

# EU-Ghana Newsletter

## Delegation

Issue 4 September—December 2012

### Editorial

#### Events:

#### High-level visits:

Visit by Commissioner  
Piebalgs—Pg. 2&3

Visit by Managing  
Director Westcott—Pg.  
4&5

#### Focus—EU Cooperation

EU announces Nobel  
Peace Prize—Pg. 6

Call for improved  
democratic process—  
Pg. 7

EU delivers peace  
message to Zongo  
community—Pg. 8

Regional Workshop on  
illegal logging in  
Accra—Pg. 9

Stakeholders deliberate  
on Ghana's Migration  
Policy—Pg. 10

Consultative Workshop  
on new EU  
Programming—Pg. 11

Europe matters—Pg. 12



H. E. Ambassador Claude  
Maerten

### Editorial

I want to address my personal congratulations to the President-Elect John Dramani Mahama following the 7 December 2012 elections.

The electoral process was according to Observation Missions, both international and domestically, free and fair; and peace once again prevailed.

On behalf of the EU Delegation, find below the statement of the High Representative of the EU on the electoral process.

#### Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the Presidential and Parliamentary elections process in Ghana (10/12/2012)

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission issued the following statement :

"Following the announcement by the Electoral Commission of the results of the Presidential elections held on 7 December 2012, I wish to extend my congratulations to President-Elect John Dramani Mahama. As a close and long-standing partner, the EU looks forward to continuing its strong partnership with Ghana with the aim of promoting our common democratic values and supporting the country's continued social, economic and democratic development.

I welcome the peaceful conduct of the Presidential and Parliamentary elections, which took place in an open, transparent and competitive environment. In coordination with the Ghanaian authorities, the European Union has sent an Electoral Expert Mission which will stay in the country until the end of the Electoral process. I would like to commend the Electoral Commission of Ghana for its impartial and overall professional management of the process.

I should also like to pay tribute to the other presidential candidates for their contribution to the democratic process. I would like to praise their pledge made in the Kumasi Declaration to uphold peace before, during and after the elections. I call on the contenders to remain committed to that pledge and to seek redress for any grievances in a peaceful manner through the appropriate legal channels.

My greatest respect and warmest congratulations are reserved for the people of Ghana, who by turning out in such high numbers and in such an orderly and peaceful manner have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to the democratic process in their country. Ghana has once again demonstrated its political maturity, and remains an example to all."

## The EU Commissioner for Development, Mr. Andris Piebalgs visit Ghana – October 30, 31, 2012—Signed two financing agreements with Government

**T**he EU Commissioner for Development, Mr. Andris Piebalgs arrived in Ghana on October 31, 2012, for a two-day working visit. As part of his itinerary, Commissioner Piebalgs met with civil society organizations and later engaged in the signing ceremony of two financing agreements with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP).

The two agreements with the European Union (EU) were for grants totalling €97 million to support decentralisation and maternal health. A total of €52 million of the grant will go into fighting maternal mortality to help the country to achieve Millennium Development Goal Five (MDG 5).

The other part of the grant, totalling €45 million, will be channelled into strengthening decentralisation and local government. The funds are part of the €402 million external funds the EU is offering the country between 2008 and 2013 to support transport connectivity, governance, decentralisation and general budgetary support. The EU Development Commissioner, Mr Andris Piebalgs, signed the agreement on behalf of the EU. He commended Ghana for the progress it had made in decentralisation and its commitment to reduce maternal mortality by more than half. The Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Dr. Kwabena Duffuor, signed on behalf of Government.

Below is a speech delivered on his behalf at the High-Level Forum towards Sustainable Energy for All in West Africa, in Accra. This event, entitled "Paving the Way through Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency" took place in the context of the UN Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Initiative.

### Speech delivered at Energy Forum:

"Let me begin by congratulating you on the important resolutions on energy efficiency and renewable energy adopted today. This is a giant step towards a better energy future for ECOWAS. Your policy on energy efficiency will contribute towards meeting objectives on a number of fronts, such as access, security of supply, economic growth and protection of the environment. And I am very proud that the



**Dr. Duffuor, (left) confers with Mr. Piebalgs (right) before the signing ceremony.**

European Union, through the ACP-EU Energy Facility, has supported you in these efforts.

Alongside this, your policy on renewable energy will help take great strides towards better use of all the renewable energy resources that are largely available in the region and remain mostly untapped, such as mini hydro, solar, wind and biomass, to name but a few."

