




EU-Ghana Newsletter

Delegation

Issue 1 October—January 2012

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| <p>Editorial</p> |  | <p>Editorial</p> |
| <p>Events:</p> | <p>H. E. Ambassador Claude Maerten</p> | <p>I am very pleased to renew our tradition of issuing a newsletter, to inform you about what we do in Ghana and to explain the scope of the long and deep partnership we have with Ghana since so many years.</p> |
| <p>2. MDG Initiative</p> | <p>In this edition you will learn what the EU has delivered so far for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The European Commission has decided on 21st December to grant additional support to Ghana totalling EUR 52 million (GHS 110 million) to enable Ghana achieve the MDG target on cutting the maternal mortality ratio by two thirds. We are proud and committed to achieving this important goal which will change the lives of many families and indeed also impact on Ghana's socio-economic development. With this additional support, the total EU aid will increase by 12% to about EUR 470 million (equivalent to One billion Ghana Cedis) during the period 2008-2013.</p> | <p>3. Police Forensic Laboratory</p> |
| <p>3. Police Forensic Laboratory</p> | <p>The EU has different instruments available to provide more targeted and specialised support. It is in this context that it has been possible to finance the refurbishment of the forensic science laboratory for the Ghana Police Service for EUR 3 million. The facility which is the most advanced laboratory of its kind in West Africa, was inaugurated on December 15th by H.E. the Vice President Mr. Dramani Mahama. This is good news for Ghana and it will contribute to fighting crime and improving security in the country. As you will discover, we have also given some support to the Ghana Immigration Services.</p> | <p>4. EU/WA EPA Forum</p> |
| <p>4. EU/WA EPA Forum</p> | <p>You will also read the latest news on the protracted West Africa – EU trade negotiations which are not far from a happy end, but it is now for the politicians and ministers to decide on the last trade offs for a global agreement. In the meantime, thanks to the bilateral Interim EPA, Ghana has continued to sell its products to Europe duty free and quota free, which is a substantial comparative advantage and helps Ghanaian exporters to keep and increase their presence on the EU market. The European Commission has made a proposal to amend its Market Access Regulation which transformed in EU law the IEPA initialled in December 2007. With this proposal Ghana will have to sign and ratify the IEPA at the latest by end 2013 in order to maintain the best possible access to the EU market.</p> | <p>5. World Death Penalty Day</p> |
| <p>5. World Death Penalty Day</p> | <p>The economic situations of Europe and Ghana are far apart. Ghana was the fastest growing economy in 2011 and its growth rate should again approach 10% in 2012, while Europe and many other developed countries are in a deep economic and financial crisis, world economic developments are likely to have an impact on</p> | <p>6. Presentation to GIS—</p> |
| <p>6. Presentation to GIS—</p> | <p>7. Migration</p> | <p>8/9 Agenda for Change / Budget Support</p> |
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Ghana's economic activity although we are pleased to see how resilient the economy is, mainly because of high gold and cocoa prices and of the oil production that came on stream. In Europe, a new treaty between 26 EU Member States is being drafted in order to implement more budgetary discipline and economic convergence. The EURO is the 2nd world currency and it will remain so. There have been many articles in the press biding on the collapse of the EURO, but 10 years after its entry into force we can say that the EURO is irreversible. The years to come will be difficult in Europe, but the EU will keep its solidarity with the developing world. A central aim of the Lisbon Treaty, the creation of the new European External Action Service on 1st January 2011 under the authority of the High Representative Catherine Ashton was an important milestone in strengthening the EU's institutional capacity to rise to the external challenges. Human Rights and democracy are at the heart of the EU external action towards a more effective approach as proposed in a recent communication. Catherine Ashton said in her speech to the European Parliament on 13 December 2011, "*the EU works to have human rights running as a silver thread through a truly integrated range of external policies*".

