



# European Union Newsletter

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## Editorial

# Strategic engagement with Ethiopia and Europe Day 2016



*"World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it"*

Robert Schuman, 9<sup>th</sup> May 1950

On 14 June 2016 the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, met with the Prime Minister Hailemariam of Ethiopia in the margins of European Development Days in Brussels, to sign a joint declaration "Towards an EU-Ethiopia Strategic Engagement". This declaration reflects the EU's strong relations with Ethiopia, emphasising Ethiopia's crucial

role in Africa and its significant socio-economic development. The EU and Ethiopia thereby elevated their 40 year partnership to an even more strategic level in 2016.

This signature in June 2016 followed our Europe Day celebration in May 2016. On 9<sup>th</sup> May 1950, French Minister Robert Schuman proposed the creation of an organised Europe, indispensable to the maintenance of peaceful relations between its nations.

Schuman's proposal was the pooling of French and German coal and steel industries, leading to the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community, which later became the European Union (EU). This cooperation was designed to create common interests among European countries which would lead to gradual political integration. In the aftermath of two world wars, the need for political integration and peaceful cooperation was high.

Schuman's lesson is as important now as it was 56 years ago. The creation of institutions and bonding of common interests is decisive to the maintenance of peace and prosperity. Though the size and scope of the EU has changed considerably in the past 50 years, the ambition of the EU is still to facilitate a strong solidarity between peoples and countries worldwide.

In this newsletter we highlight some of the main activities of the EU Delegation from January to June 2016. We hope you enjoy the reading.



*Chantal Hebberecht*

EU Head of Delegation to Ethiopia

# ECHO drought response

In 2015-16 Ethiopia is experiencing a severe drought which is partly related to global El Nino phenomenon. The European Union has mobilised over € 300 million to support affected communities. In this article we have talked to Dr. Johan Heffnick, head of ECHO, in Ethiopia about the drought response by the EU.

*Can you summarize in three points how best to understand the current drought crisis?*

"To understand this crisis, one must first look at the climatological aspect. The current situation is comparable to previous events which have been happening within the past 30 years in the Horn of Africa. It is more or less the same situation. What has changed is the fact that in the 1980's we had a hostile Government not prone to helping its citizens. Today's Government has stepped up both technical and financial solutions to the drought."

**What is ECHO?**

The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) is the European Commission's department for overseas humanitarian aid and civil protection.

"Second, one has to recognize that prevention can be better. Both the Government and its humanitarian partners need to scale up their efforts in order to acquire and distribute food, water and seeds to the people in need. The response is under way, but the scale of the intensifying emergency needs surpasses the resources at hand."

"Finally, one should look at the factors linked to land policy and governance. Attending to these factors would allow the recurrence of droughts, which are a regular natural phenomenon, without causing disasters."

*In your recent interview with Addis Standard (April, 2016) you mention the necessity of additional partners in transportation and distribution of aid. Do you believe there is a reluctance to use other partners?*



"Well, first the port of Djibouti is a bottleneck in the current distribution of aid. But besides finding additional options for receiving aid, we must also assess the further transportation and distribution of aid within the country. There could be a role to play for both the military and the private sector."

*What are the essential improvements needed to avoid a similar event in the future 5-10 years?*

"To improve the conditions of food security we have to assess the root causes of the drought. The root causes comprise a long list of factors such as demographic growth which causes a significant pressure on the access to land; policy issues of the current land holdings system; technological dimensions etc. To avoid the recurrence of drought crises we have to facilitate a structural transformation which encompasses social, economic, juridical and technological dimensions."

To Dr. Johan Heffnick of ECHO the drought response has been commendable, but the challenges, he says, are enormous!

*These are all issues relating to long-term development. But if a drought strikes in 3-5 years what will be the strongest safeguards against this?*

"I would point to two things. First, the strengthening of the grain reserve system. The grain reserve has been developed since the 1980's, but has remained unchanged for years, and as of yet, the country has not established any seed reserve. These measures would give Ethiopia a better and timelier response capacity. Second, the pastoralist proportion of the population is facing a problem caused by the loss of animals. We need to restock

animals, and then we need to strengthen farmers' cooperatives and associations, which can support smallholder farmers to function as market-oriented businesses."