**SE4All and Agenda for Change** - Today's resolutions will make a clear contribution to the targets we have set as an international community under the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. This bold initiative, launched by the United Nations Secretary-General, has been supported by the European Commission from the very outset. That support has never waned. Indeed, at the EU Summit on Sustainable Energy for All in April 2012, President Barroso set the ambitious goal for the European Union of helping developing countries to provide 500 million people with access to sustainable energy services.

For the EU, the time for talking is now over; that's why we're now busy turning words into deeds. Accordingly, the Commission has mobilised over half a billion euro for Sustainable Energy for All this year alone.

An EU technical assistance facility of 65 million euro is already in place. Moreover, we intend to mobilise at least 400

million euro for energy-related actions in African countries, all over the next 2 years, and this through leveraged innovative financial instruments that should result in concrete investments of 4-8 billion euro on the ground.

On top of all this, I am also glad to announce that a new call for proposals under the ACP-EU Energy Facility, worth 75 million euro, was launched yesterday. And this is just the start. Over the longer term, with the implementation of our Agenda for Change, mapping out priorities for EU development assistance from 2014 onwards we can expect to add another several hundred million euro to these amounts in sustainable and inclusive energy investments every year – again highly leveraged, again resulting in investments on the ground worth billions of euros.



**Dr. Kwabena Duffuor (left), Minister of finance and Economic Planning, exchanging the agreement signed with Mr. Andris Piebalgs, EU Development Commissioner (right).**

[Continued on pg. 3](#)



Of course, the EU is no stranger to such activities in this part of the world. We are already supporting the energy sector in its development programmes in West Africa at regional and country level. We are particularly proud to be providing 60 million euro in support of the West African Power Pool in Benin. In Burkina-Faso we have put 63 million euro into the construction of the biggest solar power plant in Africa. With 96 000 solar panels, this plant will help bring an adequate electricity supply to more than 400 000 people.

I strongly believe that action at national level and action at regional level can complement one another perfectly; this is particularly true for energy. In this regard, I'm very pleased that ECOWAS and ECREEE are going beyond the policy on energy efficiency and have introduced practical programmes like the phasing-out of inefficient incandescent light bulbs by 2020. But to be effective, these ambitious measures need

to be implemented in the whole region, not in Ghana alone. To take the light bulb example, if people can purchase older bulbs in neighbouring countries, where the regulations do not apply, the effect of the ban in Ghana will remain limited.

All this being said, I believe that Ghana and the wider region are very much on the right track. In this regard, I welcome another important initiative developed in the White Paper – the commitment towards universal access to safe, clean, affordable, efficient and sustainable cooking. With sound policies and well-crafted projects like these in place, I am convinced that, together, we can bring real and lasting change to the lives of the 300 million people in the ECOWAS region.

## Event Commissioner Piebalgs visits the Banana Plantation at Asutsuare

**Commissioner Andris Piebalgs on October 30, 2012, visited the Banana Plantation of Golden Exotics Limited and the Compost plant of the Volta River Estates Limited (VREL) at Asutsuare and Akuse respectively in the Eastern Region.**

He was accompanied by the Head of the EU Delegation to Ghana, Ambassador Claude Maerten, the Head of Cooperation at the Delegation, Mr. Kurt Cornelis and other officials of the EU and was conducted round the plantation by officials of Golden Exotics Limited and VREL. The visit enabled Mr. Piebalgs and his entourage to experience at first hand, the processes involved in the cultivation, processing, packaging and exportation of fresh bananas to European markets and to other western and African countries.

At the Compost site of VREL, The Director of Agriculture Mr. Anthony Kofi Blay, explained that VREL in 1996 obtained recognition as a Fair Trade partner from the Max Havelaar Foundation in Holland and is till date the only producer of Fair Trade bananas on the African continent. Environmentally, he explained that it was not too difficult for VREL to obtain the certification because from the beginning it had minimized the use of agro-chemicals. To replace the use of chemicals, VREL uses mainly manpower and is therefore able to provide permanent jobs to a staff of about 600 people in a region with an estimated 40% unemployment rate.

Mr. Blay noted that without the Fair Trade (FT) label, VREL would not have survived till now because the guaranteed minimum price offered by the FT enabled the company to survive under the EU quota conditions as non-traditional ACP producer and exporter. Currently the company has 250 hectares of banana plantations under cultivation on four different sites with total expected annual production of 5000 to 6000 tons. About 600 tons of produce is sold on the local market.