In December the European Commission adopted budget proposals for nine external instruments under the proposed Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020. This includes the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) which is supporting the National Development Plans of the African Caribbean and Pacific countries, members of the Cotonou Agreement. The European Commission has proposed the total envelope of the EDF to €34 billion over the period 2014-2020. The 11th EDF will allow the Union to fulfil its responsibility: fighting poverty and promoting democracy, peace, stability, human rights, democracy and prosperity. This newsletter also highlights that in the area of development cooperation, these budget proposals will further support the 'Agenda for Change' which proposes that the EU should concentrate aid in fewer sectors and focus on democracy, human rights and good governance and creating inclusive and sustainable growth.

Ghana has a long tradition of democracy, 2012 is the 6th election year since the 1992 Constitution. We all realise that the stakes are high as in any country. All our best wishes for peaceful, free, fair and transparent elections. Dear readers, on the behalf of the EU delegation staff, I wish you a happy and prosperous new year which will see the furtherance of the partnership between Europe and Ghana.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): European Union gives additional support of EUR 52 M to Ghana for tackling Maternal Health

The European Commission decided that starting from 2012, additional support to the tune of 110 MGHS (52 M€) will be given to Ghana to reduce maternal mortality and achieve the MDG 5 targets. This high quality project, has been selected because it aims to deliver concrete results by reducing maternal mortality and improving health care services. The initiative to give additional support to African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, to help them achieve the Millennium development Goals, was launched by the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso at the UN summit in September 2010.

With the additional funding the European Union will support the implementation of the 'MDG Accelerated Framework and Country Action Plan', developed by the Ministry of Health to combat maternal mortality. The three key priority intervention areas identified are improving family planning, skilled attendance at delivery and emergency obstetric and newborn care, which will be supported through sectoral budget support.

With this funding the European Union seeks to join

hands with Ghana to reduce the unacceptable high burden of mothers dying while giving birth by a minimum of two third by the year 2015. This is the statistical target as defined by the MDG on maternal health, but the global ambition is bigger, and the EU is proud to participate in the national campaign launched by the First lady, Mrs. Ernestina Naadu Mills 'Ghana cares: No woman should die while giving life'.

The European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs, commented: "*This additional EU support will make a major contribution to the fight against poverty. In line with our recent proposals for the future EU development policy, the 'Agenda for Change', we will invest our money where it is needed most and where we can achieve real results.*"

The MDG initiative from the European Union mobilizes additional funding for African, Caribbean and Pacific countries who's MDGs are most off-track. The money stems from one of the EU's main instruments of development aid, the 10th European Development Fund (EDF). It envisages a total extra financial effort of €1 billion.



EU hands over to Ghana Police Service a Refurbished Forensic Laboratory

The 16th December 2011 marked a special day for the Ghana Police Service when the European Union (EU) handed over a Forensic Laboratory refurbished at a cost of EUR 3 million. It is expected to bring about the provision of the highest quality scientific analysis to enhance the criminal justice system in the country.

The laboratory has been equipped with state of the art equipment for DNA testing and analysis, chemical analysis, photography laboratory, document analysis and facial composition software, among others. It is expected to serve both private and public institutions as well as individuals. Specific training on the procured equipments has also been provided.

In the case of capacity building to date, 36 Police officers have been given specialist forensic training abroad in France and Lithuania, 20 officers have been trained in general forensics in Ghana and 31 officers have been trained in Ghana on crime scene investigation in a Training of Trainers (ToT) capacity. A DNA consultant was contracted to train the staff in DNA resting/analysis.

The Vice President John Mahama inaugurated the facility stating that scientific investigations had become paramount in virtually all cases that needed some judicial determination.

He said formidable forensic support was a sine qua non in contemporary law enforcement and criminal investigations and therefore, the refurbished facility was an important resource for the Police Service, other law enforcement agencies, as well as private and corporate individuals and bodies respectively.

Ambassador Claude Maerten, Head of the EU Delegation to Ghana, said the laboratory was a timely addition to Ghana's crime-fighting

machinery, adding that with the refurbishment, the capacity of the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) would be considerably strengthened.

He said the inauguration of the Forensic Science Laboratory is the beginning of an ongoing process towards obtaining and maintaining an international Accreditation. This process can take years to achieve but the most challenging part has been done with the completion of the Laboratory and the training of its core staff.