*How can the EU improve its assistance in Ethiopia?*

"The international community is caught in a dilemma, between long-term goals and immediate relief responses. We need to bridge a middle way between emergency and development. On the one hand, we have the EU and its programmes of long term development, and on the other hand we have ECHO responding to the immediate crises. A middle-way between emergency and development would comprise of resilience building of communities and households."

David Mogollon, Team Leader in Rural Development and Food Security at the EU Delegation shares the idea of linking relief and development. But, he stresses that, if one only pays attention to short term one may lose sight of the structural development.

He highlights the need to ensure close coordination of humanitarian and development efforts with the Government, which still has the primary responsibility for its citizens' wellbeing. There is a need for a strategic dialogue to discuss the root causes of the drought and the development agenda, in order to establish a more effective response to droughts in the future.

The EU Delegation and ECHO support resilience and food security in Ethiopia (RESET II)

The EU supports a number of projects whose objective is to strengthen economic opportunities and resilience of the most vulnerable communities to human-induced and natural disaster crises. With the budget of € 47 million, the ambition is to improve livelihoods and employment opportunities, strengthen the Disaster Risk Management capacities and ensure better access to basic services. This program targets specific vulnerable geographical areas through a multisectoral approach integrating humanitarian and development interventions. New projects under RESET II will be signed soon.

## RESILIENCE

What is resilience?

- the ability to avoid, withstand and recover from disasters and humanitarian crises.

Why resilience?

- There is an urgent need to help people and communities to withstand and recover from increasing shocks, stresses and crises.

How is the EU building resilience in Ethiopia?

- Through different mechanisms and programs. One of the most relevant is the RESET II aiming at being built resilience in selected areas that in the past have been stricken by drought. EU assistance includes support to water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, health, livelihoods, etc.

# Joint Programming in Ethiopia

## Interview with Francisco Carrera, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation

### *What is Joint Programming?*

Joint Programming is a new collaborative approach in which European Union Member States come together to define a common vision, a strategic research agenda and a management structure, in order to address the 'grand challenges' facing Ethiopia.

Certain challenges (climate change, food and energy security etc.) are considered beyond the scope and resources of any one country to tackle. They would benefit from a co-ordinated approach to research. The overall goal should be to ensure a coherent and cohesive response to development challenges, to improve alignment, harmonisation, results-based approach, predictability and transparency, whilst avoiding overlapping or fragmented interventions.

### *Who are benefitting from Joint Programming?*

Overall, three types of actors benefit from Joint Programming. First, the Government of Ethiopia can benefit enormously from the joint effort of development done in Ethiopia. Second, the European Union can benefit by dividing labour and specifying development tasks. Third, donor countries can gain expert knowledge from specific involvement and rewards from strengthened cooperation.

### *What are the challenges to implement Joint Programming?*

There are challenges from at least two sides to implement Joint Programming in development. First, the Government displays an instinctive reluctance towards new programme systems. It is the responsibility of the Joint Programming Partners to establish a genuine dialogue which might produce a common understanding of the benefits from Joint Programming. Second, national donors are reluctant in adopting the Joint Programming agenda. National pride is governing a lot of EU donor projects, and Member States are naturally inclined to hinge on to prestige projects. These are all challenges which may undermine the efforts to harmonizing the development programme in Ethiopia.

### *What is the ambition of Joint Programming?*

Considering the challenges, the ambition is not to implement a complete division of labour between the EU and Member States within the next five or ten years. Rather the aim must be to prove the advantages and benefits of Joint Programming. If we can implement joint programming in the pilot sectors and prove added value on performance then we have something to build on.



The **Joint Programming** Retreat on 13-14 April adopted the following three strategic areas:

1. **Job Creation** (private sector, migration, skills development and urbanisation)
2. **National Resources Management** (food security, resilience, land management and sustainable energy)
3. **Governance** (social accountability, civil society, participation)

## Diplomatic Highlights in 2016

### Foreign Minister Tedros visits Brussels

On 13 January 2016, HRVP Federica Mogherini met with Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom in Brussels

The meeting took place following Mogherini's visit to Addis Ababa in October 2015, where they decided to strengthen bilateral relations through strategic engagement.



### Common Agenda on Mobility and Migration – CAMM

On February 2-4 the European Union team discussed the Valetta Summit on migration and the Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM) implementation.

A follow up visit took place on 30-31 May 2016.