The tour of Golden Exotics Limited was to the plantation fields, the packing houses and the pump stations. Mr. George Kporye, the Administrative manager at the company, explained the daily activities at the various places visited.



Commissioner Piebalgs (left), inspecting compost at the VREL. Demonstrating the compost composition is Mr. Blay (right) the



Commissioner Piebalgs (middle), inspecting the packing house of the banana plantation at the Golden Exotics Limited. He is accompanied by other officials of his Commission and the Delegation to



## “Africa and the EU: Moving Forward or Time for Change?” – Dr. Nicholas Westcott, MD for Africa, EEAS

**D**r. Nicholas Westcott, Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service (EEAS), paid a working visit to Ghana from 11 to 14 September, 2012. Dr. Westcott, formerly the British High Commissioner to Ghana and non-resident Ambassador to the Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Niger and Togo from January 2008 to January 2011, was on his second official visit to Ghana as Managing Director for Africa since his appointment to the EEAS.

During his visit, Dr. Westcott met with the President of the Republic, the two former Presidents, some Ministers, Political leaders of the main contesting parties and Government officials at separate meetings. He also addressed a lecture in Accra on 13 September 2012, on the topic “Africa and the EU: Moving Forward or Time for Change?” It was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, government officials, civil society organizations, students and the media.

### The full Speech delivered by Mr Westcott:

A year ago, I set out in a speech in Brussels a vision for the EU's relations with Africa after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. Much has happened in the intervening year, and it is timely to review Africa's relations with the EU once again – this time on African soil.

Some of the problems identified then have improved. At the beginning of this week, a new, representative Parliament in Somalia, voting in Mogadishu itself, elected a new President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, thus finally bringing to an end the Transitional Federal arrangements and beginning a new phase in Somalia's recovery from the conflict and division that has plagued it for 20 years or more.

On the other side of the continent, the problems in the Sahel have been getting worse. The crisis in Mali, leading effectively to a collapse of the state, pose the people of Mali and the international community with a new set of challenges that will take time, willpower and effort to resolve.

At the same time, on the African side a new AU Chairperson has been elected with a mandate for change – the first woman, the first South African. On the EU side, the debate and the process has begun over what the next European Development Fund, the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF, should look like and how we should programme our support for African (and other ACP) countries.

So it is a good time for fresh thinking on the relationship, maybe even for a fresh start. We certainly need a new narrative for the EU-Africa relationship that escapes from the clichés of the past and reflects the reality of the present. We need to ask the question: should we be moving forward along existing lines; or is it time to change direction?

### So what is the present reality?

The pace of change in Africa is accelerating. On a continental average, growth has been accelerating to 5% or more, with some spectacular growth rates, like Ghana's 14% last year, and others less spectacular. Population is growing, trade is growing, investment is growing. Prosperity is beginning to take hold in some countries, imports of consumer goods are growing. Diets are improving. And poverty is falling. Real progress is being made towards the MDG targets. We will not achieve them all or everywhere. But the focus and effort that they stimulated has been valuable in moving countries towards those targets.

All this is still patchy. The rewards are going to the politically stable and economically reliable. Too many countries do not yet fall into that category. Some that we thought did, like Mali, turned out to be more fragile than we realised. But the number of stable countries is growing, and Ghana is among them. So the reality is of an Africa that is beginning to realise its potential, a potential that remains huge. There are still big challenges of development – making government more honest and efficient, spreading benefit, overcoming poverty, releasing not restraining the entrepreneurial capacity of the people.

But the resources to deal with them are becoming available, from oil and gas revenues, raw material exports, remittances, capital markets, and a growing services sector. As Africa becomes more integrated into the global economy, the opportunities increase. The breakthrough into large-scale manufacturing has not yet happened. In many places the infrastructure, including financial infrastructure, still cannot support it. But the markets and the entrepreneurial potential are there.



Continued on pg. 5



Continued from pg. 4

### Speech by Dr. Westcott

The critical variable in this reality is politics. Where a political system has evolved that allows for a **balance** between the different groups within a state, provides a peaceful means of **succession** from one leader to the next, ensures **accountability** between the governors and the governed, so that people begin to **trust** not just the politicians but the political institutions as a whole (justice, police, military, as well as parliaments, executives and electoral commissions) – then it is possible to unlock the economic potential of a country in a way that accelerates growth and, in due course, spreads benefit.

Building roads, increasing agricultural production, providing healthcare, all are useful contributors to development. But without the magic key of an accountable and efficient political system, much of the investment will be wasted. People say that Elections are expensive – a topical issue here in Ghana. But they cost a great deal less than civil war.