Vice President Mahama and Ambassador Maerten together cut the ribbon to open the laboratory and accompanied by journalists and other stakeholders, toured the new building to have several practical demonstrations on the various machines and ongoing processes at the crime scene lab and also at the new shooting range for forensic purposes.

The Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Paul Tawiah Quaye said the police intends to use the facility to serve Ghana, as well as neighbouring countries to enhance criminal investigation in the sub-region. He specially stressed the importance of the follow up training of the crime scene investigators and strongly counts on experts from the EU area.



An equipment at the laboratory



Vice President Mahama and Ambassador Maerten of the EU, jointly cut the tapes to inaugurate the facility



EU -West Africa EPA current negotiations

Teams from the European Union Commission and the Economic Commission for West African States (ECOWAS) have met in Accra, November 15-19, 2011 for a round of negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

Ghana is among 16 West African countries seeking to seal this trade and economic pact compliant with World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules, with the overall objective of boosting regional integration and promoting free trade between the two trade blocks.

The parties have made good progress on Rules of Origin, which had been a bone of contention in previous negotiations and are now about 95 per cent agreed. They have also concurred that some areas of West African economies need to be protected.

These areas include agriculture, which would be about 70 per cent protected. In addition, the EU has set aside a fund to support ECOWAS countries to help their integration process and also help them remove some bottlenecks in the business environment.

Ghana and the EU already initialled an Interim EPA (IEPA) in December 2007 to conform to World Trade Organisation (WTO) requirements for preferential trade deals between WTO members. Since the initialling of the IEPA in December 2007, Ghana has exported a third more to the EU, which would not have been possible without the agreement in place.

Ghana has now to sign and ratify the interim agreement in order to seal the legal void. On that basis, the agreement would enter into force and would allow developing its full potential for the benefit of the development of Ghana, notably this would be a strong signal to the private sector to expand further their investments in the country.

Per the EPA, Ghana should start opening gradually its market to European goods on reciprocal terms by January 2013.

The European Commission has proposed a change to its Market Access Regulation 1528/2007, which allowed the 36 ACP countries like Ghana who

initialled an EPA end 2007 in order to export to the EU quota-free duty-free.

This was an interim measure in advance application of the EPA agreements (awaiting the signature and ratification processes).



Ghana exports banana to the European market

This EU offer was made in good faith on the principle that benefitting countries would take the necessary steps for the ratification and final entry into force of the agreement.

The regulation, which was supposed to be a temporary bridge-gap remedy to sustain trade and exports between the two regions, would under the European Commission's proposal remove early 2014, those countries which fail to ratify and start implementing their EPA agreements.

So Ghana can no longer linger on the question of signature and ratification: the country now has to ratify the IEPA quickly otherwise it risks losing important trade preferences which could derail some economic sectors (in agro-industry and fishery) and lead to high unemployment.

The final objective for the EU remains to have a global EPA with West Africa in its entirety and the EU is fully committed to concluding this negotiation, in the mean time the IEPA is good for Ghana, is good for our bilateral partnership and the private sector on both sides which try to nurture more economic ties between the two continents.



World Death Penalty Day observed in Ghana— October 10, 2011

The Delegation of the European Union to Ghana, on Monday October 10, joined the rest of the world to commemorate the EU/World Day against the Death Penalty, with a press conference in Accra.

The Head of the Delegation, Ambassador Claude Maerten, read a declaration by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, Catherine Ashton in which she pledged her continued personal commitment, as well as that of the European Union, to doing away with the death penalty, which has no place in the modern world,"



Ambassador Claude Maerten addressing the media. With him is Mr. Judikael Regnaut, Political Officer at the Delegation

The abolition of the death penalty worldwide is one of the main objectives of the EU's human rights policy. The EU considers the death penalty inhumane and a violation of human dignity. It also does not deter violent crime.

Any capital punishment resulting from a miscarriage of justice, from which no legal system can be immune, represents an irreversible loss of human life.

The EU plays the leading role in and is the biggest donor to efforts by civil society organizations around the world to campaign for the abolition of the death penalty.

