



PRESS RELEASE

2 October 2014

New EU Ambassador to Zimbabwe presents credentials

The European Union Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr Philippe Van Damme, today (2 October 2014) presented his credentials to President Robert Mugabe in an event that marked his official assumption of duty.

Speaking at the occasion, Ambassador Van Damme said: "I am honoured to be accepted as the European Union's Head of Delegation to the Republic of Zimbabwe. Together with its Member States, the EU is by far the largest donor to Zimbabwe, providing more than half of the official development aid. The EU remains committed to further enhancing its engagement with Zimbabwe and I look forward to continuing with our efforts in order to support the necessary reforms towards a more prosperous and democratic State, based on the rule of law and respect for human rights."

Before his arrival in Zimbabwe, Ambassador Van Damme served as Head of the EU Delegation to Guinea in Conakry (2010 – 2014). He has worked on trade and development issues, including in the private sector. Since he joined the European Union in 1997, he held several high-ranking positions both in Brussels and in West Africa.

Ambassador Van Damme, who is Belgian, is fluent in Dutch, French and English. He holds a Masters Degree in Economics from the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium.

##ENDS##



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