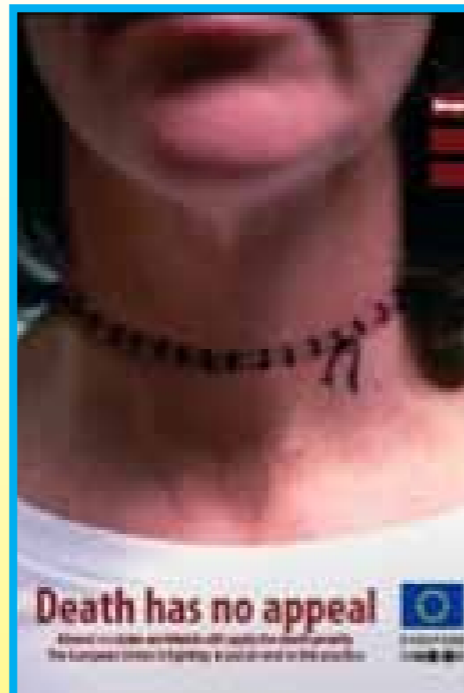


EU Delegation marks World/European Day against the Death Penalty



On 10th October, the EU Delegation to The Gambia hosted a roundtable debate on the death penalty to mark the World/European Day against the Death Penalty.

Approximately twenty participants attended the event, including EU Member States represented locally (UK, France, Spain and Germany), civil society representatives, final-year law students from the Law Faculty at the University of The Gambia, and the press. A short video on the death penalty was shown, followed by a presentation on EU policy on the death penalty. The EU Chargé d'Affaires, Mme Agnès Guillaud explained that the EU was at the forefront of international efforts to abolish the death penalty worldwide. In 2011 alone, the EU allocated €7m, or GMD280m to civil society projects working on abolition. In her presentation, she noted that the worldwide trend towards abolition was positive: as of December 2011, more than 2/3 of countries were abolitionist in law or in practice. Those that had decided to abolish capital

punishment by law increased from 55 in 1993 to 97 in 2012.

A lively and thought-provoking discussion followed, touching on issues such as the obligations of the State, deterrence, the role of religion, providing alternative remedies for victims of serious crimes, and how abolition could best be achieved in retentionist countries.

“Justice is a human activity, and like all human activities, it is bound to err from time to time. This is why on a personal level, as well as in my professional capacity as the Representative of the European Union, I am strongly opposed to the death penalty, because death has no appeal.”



The Gambia- EU Cooperation

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National Assembly Members ratify the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement

On Tuesday 25th September 2012, the National Assembly Members in the Republic of The Gambia ratified the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, also referred to as the Cotonou Agreement.

“The Cotonou Agreement promotes the negotiation for Economic Partnership Agreements with a view to liberalising trade and promoting intra-regional and intra-ACP cooperation whilst it also supports investment and development of the private sector, including public sector investment in infrastructure that promotes the development of the private sector, economic growth and poverty eradication.” Hon. Abdou Kolley, Minister of Finance & Economic Affairs

The Hon. Minister of Finance & Economic Affairs, Mr Abdou Kolley, presented the motion to the Deputies, during which he expounded on the mutually beneficial relationship that The Gambia and the EU enjoys, and which spans over 35 years.

Hon. Kolley reminded the National Assembly that the cooperation between the EU and The Gambia, as well as with other ACP countries, has been guided by the principles of the Cotonou Agreement, which was first signed in Cotonou, Republic of Benin on June 23 2000 and first amended on June 25th 2005 in Luxemburg and again on June 22nd 2010, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

The Cotonou Agreement provides the framework for political, development and economic cooperation between ACP countries and the EU, and its overarching objective is the eradication of poverty.

European Union awarded 2012 Nobel Peace Prize



Statement by HRVP Catherine Ashton on the award of the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize to the European Union

The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Catherine Ashton stated “I am delighted at the

news that the European Union has been awarded the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize, in recognition of its work on reconciliation, democracy, promotion of human rights and in enlarging the area of peace and stability across the continent.

In the countries of the EU, historic enemies have become close partners and friends.

I am proud to be part of continuing this work. The creation of the European External Action Service has enabled us to develop a comprehensive approach to better promote Europe's core values throughout the world.

I will continue to work tirelessly to drive this process forward. “

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DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE GAMBIA

74, Atlantic Road Fajara, P.O. Box 512, Banjul, The Gambia. Tel: +220 4495 146 / 4497 846. Website: www.ecas.europa.eu/delegations/gambia/index_en.htm

Call for Proposals: EU support programme to ACP Cultural Sectors (ACP Cultures+)

The ACP Cultures+ programme, implemented by the ACP Secretariat and financed by the EU, aims to contribute to the development and structuring of cultural industries in the ACP States, including support for ACP cinema and audiovisual sectors.

The first call for proposals, launched in 2011, awarded grants to 21 projects in a number of countries, including West Africa.

The Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Secretariat) is now seeking proposals, under the second call for proposals, for cultural cooperation projects at the intra-ACP States level to (i) reinforce the creation and production of cultural goods and services in the ACP States in an integrated approach with distribution circuits (ii) improve access of the ACP cultural goods and services to local, regional, intra-ACP, European and international markets; (iii) strengthen capacities of cultural stakeholders, operators and entrepreneurs in the ACP States; and (iv) help improve the regulatory environment of the culture sector in the ACP States.

