



**Presentation of Letters of Credence
Ambassador Jernej Videtič
Head of Delegation of the European Union
Georgetown, 9 September 2015**

Your Excellency Brigadier David Granger, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana,
Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to present my credentials here today as the Ambassador of the European Union to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana. I would like to take this opportunity to convey the best wishes of the President of the European Council, Mr Donald Tusk, and the President of the European Commission, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, to the representatives and the people of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

This is of course a very important year for Guyana given the general and regional elections which took place in May. I wish the new Government the very best in furthering the development of Guyana.

2015 is a special year for our relationship for a number of reasons: 2015 is the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the European Union Delegation in Guyana, which ushered in a close and mutually beneficial partnership between Guyana and the EU, based on shared values, which continues to this day and which I intend to build on during my mandate as Ambassador. I find it auspicious that I commence my mandate here in the "European Year for Development", the motto of which is "Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future".

Guyana has always played a prominent role in regional and international relations, especially in formulating international development policies. Indeed, this year we mark 40 years since representatives from close to 80 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries met here in Georgetown to sign an agreement which created the ACP Group of States and became the Group's fundamental charter.

2015 is also a critical year for the entire planet: in December the COP21 summit takes place in Paris with the objective of securing an ambitious agreement that will ensure the world remains on track to keep global warming below a 2° C increase limit. All countries are affected by

climate change, most of all vulnerable states. We, the EU and Guyana, can do a lot by acting together in international fora to bring about change to protect our fragile planet.

Another extremely important event is this month's United Nations Sustainable Development Summit which will decide on the Post-2015 Agenda. Guyana has again showed its continuing engagement in shaping international development policies by having played a prominent role in the preparations for this summit, serving as co-facilitator for consultations on the Financing for Development Conference which took place in Addis Ababa in July this year – on which depends the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the post-2015 Agenda. This new Agenda will also influence the new post-Cotonou framework.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I conclude by thanking you for accepting my Letters of Credence so promptly, and indeed for the warm welcome I have already enjoyed in the few short days that I have been in your beautiful country.

Thank you.