The EU uses all available tools of diplomacy and cooperation assistance to work towards the abolition of the death penalty. Where the death penalty still exists, the EU calls for its use to be progressively restricted and insists that it be carried out according to internationally-agreed minimum standards.

The EU encourages public debate, strengthening public opposition and putting pressure on retention countries to abolish the death penalty, or at least introduce a moratorium as a first step.

The EU also acts against the death penalty in multilateral forums, such as the United Nations; a culmination of this effort has been the series of resolutions on the moratorium on the use of the death penalty, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

Human Rights Defenders Deliberate on Human Rights issues—October 6, 2011

The European Union Delegation and Member State officials met a group of Human Rights Defenders in the country to exchange views on the topic of Human Rights as a cross cutting issue in the field of international, bilateral and European policies.

It formed part of activities to mark the World Death Penalty Day by the EU Delegation in Ghana.

Discussions focussed on the following issues:

- * Rights of the Child
- * Gender and Governance
- * Public awareness and access to justice
- * Economical and social rights
- * Rights of minorities



EU PRESENTS VEHICLES

— Ghana Immigration Service

The European Union (EU) has presented Five (5) Mitsubishi Double Cabin Pick-ups to the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS). The donation of the vehicles which cost EUR 93,000 forms part of many other key resources to be provided under an EU funded project called ‘Countering Human Smuggling & Other Irregular Migration’.

This project is aimed at building the capacity of the GIS and its partner agencies to use information gathering and intelligence knowledge and skills, coupled with the increased expertise of its officers, to effectively tackle the criminal networks behind organized irregular migration.

The Head of the EU Delegation to Ghana, Ambassador Claude Maerten, presented the keys to the vehicles to the Director of Migration DCOP Dr. Peter Wiredu at a ceremony in Accra on November 4, 2011.



Ambassador Maerten (left) presenting the keys to the vehicles to DCOP Dr. Wiredu of the GIS

Mr. Maerten said Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) is an extremely serious crime and a gross violation of human rights, which can be classified as a modern form of slavery.



The five pick-up vehicles

The Fight against trafficking in human beings has been – and is – a priority for the EU. The European Union's anti-human trafficking policy takes a holistic approach focusing on prevention, the protection of victims and prosecution of criminals.

“We believe that GIS, even through EU support, would be able to enhance its capabilities in dealing with THB thus developing new threat assessment methodologies, defining intervention priorities and establishing links with national security strategies as well as with regional security strategy to respond to emerging threats and react more quickly to the new forms of human trafficking.”

In conclusion, The Head of The EU Delegation stated that the TBH cannot be managed by governments in isolation and stressed the need more coordination and coherence between all the actions implemented by the partners.

DCOP Dr. Wiredu commended the EU and other partners from the EU Member states for the support in this era of donor fatigue, adding that the collaboration will be deepened to the benefit of all in the years ahead.





GHANA - EU COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION

— Support to the Ghana Immigration Service

The European Union (EU) migration policy with non EU countries has been developing very rapidly over the past few. The EU set up the **Global Approach to Migration (GAM) in 2005 to address all relevant aspects of migration in a balanced and comprehensive way in partnership with non-EU countries and since then approximately 300 migration-related projects in non-EU countries have been funded by the European Commission, amounting to a value of EUR 800 million.**

On the November 18, 2011 a new communication on the **Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM)** was adopted by the EU. With this new Communication the EU proposes to further strengthen dialogue and operational cooperation with non-EU partner countries in the area of migration and mobility. EU action becomes more migrant-centred, with the aim of empowering migrants and contributing to strengthening their human rights in countries of origin, transit and destination. Inter-regional migration outside the EU should also be addressed.

The GAMM framework covers four equally important thematic pillars: Organizing and facilitating legal migration and mobility, Preventing and reducing irregular migration and trafficking in human beings, Promoting international protection and enhancing the external dimension of asylum policy and Maximising the development impact of migration and mobility

Ghana has since the adoption of the first GAM been one of the countries where migration assumed a prominent role in bilateral development and political dialogue with the EU. Lately this role has been further increased as its impact is increasingly felt in various sectors. This is because migration not only brings enormous benefits such as remittances and brain gain, but is also associated with some challenges such as brain drain, xenophobia and many others.