The second call for proposals under the ACP Cultures+ programme aims to award grants to actions with a multi-country scope which meet the

programme's objectives and priorities, and cover the following:

Lot 1: Cinema/audiovisuals (funds available: 10 million euros)

Lot 2: Other cultural creative industries (funds available: 4.8 million euros)

The full Guidelines for Applicants, application form and annexes, and other relevant information are available at the following websites:

EuropeAid: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm (reference: 133395)
ACP Cultures+: www.acpculturesplus.eu
ACP Secretariat: www.acp.int

The deadline for submission of proposal is Thursday, 20 December 2012 at 16h00 (Brussels time). Questions may be sent to acpculturesplus2012@acp.int until 29 November 2012

More information on the projects funded under the first ACP Cultures+ call for proposals (for a total amount of 8.3 million euros in grants) is available at the following address:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm (reference: 130966)

Media Experts Mission to The Gambia: Governance Programme

A team of media experts visited The Gambia this month to meet key stakeholders in the media sector. This included Government communication specialists and media professionals from private organisations. The mission allowed the experts to carry out important preparatory work for the "Journalists and Media" component of The Gambia - EU Governance Programme, which seeks to support the Government and the media to work jointly to keep Gambians informed of developments in the country.

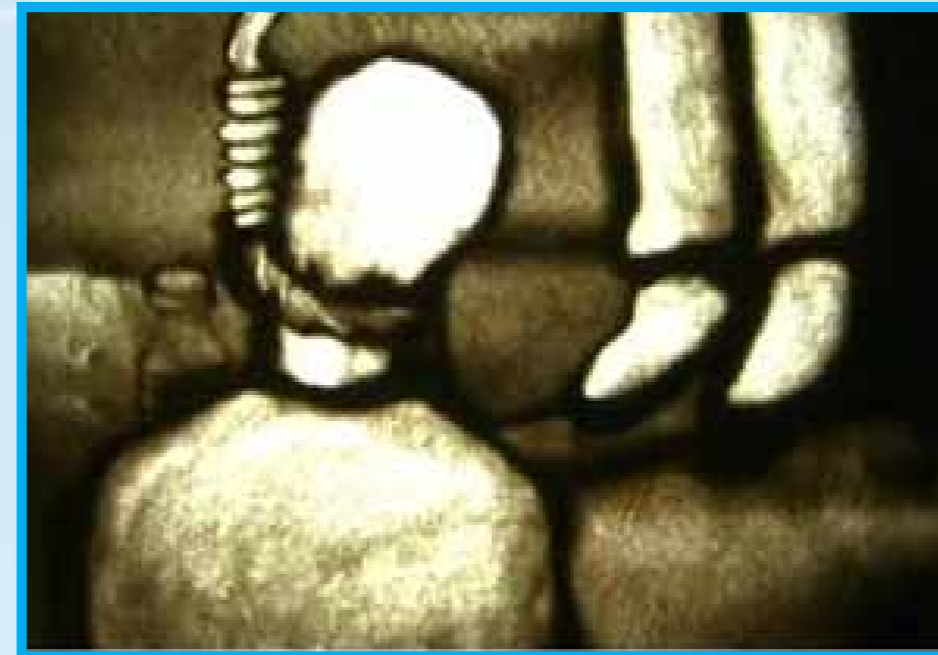
The initial discussions will be followed by a workshop in early November which will bring

together Government representatives and media professionals to discuss openly the initial findings and recommendations of the experts.

The Gambia - EU Governance Programme seeks to support the professional development of the media and the development of the Government's communication and information policy. It will include joint training and discussions to support both sides in achieving the common goal of informing the public about developments in The Gambia.

Press release

European and World Day against the Death Penalty – EU underlines commitment to universal abolition



Brussels, 10 October 2012 – Today is World and European Day against the Death Penalty. The European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment in all cases and under any circumstances. Its universal abolition is one of the key objectives of EU human rights policy.

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Vice-President of the Commission, said: "Capital punishment is a cruel, inhumane and irreversible action that violates the basic human right to life and dignity. In the case of any miscarriage of justice, from which no legal system is immune, it represents a terrible and irreversible loss of human life. The death penalty can neither reverse the crime it seeks to punish nor mitigate a victim's loss. It should be a relic of the past."

The European Union regularly reaffirms its opposition to the death penalty and uses the various diplomatic tools at its disposal – including statements, demarches and Human Rights

Dialogues with its partners – to advance the cause of worldwide abolition. The movement towards abolition is one of the top priorities in its recently adopted Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, as well as under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

While global momentum continues to build toward abolition, 20 of the 58 retentionist countries around the world continue to carry out executions at an alarming rate. Where the death penalty still exists, the EU calls for its use to be progressively restricted and to respect internationally-

agreed minimum standards.

The EU's campaign against the death penalty is equally active in multilateral fora such as the United Nations and is contributing to the adoption of the 67th United Nations General Assembly resolution on a moratorium on use of the death penalty. The EU continues to encourage all States to accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the most fundamental UN international instrument for the abolition of death penalty.

As well as leading contributions to the efforts of civil society organisations aimed at the abolition of the death penalty, the EU is the first regional body to have adopted rules prohibiting trade in goods used for capital punishment (or torture and ill-treatment), as well as on the supply of technical assistance related to such goods.

[link to joint declaration]
http://eeas.europa.eu/human_rights/adp/index_en.htm