

EU



Years in Ethiopia



European Union Newsletter 40th anniversary

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Editorial

EU-Ethiopia 40 years of Strong & Successful Partnership

Year 2015 marked the 40th anniversary of the relationship between the European Union and Ethiopia. The European Union-Ethiopia relationship formally started when Ethiopia signed the Lomé Convention in 1975. Today Ethiopia is an important partner of the European Union on regional peace and security issues, climate change, human rights and governance, migration and economic diplomacy. During the visit of High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission Federica



Mogherini in October 2015, it was decided to further enhance a strategic dialogue on these issues of mutual interest. In November 2015, we signed a Common Agenda for Migration and Mobility (CAMM) with Ethiopia. We will continue to define the modalities for this enhanced partnership in 2016.

During these forty years of cooperation, the European Union has also taken the lead in supporting Ethiopia's economic development, and has become one of its major development partners.

Today the European Union's priority areas of cooperation are roads and energy, health, sustainable agriculture, environment and food security and of course democracy and human rights and support to civil society organisations, making Ethiopia one of the major beneficiaries of the EU's development assistance. The 11th European Development Fund (EDF) allocated an initial amount of 745 million to the Ethiopia national programme until 2020 and this amount is only a part of a much larger package that also includes numerous regional and thematic programmes. The European Union is also providing humanitarian assistance and supporting resilience of local communities to deal with climate change related shocks and other food security challenges.

Our relationship with Ethiopia has been long lasting, successful and constructive whatever challenges and obstacles history has thrown in our path. We look forward to continuing to work together to helping Ethiopia to attain middle income status in the next fifteen years. As we move towards that goal together trade will become an ever more important element of our relationship.

Future editions of this new quarterly newsletter will focus on our daily cooperation with all the stakeholders in Ethiopia!

I wish you all an interesting and enjoyable reading experience!

Chantal Hebberecht

EU Ambassador – EU Head of Delegation to Ethiopia

History of the EU delegation in Ethiopia

Planting its first roots in the Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa, in April of 1975, the EU has shared 40 years of history in this country.

The Ghion Hotel was the location of the first office. The EU stayed for 6 months with just one administrative assistant, a driver and the Head of Delegation. In September 1975 the office moved to the Head of Delegation's Residence located in the old airport area in Addis for one year, where the dining room and one bedroom were used as offices. At the time, the Head of Delegation was Mr Willem van



Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa, where the EU was first established

Woudenberg and his first employee was Ato Boiyalew Getachew Abate. Nowadays, the same house is occupied by the current Head of Delegation of the EU to the African Union, Mr Gary Quince.

Since 2000, EU external assistance has undergone a series of important reforms. These include the establishment of the EuropeAid external cooperation office in 2001, the adoption of the European Consensus on Development in 2005, and the adoption of a voluntary Code of Conduct on the "division of labour" to improve harmonisation in 2007. The EU has placed the fight against poverty at the heart of its cooperation policy, in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). An Agenda for Change for EU development cooperation was launched in 2011. Today the EU supports implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The European Year of Development was celebrated in 2015.

In 1976, the office moved to an apartment, in the third floor of a building on Meskel Square, Addis Ababa. The EU staff increased to a total of 15 officers, both expatriate and local. The political context was different then. Saba Fekade, a current member of the local administrative staff, who has been working in the EU Delegation since 1977, remembers "*At that time we didn't have security guards, we worked with a lot of pressure and the place was quite small*".

Beyenech Alemayehu, who has been working with us since 1979 stated that the EU Delegation has changed a lot in terms of new technologies. On 1 December 2009, with the Lisbon Treaty entering

into force, the Delegation of the European Commission was transformed into the Delegation of the European Union to Ethiopia.

In 1979, the EU Delegation, with its 20 workers, moved to the Tedla Desta Building in Bole Road, and stayed there until 1991. Finally, the Delegation moved to the former East German Embassy, its current home, in 1991. Saba recalls "*They had to renovate the building and spend a lot of money to recondition the place for the EU Delegation. At first, it was just the main building and the service house in the garden. They had to build a lot of parts of the current building, because the Delegation hasn't stopped increasing*". In 2009 the EU Delegation to the African Union was established in Addis Ababa and it moved to offices close to the African Union.

The EU-Delegation to Ethiopia, now

The European Union is strongly committed to further expand and deepen its cooperation to support Ethiopia's efforts of implementing the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) which envisions Ethiopia as a middle income country by the year 2025.