The current EU financial assistance to carry out initiatives under the GAMM is provided through a range of external instruments, both geographic and thematic, with different programming and

management cycles. In Ghana, the EU Delegation in cooperation with the relevant Ghanaian stakeholders are using the different financial instruments in a complementary way to achieve an effective migration management process.

Thematic instruments are being used to strengthen the Institutions to fight irregular migration - especially the Ghana Immigration Service- and to support regular migration schemes - being implemented by International Organization such as IOM. Geographical instruments are being used to help Ghana to develop a migration policy to ensure that the country maximizes its gains from migration while minimizing its costs.

Since 2005 EU has committed funds to thirteen projects on migration that are of relevance to Ghana. Nine of these projects are active at the moment. Aside from five initiatives targeting Ghana only (for an estimated amount of EUR 4.2 millions, the other ongoing and completed projects are regional or multi-country).

Ghana Immigration Services (GIS) has been one of the main beneficiaries of the EU support with two grants awarded under the Asylum and Migration budget lines (one completed in June 2010 and one being implemented) for an amount of EUR 3.6 million. Through the past EU financial and technical support, the GIS has been able to strengthen its capacity to fight illegal immigration by countering document frauds.

EU and its Members States (notably UK, NL, DK and SP) under the ongoing project ‘Countering Human Smuggling & Other Irregular Migration’ are now aiming to build the capacity of GIS. Ghana has in fact become a country, not only, of origin of irregular migrations but also of transit and even in some case of destination This situation has provided an economic opportunity for organized crime, already well versed in smuggling a range of contraband from Africa to Europe and within West Africa.

With the EU support, the GIS would be in a better position to enhance its capabilities in dealing with trafficking in human beings thus developing new threat assessment methodologies, defining intervention priorities and establishing links with national security strategies as well as with regional security strategy to respond to emerging threats and react more quickly to the new forms of human trafficking.





AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE— Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy

EU Development Policy has been revised on the basis of a public consultation, a so-called **Green Paper**, in order to support inclusive growth and sustainable development in third countries. This consultation draws on several references such as the **European Consensus on Development (2005)**, the **Commitment to aid effectiveness (2005)** and the **Lisbon Treaty (2009)**.

An Agenda for Change has then been prepared for a higher impact of EU support and a faster progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Agenda focuses on four improvements:

- **Concentration** of sectors of intervention,
- **Differentiation** between beneficiaries, with a geographical focus on countries most in need,
- **Coordinated EU action**,
- **Improved coherence** among EU policies.

CONCENTRATION

It has been agreed that a higher impact of EU aid would be gained by concentrating resources on a limited number of sectors, thus increasing the EU's critical mass. Priority has been given to good governance and inclusive and sustainable growth for human development, while using climate change, agriculture and energy to drive sustainable development.

A maximum of three sectors per country would therefore be chosen, among the following policy priorities: good governance (democracy, human rights), foundations for inclusive growth (e.g. social protection, health & education), drivers for growth and job creation (e.g. business environment, regional integration) and sectors with strong multiplier impact and contributing to environmental protection, including climate change prevention/adaptation (sustainable agriculture and efficient renewable energy).

In terms of implementation, the recourse to innovative financial instruments (blending...) will be increased.

DIFFERENTIATION

EU has decided to target resources where they are needed and where they have greatest impact.

Development assistance will be allocated according to partner countries' needs, capacities, commitments and performance, as well as the potential EU impact. Supporting development in the Neighbourhood and Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as in fragile countries, will remain a priority. With more advanced developing countries, other types of cooperation and new partnerships will be explored with diversified modalities (e.g. loan-grant blending, technical cooperation, twinning's, etc.). Partnership based on mutual interests with emerging economies and strategic partners will be developed.