### What of Europe?

I cannot pretend that Europe is not going through a period of difficulty and uncertainty. The financial crisis of 2008 revealed weaknesses in the construction of the eurozone and the financial practices of some member states. The economic adjustments necessary to live within the euro are proving far harsher and less politically acceptable than many expected. But the cost of disintegration, of leaving the euro, would be economically devastating. Squaring this circle, finding a formula that is economically sound enough to persuade the markets, and politically acceptable enough to persuade the people, is proving tough.

No-one knows exactly what will happen. You could make a fortune if you did. But the history of the EU would give rise to some optimism. However politically intractable problems have seemed, a solution is eventually found, because member states decide it has to be. It is still better to hang together than hang separately. As an observer or participant of EU negotiations for nearly 30 years, I have seen this happen over and over again. But I also see that things are never quite like the last time, and this crisis is the most serious yet.

Whatever solution is found, things will not be just as before. The crisis will have a long term impact on the direction of the EU, and on its global role. It is already having a serious impact on the public finances of many member states. Fortunately, the largest have been firm in their pledge to maintain development assistance volumes – the UK, France, Germany, the Scandinavian countries all remain committed. So the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF will go ahead.

Africa and Europe do not exist in a vacuum. The world around us is changing fast. Though Europe remains by far the

largest trading partner, investor and donor in Africa, it is the emerging economies whose trade and investment here is growing fastest. And this points to a crucial reality: that it is increasingly trade and investment, not aid, that is driving Africa's development and growth. Both Africa and the EU must adapt to that reality. Aid will give way to investment. So for African governments, having an attractive investment climate will become more important than being a dutiful development partner. This needs to be reflected in the re-balancing of the EU-Africa partnership.

As indicated above, development walks on two legs – an economic one and a political one. Our relationship needs to reflect both. The Cotonou Treaty recognised this in providing, in its Article 8, for a political dialogue as well as a development partnership. This has sometimes been misunderstood – as merely a vehicle for European lectures on human rights. This is wrong. The political dialogue reflects an increasingly dynamic partnership both on governance and regional security issues.

The AU and regional organisation – ECOWAS here in West Africa – play a key role in this. I have indicated above the importance of developing political stability on the basis of representative government. While we all adhere to the idea that there are limits to external interference in any country, we

are also conscious that bad governance and civil war in one country can have drastic and deleterious effects on its neighbours – through contagion of violence, refugee flows, economic disruption, . They have a legitimate interest in promoting peace.

So recent crises in Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire and Mali, as well as in Somalia and Sudan, have evoked common responses, and ones where the EU has worked hand-in-hand with the regional organisation and with the AU to help resolve them and restore peace to the region. One thing that has impressed me since starting this job is the closeness and substance of our partnership with the AU on peace and security issues. We have an open and honest dialogue that helps us cooperate on problems, like Somalia and the Sahel, that concern us both. This will not only continue under the new chairperson, but I hope intensify.

So I believe there is scope for a fresh start, for a new narrative for Africa-EU relations. It has two overriding themes: economic cooperation that encourages the transition from aid to investment, and closer political cooperation to resolve the outstanding conflicts in Africa and prevent new ones by using our respective roles to reinforce each others' actions. I look forward to pursuing these ideas with the governments of Africa and their regional organisations in the months ahead.



## Elections 2012

### EU confident of peaceful Elections in Ghana and announces 2012 Nobel Peace Prize

**T**he Head of the EU Delegation to Ghana, Ambassador Claude Maerten, on Tuesday, October 16 told the Ghanaian media that it is with peace building that Ghana and its neighbours in Africa can achieve meaningful economic integration. He called for free fair and peaceful elections in December.

He was announcing to the media the award of the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize to the European Union by the Norwegian Nobel Committee. The Committee decided to award the EU and its forerunners with the Prize because they have for over six decades contributed to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe.

Ambassador Maerten addressed the media flanked by his colleague Ambassadors from the EU Member States in Ghana (United Kingdom, Netherlands, France, Spain, Germany, Italy Czech and Denmark).

He stressed that the EU was confident that at the end of the elections in Ghana the voters' verdict will be respected.

In response to a question of whether or not there will be an electoral observation mission in Ghana to monitor this year's election, Ambassador Maerten, said, Ghana has demonstrated electoral credentials over the past elections since 1992.