The European Union Delegation in Ethiopia has grown considerably, nowadays there are 72 people working in the Delegation in six sections. The Internal Organisation is the following:

Internal Organisation

- Head of Delegation
- Deputy Head of Delegation
- Head of Cooperation
- Political and Press & Information Section
- Governance, Economic and Social Section
- Rural Development and Food Security Section
- Infrastructure Section
- Contracts and Finance Section
- Administration Section



Above: the previous service house, nowadays the Rural Development and Infrastructure Sections. Below: the main EU Delegation building



Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the EU-Delegation to Ethiopia

HRVP Federica Mogherini's First Visit to Ethiopia

On 20 October 2015, the EU Delegation celebrated the 40th anniversary of EU-Ethiopia relations. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, Dr. Tedros Adhanom, and Federica Mogherini, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, issued a joint statement celebrating the 40th anniversary.

In the joint statement Federica Mogherini stated *"We met today and confirmed the strategic relationship, 40 years strong, between the European Union and Ethiopia in promoting economic growth, enhancing peace and security in the region, managing migration and mobility and strengthening the foundations of democracy and inclusivity"*



Part of the EU team with Federica Mogherini

Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Tedros Adhanom stated: *"We recognized that our strong development cooperation should be supported by more private sector engagement. The EU already being Ethiopia's first trading partner, we are determined to enhance our economic relations by upgrading the existing EU-Ethiopia Business Forum and promoting investment from Europe into Ethiopia, creating more jobs and growth."*



Cake in the joint Reception, celebrating the 40 years of the EU Delegation to Ethiopia

Federica Mogherini also paid a visit to the African Union headquarters where she underlined: *"Making the most out of this potential – this is the goal of our cooperation between Africa and Europe. A cooperation we both need – a vital one, for Africa as well as for Europe."*

She stressed the importance of enhancing partnerships with countries of transit and origin of migrants and with the African Union. *"The challenges we face are huge, and they will not be*

easy to overcome. But if we join forces, I am sure we can make it. Our partnership has not yet met all its potential." (Federica Mogherini AU Commission).

Discussions on migration issues during the visit resulted in the signing of a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) between the European Union and Ethiopia on 11 November 2015 at the EU-Africa Summit on Migration in Valetta.

Highlights of Current Projects Liberation of the Golden Hands

On 17 October 2015 in Durame (Kembatta, SNNPR), the NGO Kembatti Mentti Gezzimma (KMG) celebrated the Beginning of the End of the Marginalization and Discrimination of "Fugas" and the discovery of their Human Dignity and of their Personhood. In the presence of the Ambassadors of the United States of America, Israel, Belgium, of the EU team headed by the Deputy Director General of DEVCO and former ambassadors of the EU and Finland, more than 5000 people gathered to greet Fugas (now called Golden Hands) from several Woredas, dancing and singing to celebrate their new freedom.



The Golden Hands celebrating the end of marginalisation and the liberation of the population



Bogaletch Boge

'Fugas' are one of artisan groups who have been marginalized for centuries, and are outcasts from society. The distinct social classes include among others the 'womano' (the gentry), which literally means "the respectable people" and the 'fugas' (potters) the former slaves, who work for the womano, without pay, and live on a dry, unfertile plot of land of the Womano, on the outskirts of both land and society, until they fertilize the land with the ashes and other waste products of their craft.

KMG is an NGO that helps to socially mobilize the communities to address their own concerns, such as gender based violence against women and girls, gender equity and equality. Its founder Bogaletch "Boge" Gebre has been recognised several times by international awards for her contributions to the development of Africa. After earning her PhD in epidemiology in the University of Massachusetts, she decided to return to Ethiopia to protect the rights of women in the 1990s. Since then, she and her sister Fikirte Gebre have launched community consultations village by village to promote protection of women and outcast groups of society.

With more than 10 years of work in the field, KMG and its founder Boge, understood that in order to reduce marginalisation and address human rights violations, the role of civil society is crucial. The key methodology used throughout the years revolved around community conversations trying overcome marginalisation. The fight against Female Genital Mutilation is another way to achieve women's empowerment. Moreover, through law enforcement, human rights, constitutional and legal rights of every citizen, and through the creation of understanding and tolerance, respect and harmony, KMG has managed to create awareness, knowledge and awakening among 'Fugas' and the rest of society' groups.

The EU and Ethiopian partners discussed human rights monitoring



On 7 October 2015 the School of Law of Addis Ababa University organised a conference on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) with support from the Austrian Development Cooperation and the European Union.

The conference gathered together government, academic and civil society representatives. They discussed the implementation of the 188 recommendations adopted at the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council in the UPR process and accepted by Ethiopia in 2014. The focus of the conference was on how to best monitor progress made in implementing these recommendations.

Events that celebrated the 40th anniversary of the EU Delegation



The EU media seminar on 6 October 2015 brought together the EU Delegation colleagues and a group of Ethiopian journalists to celebrate the 40 year anniversary of EU-Ethiopia cooperation. The European Union in Ethiopia Facebook page was also officially launched that day at the EU media seminar in Addis Ababa.