COORDINATED EU ACTION

Joint programming of EU and Member States' aid will become the rule. Partner country's strategy will be supported by developing joint multi-annual programming documents with Member States synchronised with partner countries' strategy cycles. Joint EU response strategies or donor strategies will be defined where possible, containing a sectoral division of labour. Joint action will be implemented, in particular through single EU budget support contract, EU trust funds and delegated cooperation. A Common EU results reporting framework will be adopted.

IMPROVED COHERENCE AMONG EU POLICIES

Future Multiannual Financial Framework will reinforce the existing Policy Coherence for Development. New thematic programmes will be implemented, building synergies between global interests and poverty eradication, e.g. joint approach to security and poverty or relation between development and migration.



BUDGET SUPPORT — A new EU approach

In October 2011 the European Commission issued a communication on "The future approach to European Union (EU) budget support to third countries". The communication stresses the continued importance of budget support instrument but also the need to find the right balance with other aid delivery modalities.

Moreover, the EU expresses a need to link it stronger to the fundamental values of the EU (human rights, democracy and rule of law) and to better differentiate budget support operations. In particular, the EU now envisages three different types of Budget Support (BS):



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Good Governance and Development Contract (replacing the old General Budget Support), where there is trust and confidence that aid will be spent pursuing values and objectives to which the EU subscribes, **Sector Reform Contract** and **State Building Contract**, tailored for Small Island States and Fragile Countries.

In general terms, the EC calls for strengthened eligibility criteria (including better assessment of the three standard criteria and introduction of a new one on transparency and oversight of budget) and for a strengthened EU Coordination in Budget Support management and delivery, with a view to increase BS effectiveness and coherence and to work towards a "single EU Good Governance and Development

Contract", if possible.

In practical terms this would mean to share at EU level all initial assessments and diagnostics on partner countries in terms of BS eligibility conditions and to harmonize risk assessment tools, while promoting a coordinated dialogue on mitigating actions.

Also, the Communication fosters the use of delegated cooperation to get the best expertise available and to jointly communicate to local stakeholders budget support disbursement decisions and analysis on compliance with disbursement conditions.

EU General Budget Support and complementary support to Public Financial Management in Ghana.

In 2011, the European Union (EU) in Ghana disbursed a total of EUR 26.4 million to the Government of Ghana for the year 2011 through the Ghana's Multi-Donor Budget Support (MDBS) framework. This disbursement was in the context of the Millennium Development Goals Contract (MDG-Contract).

The MDG-Contract, which is the EU's approach under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) for longer term and a more predictable general budget support, was signed by the EU and the Government of Ghana in July 2009. Under the financing agreement of the MDG-Contract, the EU is to provide a total of EUR 174 million as general budget support to Ghana over the years 2009-2014, with an overall objective of contributing to sustainable growth and poverty reduction in Ghana so that the country can attain middle-income status including the achievement of the MDGs. In 2009 the MDG-Contract was reinforced by two complementary instruments (i.e. EUR 15 million Food Facility –disbursement in 2010 and EUR 35 million Vulnerability-Flex disbursed in December 2009) which brought the total of the EU's current budget support programme in Ghana to EUR 224 million.

This 2011 disbursement followed the satisfactory conclusions of the 2010 Multi Donor Budget Support (MDBS) annual review, conducted last May, as well as the demonstrated commitment by the Government of Ghana towards attaining macro-economic stability, implementing the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA) and in improving the country's public financial management. In 2012 a total disbursement of around EUR 30 million from the MDG-Contract to Government of Ghana's budget is expected. Further to general budget support, the EU has committed EUR 9 Million to support the Ghana Integrated Financial Management and Information System (GIFMIS) project which seeks to implement a renewed Integrated Financial Management Information System that uses a government-wide Information Communication Technology (ICT) platform to deploy modern best practices in budgetary planning and budget preparation, budget execution, and financial/fiscal reporting,

Plans are far also advanced to provide additional assistance to boost domestic accountability through providing support to the Ghana Audit Service and to the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, to enhance domestic resource mobilization by strengthening the Non-Tax Revenue Unit of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and also to assist Ghana to adopt and implement its Transfer Pricing regulations.

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