He said the EU was confident that Ghana's internal democratic institutions were up to the task and that the elections will be successful and peaceful. Because of this confidence Europe deems it not necessary to send a fully fledged Observation Mission to monitor the elections, but there will be an EU expert mission.

The purpose of the expert mission is to collect factual information concerning the on-going electoral process and to produce reports. It will also provide recommendations for the

future EU activity in electoral support. Ambassador Maerten observed that the EU is also supporting the main institutions involved in the electoral process, (Electoral Commission, National Commission on Civic Education, and the National Media Commission) since the 2008 elections.

On the Nobel Prize, ambassador Maerten said the EU was active in peace building around the world and engaged in actions to promote peace, with the need to continue to act in the tenants of the United Nations to promote peace. He pledged that he and his colleague ambassadors in Ghana will share and promote democracy, rule of law and human rights. For this cause, the EU has been awarded the Nobel Prize.

#### Background:

The Norwegian Nobel Committee decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2012 to the European Union. In a press statement the committee stated "The EU is currently undergoing grave economic difficulties and considerable social unrest.



The Norwegian Nobel Committee wishes to focus on what it sees as the EU's most important result: the successful struggle for peace and reconciliation and for democracy and human rights.

The stabilizing part played by the EU has helped to transform most of Europe from a continent of war to a continent of peace. The work of the EU represents "fraternity between nations" and amounts to a form of the "peace congresses" to which Alfred Nobel refers as criteria for the Peace Prize in his 1895 will."

The official ceremony to present the prize to the EU will be done on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012, in Oslo, Norway. The Prize will be received on behalf of the EU by Presidents Van Rompuy, Schulz and Barroso. The Nobel Peace prize money will be given to projects that support children affected by war and conflicts.

## Launch of the NMC Media Monitoring Programme supported by EU

**T**he Head of the EU Delegation to Ghana, Ambassador Claude Maerten, on Thursday October 24, 2012, stated that democratic rule including elections are difficult processes rather than a final state of the art, hence the need to continuously strive for improvement. “We cannot say we have succeeded. It is important for all stakeholders to contribute to peaceful elections”.

He was speaking at the launching of the Election 2012 Media Monitoring Programme of the National Media Commission (NMC) in Accra. The programme supported by the European Union (EU) is under the theme “Free, Fair and Peaceful Elections 2012, the role and responsibility of the media”.

Ambassador Maerten said the EU has been reshaping its approach to electoral assistance in the past years with an approach of favouring long term support strategies; working with electoral management bodies, civil society and to link these interventions to wider democratic governance activities.

He said several recommendations to improve electoral processes in Ghana were made by the different Election Observation Missions following the 2008 elections. Among these recommendations, were of particular importance, the revision of the media regulatory framework and the establishment of clear monitoring mechanisms through the strengthening of the NMC.

“A free and fair election is not only about casting a vote in proper conditions, but also about having adequate information about parties, policies, candidates and the election process itself so that voters can make an informed choice. A democratic election with not media freedom would be a contradiction in terms, but the paradox is that, in order to ensure the freedom, a degree of regulation is required.”

The Head of Delegation said the support of EUR 1 million to the NMC was to enable it to procure a comprehensive computer-based monitoring system, train monitors, supervisors and media analysts, organise debates and roundtables for reviewing the media professional guidelines: revise the media regulatory framework in order to introduce effective content regulation. He said the EU support to the NMC’s capacity to effectively monitor the media will be crucial and would help prevent electoral violence.

The Executive Secretary of the NMC, Mr. George Sarpong, said the main responsibility of the Commission in media regulation is to establish standards for professional media practice, monitoring of the standards and enforcement of

standards based on monitoring. He said the support by the EU covers the three aspects. He said the Commission now have equipment to undertake scientific research to monitor the media. The first report on the monitoring was made public on November 6, 2012. The report will then be made available subsequently every week.



**Ambassador Maerten, Head of EU Delegation, delivering his address**

The Chairman of the NMC, Ambassador Kabral Blay-Amihere, commended the EU for the support noting that media monitoring will become a major programme in the media landscape in Ghana even after the 2012 elections.

He said the year 2013 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Commission and that the monitoring role is only being commissioned for implementation under the 6<sup>th</sup> commission because of lack of resources.

“It is the responsibility of the state to empower institutions created by constitution to promote the core values that strengthen democracy”

Ambassador Kabral-Amihere said with the EU support, the NMC was currently working on a Constitutional Instrument (CI) that will enable NMC to respond to challenges of expanding media landscape dominated by broadcasting stations. “We will use this platform to monitor the media and expand from the pilot programme in Accra to the rest of the country well after the elections”.