Visit our page:
<https://www.facebook.com/eudelethiopia/>

The Delegation organised two special 40th anniversary cultural events:

With the support of the Embassy of Portugal, there was a performance by the Portuguese choir "Alma de Coimbra" and the Ethiopian Destino Dance Group on 9 October at the National Theatre and a circus performance by Fekat Circus Theatre on 10 October 2015.



Human face of EU-Ethiopia Relations

Interview with Isabel Diaz in Addis Ababa University

Relations between Europe and Ethiopia are not only about state-to-state cooperation. People-to-people contacts are lively and many Ethiopians have close links to Europe. Let's meet a European who has settled in Ethiopia!

Isabel Diaz has been in Ethiopia for 6 years working with Addis Ababa University for the Institute of Catalysis and Petroleum Chemistry. She is married to Michael Sileshi, an Ethiopian man, with whom she has two children. Isabel is promoting Europe-Ethiopia relations in her daily life.

Addis Ababa University (AAU) and the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) have registered a new patent for a technology for defluoridation, using local materials. Isabel Diaz leads the movement that led to the patent of this new technology. The technology is based on the use of natural Zeolite, a volcanic rock, found throughout the Ethiopian countryside.



Isabel Diaz and Kiros Guesh

How many professors from Europe are in Addis Ababa University? Do you think that the number of European scientists in Ethiopia is increasing?

There are approximately 10 European university professors in Addis Ababa University, covering all kinds of fields and areas. The number of European scientists in Ethiopia is not increasing fast, because Ethiopian science is not yet mainstreamed enough. Therefore, I always include "Ethiopia" in the title of my international scientific publications, to show that you can also work in the science field in this country. I want to bring basic science into the chemical industry, because this type of industry is growing, for example in detergent and leather production.

Working in Addis Ababa University is a perfect way to be in contact with local people. Generally, what perception do you think Ethiopian students have of Europe?

Isabel Diaz: For this question we can ask Kiros Guesh, who is a PhD candidate, who has been studying abroad in Spain for three months.

Kiros Guesh: First, we see Europe as an easy access to the scientific needs, and as a source of work. I see Europe as a liberal place where you can have free discussion with your superior. In Spain, I had the

experience of talking equal to equal with university seniors. I learned a lot and I had a cultural exchange, with full facilities.

Isabel Diaz: Students do not consider Europe the same way as the United States; they see Europe closer to them and with a tradition of culture in the science field. Europe is also seen as a step to move to the United States, and work there.

Do you think that in the future, there will be more Ethiopians working in the science field?

Kiros Guesh: I definitely think that there will be an increase in number of Ethiopians scientists going to work to Europe; indeed, I have a lot of friends that work in the science field. However, Ethiopians generally love their homeland, and they are willing to come back and improve their country. At first, they want to go to Europe because of financial opportunities and to enjoy the educational facilities, but later they want to come back to their homeland. Return of graduates is promoted.

Do you consider that there is "brain drain"?

Isabel Diaz: I do not consider that there is "brain drain", because students just go to Europe for financial reasons, at the end, most people of Ethiopia want to come back to their homeland.

Are there students studying abroad?

Isabel Diaz: I sent 8 people to study abroad, thanks to a bilateral program with Spain (they all have returned). Sending people abroad is a very good experience because students not only get education, but they also discover each other's culture. I have sent students from Tigray, Harar and Oromia together to Spain, and they ended up being close friends.

In conclusion, how will you define Europe-Ethiopia Relations?

Isabel Diaz: I think that Ethiopia has a very solid diplomatic relationship with Europe in terms of policy making and macro-environment. The European Union is supporting Ethiopia. However in the field of science education there is still a lot of work to do.

I do not regret any single day of my life in Ethiopia. The rewards for this work are my PhD students.

Isabel Diaz

Upcoming Events

13 January 2016. RESET II (Resilience Building in Ethiopia) Information Meeting. The Rural Development Food Security Section (RDFS) will have a meeting with the main stakeholders; members of the EU+ Joint Program, ECHO, Save the Children and ACF (Action Contre le Faim).

The RESET approach is based on the premise that chronic humanitarian and longer term needs and recurrent food insecurity, can be more efficiently addressed via a longer term resilience approach, linking humanitarian and development actions, than via short term reactive rapid response humanitarian actions and disconnected development activities. The strategy consists of an integrated approach where different partners implement a multi-sectoral resilience program together with the local authorities in a defined geographic area.



RESET II mission in Sekota, monitoring the implementation of resilience interventions in the framework of the RESET I

Among other activities, RESET implies:

- Increased access to basic health and nutrition services, potable water supply, etc.
- Support to livelihoods like improved crop and livestock production and productivity with the promotion of dry land farming practice, access to productive assets, to micro-credit and saving services and local agro-processing schemes, etc.
- Disaster Risk Reduction activities to better prepare the communities to cope with future droughts.
- Natural resources management (rehabilitation of community range lands, integrated watershed management)

21 January 2016, EU + Migration Coordination meeting with Member States.

