovery.

I have travelled to many countries and regions – visiting every continent including a striking trip to the Arctic.

So that is what I intend to do next.

In short, we will continue to do what the framers of the Lisbon Treaty – and long before them, Robert Schuman – intended; for Europe to play an active role in solving global problems.

There is much we have achieved in the past year; but even more to be done.