**Some members of the National Media Commission, the Diplomatic Corps and some journalists at the launch of the programme.**



## EU deliver peace message for Election 2012 to the Zongo communities in Accra

**T**he Head of the EU Delegation to Ghana, Ambassador Claude Maerten on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 addressed the youth of Sabon Zongo community on the need for peace during and after the 2012 general elections.

This was during the launch of the Zongo Youth Peace Campaign for 2012 Elections in Accra. The Campaign is aimed at preaching peace to the youth of the Zongo community and to educate them on the roles they can play to ensure peace during the elections.

Ambassador Maerten implored the youth of the Zongo community to take the issue of peace seriously reminding them that violence does not lead anybody to victory but it can lead surely the country to chaos and the most deprived, the



**Ambassador Claude Maerten, Head of EU Delegation, delivering the peace message**

most vulnerable would suffer more, with no benefit at all for them in the future.

He encouraged all Ghanaian voters and especially the youth to participate in the voter exercise and contribute their vote to decide on their own future stressing that whoever is the winner of the 2012 elections will be elected by the majority of Ghanaians and this choice belongs to Ghanaians only.

Democracy he stated is not only about using the best technologies to prevent vote irregularities, it is also about and foremost the respect of the choice of the majority with due respect for the minority. It is about the respect of the defeated party as well as the winning party before, during and after the elections.

Ambassador Maerten, lauded the new registration system in



**Dignitaries at the function including opinion leaders, traditional and religious leaders in a group photograph**

place for the December Elections stressing that the new system will give better guarantee to the results of the elections.

“By implementing these two new systems, Ghana is reaching the best standards in terms of reliable registration, quality and transparency of the final results and all should be proud of the steps taken to move forward Ghana’s

democracy”

Officials of the National Commission on Civic Education, educated the youth on their responsibilities during the elections, urging the youth to help prevent violence by adhering to the rules and regulations of the elections. They observed that the youth is the most vulnerable group usually influenced by politicians to carry out acts that whip up political tension, urging them not to allow themselves to be used to disrupt the elections. They spoke about the dos and don’ts of the elections.

The Assemblyman of the area, Mr. Yakubu Abana Asoke, pleaded with the EU to assist the community to equip with employable skills, over 1,200 disabled people in the community who are currently unemployed and have been prevented by bye-laws of the city from begging on the streets.

He also pleaded for assistance to deal with filth and waste in the community and to improve the sanitation of the area which has contributed to various communicable diseases.



**Ambassador Maerten, interacts with women of the Zongo community after delivering his peace message to them.**



## Regional Conference on illegal logging in West and Central Africa

**T**he Head of the EU Delegation to Ghana, Ambassador Claude Maerten, on October 23, 2012 said the European Union remains committed to supporting both the negotiation and implementation of the Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) and eagerly anticipates the first Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) licence.

He was addressing about 130 participants from governments, civil society and the private sector gathered in Accra from October 23 – 25, 2012 for the regional conference on FLEGT themed “Experiences from the VPA process in West and Central African countries”.

The representatives from West and Central African Countries are meeting in Ghana to strengthen cooperation on the European Union initiative to crack down on the illegal timber trade. It was organized by the Forestry Commission of Ghana in partnership with the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) through its Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Support Programme for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP-FLEGT Support Programme), the EU FLEGT Facility and the Strengthening African Governance Project.

Ambassador Maerten said there have been many developments on the international market since the first VPA negotiations began in 2007, noting that The US has amended its Lacey Act, which now makes it illegal to import illegal timber. The EU has introduced the EU Timber Regulation, which also serves to reduce the trade in illegal logging. The EUTR comes into force in March 2013 and much is being done within the EU, both by the relevant authorities and the private sector to ensure that each has made the necessary preparations to meet this deadline.

The challenges ahead are many he observed stressing that “We should seek the same spirit of collaboration between all stakeholders in the implementation of agreements as we had during the negotiations. If we fail to continue to work in this way, we risk undermining all that we have achieved to date.



We recognise the potential that these VPA processes offer, not just to reduce the trade in illegal timber between the EU and our partner countries, but also to strengthen forest governance more broadly.”

“We also understand from recent research that through their proactive and effective engagement of civil society in particular, these Agreements also offer real potential for poverty alleviation. Our challenge now is in realising that potential!”

The Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. Kojo Owusu Agyeman in his opening address said poor forest governance is the root cause of forest degradation in Africa and that the VPA became a popular document for forest governance. Ghana’s VPA with the EU he said, began in 2005 when negotiations were concluded. He said the VPA demonstrates that stakeholders can sit to resolve issue and build consensus if all parties fulfil their part of the deal.

Ghana’s objective for entering the VPA is to obtain support from partners to manage its forests and also to ensure that only legal timber enter Ghana and leaves Ghana into Europe. We hope to build synergies from the VPA.

He announced some interventions by Ghana to support the agreement such as the passing of the Timber resources license regulations to promote the VPA, efforts to enable the Forestry Commission to prosecute forest offenders and soon to be adopted the use of certified timber for all government projects.



Participants at the workshop

## Stakeholders deliberate on Ghana's Migration Policy

**A** National Stakeholders Meeting on Migration Policy Development was held in Accra on October 4, 2012, under the Theme “Mainstreaming Migration into the National Development Strategy in Ghana”.

The meeting brought together stakeholders from relevant multi-disciplinary teams represented by Civil Society Organisations, Development Partners, Foreign Missions in Ghana, Government Sector Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Consultants developing the Policy, the media and officials of the International Organisation on Migration (IOM), organisers of the meeting.

The meeting took stock of actions undertaken in the area of migration with regards to the Migration policy which is currently in the fourth draft stage. It is expected that the deliberations will lead to the final draft of the policy before it is presented for high level consideration.

Addressing the meeting, the Head of the EU Delegation to Ghana Ambassador Claude Maerten, called for more coordination and coherence between all actions implemented by the partners in the area of migration, stressing that the human dimension of Migration should be kept at the center of all the actions and that stakeholders should not lose sight of the evolving economic needs of labour markets and dynamic societies.

He stated that migration cannot be managed by governments in isolation and that “Within this field, no one will succeed by acting on its own”.

He said the EU strongly believes that the development of a comprehensive and coherent migration management and development policy for Ghana would serve as a guide for mainstreaming migration issues into the government's development framework at all levels.

Mobility constitutes the overarching framework for EU external migration policy. It will thus be even more integrated with the EU's external policies, including foreign policy and development cooperation. EU also action should become more migrant-centred, with the aim to empower migrants and strengthen the human rights of migrants as a cross cutting issue in countries where needed through cooperation with its partners. Inter-regional migration outside the EU should also be addressed.

Ghana has since the adoption in 2005 of the EU Global Approach to Migration, been one of the countries where migration assumed a prominent role in the bilateral development and political dialogue with EU and its Member States.

Ambassador Maerten said the EU Delegation and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, beside providing financial support for the development of the Ghana National Migration Policy, are currently formulating under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF, together with the main stakeholders, a project that will contribute to the Government of Ghana's efforts to



A group photograph of participants at the migration meeting

manage migration through the establishment of an Integrated Migration Management Approach that will focus on Migration Policy, Border Management and Data and Knowledge Management.

The Chief of Mission of the IOM, Ghana, said the meeting was an important step towards finalisation of the Migration Policy for Ghana. She commended Ghana for

prioritising the development of the migration policy stressing the need to build synergies between migration policy and national development.

The policy she noted covered wide areas of issues concerning Ghana needed for development. “Your participation will ensure that the needs of Ghana are inculcated in the policy”

A representative of the Government of Ghana from the Ministry of the Interior said the Ministry's expectations were that the final document of the policy will be good and flagged as the best in migration anywhere.



## EU engages stakeholders in Consultative Workshop on the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF Programming

**T**he European Union Delegation to Ghana in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning on November 28, 2012 in Accra, engaged stakeholders in a Consultative Workshop on the programming of the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF).

About 80 stakeholders including Civil Society Organisations, Government ministries, departments and agencies (MDA's), the private sector and development partners exchanged ideas with the EU Delegation on priorities and possible focal areas for 11<sup>th</sup> EDF funding which will cover the period 2014 – 2020.

Ambassador Claude Maerten, Head of the EU Delegation to Ghana, in introductory remarks, noted that though it can not be excluded that the overall size of Europe's budget for external aid will be reduced in the coming years as a consequence of the financial crisis,, it is necessary for Ghana to do more with the aid that it gets from the EU. He stressed that it is important to show to the European tax payer that every euro spent on external aid is beneficial to Ghanaians.

He said even though Ghana is in transition towards becoming a middle income country, there are still many developmental challenges to be dealt with. Therefore Ghana can count on continued EU assistance for the period 2014-2020, while at the same time recognizing the Government's commitment to make the country gradually less aid dependent.