### European Union Team visits humanitarian projects in Somali region

On 28-29 January 2016, Jean-Louis De Brouwer, Director of Operations of ECHO in Brussels participated in a joint field visit by ECHO and EU Delegation in Siti Zone (Somali Region).

Visiting the villages of Bisle and Fadhato, hosting camps of Internally Displaced People (IDP), they were able to discuss with the drought affected host community as well as the IDPs. The livelihoods (mainly livestock) of these communities were depleted due to the drought.



Despite the vulnerability of the situation the affected population is receiving regular support from donors and Government including food distribution, access to water, health, animal feed, etc.

### The EU promotes climate diplomacy

Following the Paris Agreement on climate change the EU Team met with Dr. Shiferaw Tekelemariam, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change to discuss climate change cooperation on 11 February 2016.



### EU commissioner's visit to Ethiopia

On 7 April 2016, several EU commissioners visited Ethiopia in the context of the African Union – European Union College to College meeting. The visit included a field visit to the Somali region to meet the drought affected population.

### Visit from European Parliament: Socialists and Democrats

In the context of the Socialists & Democrats delegation visit to Ethiopia, S&D president Gianni Pittella and MEPs Cécile Kyenge and Norbert Neuser called for a stronger partnership between the EU and Africa to address global challenges. The S&D delegation met the Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, representatives of the African Union, and representatives of civil society.

Concluding the visit, S&D president Gianni Pittella said: *"Europe and Africa are united by their common future. This future could be one of threats and dangers, but it is also a future of great opportunities for peace and development; it is up to the EU and to the European governments to decide the shape this future will take. We firmly believe that African countries and the African Union must become one of the most strategic and close political partners of Europe. Migration, peace, security, climate change, counter-terrorism, development and education; Europe shares the same challenges with Africa, and with Africa we must address all of them"*.



### Celebrating Europe Day 2016

On 9 May the EU Delegation invited many guests to celebrate Europe Day marking the anniversary of the "Schuman Declaration".



### European Book Festival

On 14 May, the EU joined the European cultural institutes at the European Book Festival at the Alliance Ethio-Française. The EU Quiz was organized to students.



### The European Union engages with the Addis Ababa University

On 1 June, EU Ambassador Chantal Hebberecht visited the Addis Ababa University and discussed strategic cooperation initiatives with President of the University Ato Admasu Tsegaye and Vice President Hirut Woldemariam.



### Euro 2016 Football Tournament

On 11 June 2016, several EU embassies organised a youth football tournament to celebrate EURO 2016 cup in France.





## New faces of the EU Delegation

Tanja Haller - Vienna, Austria

Junior Professional

*Why did you choose to come to Ethiopia?*

I am participating in the Junior Professionals in Delegation Programme. Every two years, two individuals are selected from each Member State who then head off to work in the EU Delegations worldwide.

*Can you tell us about your work?*

I work in the Delegation's Governance, Economic and Social Section. My work is mainly related to Governance aspects like democracy, human rights and civil society. I follow-up and analyse developments in these areas. I act as project officer for projects that the EU is facilitating and financing, in close cooperation with the beneficiary institution(s) and Civil Society Organizations in Ethiopia. I help to ensure a timely preparation of contracts for selected projects and follow-up of the implementation of activities.

*What attracts you about the EU engagement in Ethiopia?*

Ethiopia is a country with a lot of potential but at the same time huge challenges. The EU together with the Member States is the biggest donor of development aid in the country. Hence, if done right, there is a real chance of initiating change. For example there are areas where FGM could be reduced from 100% to nearly zero.

*How do you experience work at the delegation?*

I would like to answer the question in relation to the previous one. In the end, the EU engagement in Ethiopia is shaped by the people working in the Delegation. It is not an easy context in which we are working. My colleagues are very motivated and are always looking to find a way to make things happen. In addition, many people here are very critical of their own work, while at the same time believing in the possibility of contributing to the better. This dynamic working environment is definitely what I find most attractive about working here.



Tanja Haller  
Vienna, Austria

## Upcoming Events

### **October-November 2016, EU Film Festival**

European Union Film Festival 2016 will take place from 22 October to 6 November 2016. The festival will show 18 films from different European countries, so it is a unique opportunity for the cinema lovers to discover the European cinema in all its facets. The festival is coordinated by Italian Cultural Institute.

