



**EUROPEAN UNION**

DELEGATION TO THE STATE OF ERITREA

Date: 30 October 2015

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Provision of solar power for agricultural facilities in Eritrea**

#### **7 MEuro contract signed for photo-voltaic installations**

A major milestone of the EU's program in "Support to Agriculture/Food Security in Eritrea" has been met: The Ministry of National Development and the Italian contractor "Enertronica SpA" recently signed a contract worth 7 MEuro for the supply and installation of solar energy systems for 73 agricultural facilities in Eritrea. These-voltaic systems are designed to provide energy for milk cooling and poultry centres, veterinary laboratories and clinics across the country, agricultural research institutions, flower farms, as well as the main office of the Ministry of Agriculture. "In a country that has been suffering from severe energy shortages, this will make an important contribution to guaranteeing sustainable and reliable energy for the agricultural sector", the Ambassador of the European Union to Eritrea, Christian Manahl, remarked. Provision of solar energy to the 73 agricultural sites is an important component of the overall programme "Support to Agriculture/Food Security in Eritrea", which is supported from the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund to the tune of 40 MEuro. "Eritrea has abundant sources of renewable energies", Ambassador Manahl explained, "and future EU support to the Eritrean people will focus on supporting the full exploitation of this potential". The agreement represents the second sizeable contract for the Italian firm "Enertronica SpA" in the framework of EU-supported programmes in Eritrea. "Enertronica SpA" is currently installing a photo-voltaic standalone system for the programme "Capacity Building for the Public Administration in Eritrea". Upon signing the most recent contract, a company representative expressed satisfaction about the agreement: ""Enertronica SpA is proud to be the technology provider for these Eritrean projects. The photovoltaic plants to be installed in Eritrea, indeed, represent the state of the art in the field of energy storage and PV applied to hybrid, stand alone and grid connected plants for electricity production."