The Chief Director at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Mr. Enoch H. Cobbinah, in his remarks, said the Government looks forward to the funding that would become available under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF programme and is prepared to apply the resources in areas that will make the most impact in the development process and to foster inclusive growth. He said following consultations with Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs), three thematic areas have been proposed: Good Governance, Agriculture and Education linked to job creation.

Mr. Kurt Cornelis, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Ghana gave a presentation on the key features and principles of the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF programming process, while Mr. Bruno LeClerc, Resident Manager of the French Development Agency (AFD) informed the audience on the ongoing efforts deployed by the EU Delegation and the EU Member States to jointly program their available resources for development cooperation in Ghana for the years to come.

### Background:

The EU Delegation proposes that the future focal sectors of 11<sup>th</sup> EDF funding in Ghana, should respond well to Ghana's challenges of transforming its country into a consolidated middle income economy thereby putting emphasis on the respect of good governance and democratic principles, sustainable growth and the inclusiveness of its development in conformity with major objectives of the EU's development policy, the so-called Agenda for Change.

The future programs to be funded under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF should also be in line with Ghana's national development strategy, currently the GSGDA 2010-2013, as well as with the **Compact for "Leveraging Partnership for Shared Growth and Development" over a ten year period (2012-2022)**, signed on 21 June 2012 at the 2012 Consultative Group (CG) meeting, between the Government of Ghana (GOG) and a group of 15 Development Partners (DP's).



Officials at the workshop. From right, Mr. Cornelis, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation, Ambassador Maerten, Head of EU Delegation, Mr. Cobbinah, Chief Director, MOFEP, and Ms Addo, MOFEP

The Compact builds on both the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA) 2010-2013 and the Ghana Aid Policy & Strategy (GAPS) 2011-2015 and is inspired by earlier adopted sector policies, but it is conceived as a "living" document, which provides the flexibility to review, modify and adapt it to its context in accordance with changing circumstances and newly adopted strategies.

Bearing in mind that the EU Delegation and the EU Member States were fully associated with the editing of the Compact and that they were satisfied with its content and quality, it was proposed to use the GOG-DP Compact as the document that will be the foundation for the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF (and EU Joint) Programming process.

Under the label of EU Joint programming, the EU Delegation, the European Investment Bank and eight EU Member States represented in Accra are jointly preparing a Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) which will include proposals for sector involvement, based on an agreed division of labour but respecting already on-going bilateral country strategies as well as first steps towards a synchronization of respective programming cycles.

## “From war to peace: a European tale”

European Union



Recipient of the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize®



### Address by Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council & José Manuel Durão Barroso, and President of the European Commission on the acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize Award to the European Union — December 10, 2012

**K**ey messages from the Nobel Peace Prize Lecture delivered by President Van Rompuy and President Durão Barroso in Oslo on 10 December 2012:

#### President Van Rompuy said:

"At a time of uncertainty, this day reminds people across Europe and the world of the Union's fundamental purpose: to further the fraternity between European nations, now and in the future."

"This is where the European Union's "secret weapon" comes into play: an unrivalled way of binding our interests so tightly that war becomes materially impossible. The Union has perfected the art of compromise. No drama of victory or defeat. For this, boring politics is only a small price to pay."

"So, where there was war, there is now peace. But another historic task now lies ahead of us: keeping peace where there is peace. After all, history is not a novel, a book we can close after a Happy Ending: we remain fully responsible for what is yet to come."

"Our continent, risen from the ashes after 1945 and united in 1989, has a great capacity to reinvent itself. It is to the next generations to take this common adventure further. I hope they will seize this responsibility with pride."

#### President Barroso said:

"Several generations of Europeans have shown again and again that their choice for Europe was also a choice for freedom."

"Our Union is more than an association of states. It is a new

legal order, which is not based on the balance of power between nations but on the free consent of states to share sovereignty."

"The uniqueness of the European project is to have combined the legitimacy of democratic States with the legitimacy of supranational institutions: the European Commission, the European Court of Justice."

"My message today is: you can count on our efforts to fight for lasting peace, freedom and justice in Europe and in the world."

**The full speech is now available on the link**

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_SPEECH-12-930\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-12-930_en.htm)



José Manuel Barroso, President of the EC (Middle), Herman van Rompuy, President of the European Council (right), and Martin Schulz, President of the EP (left), receive and display the award when they went to Oslo to participate in the award ceremony of the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize® to the EU.

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