

## The European Union and DEA-International sign a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen links between Parliament and political parties



Left to right: European Union Ambassador, Javier Niño Perez, the President of the Senate, Senator Simon Dieuseul Desras and IDEA Program Director, Mrs. Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassègue

The European Union and International IDEA officially signed on February 4 2014, a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen links between the Haitian parliament and political parties. The event took place in Parliament, in the presence of the President of the Senate, Simon Dieuseul Desras and press representatives.

In his opening remarks, the Honorable Senator Desras welcomed this initiative as proof of the two institutions willingness to support dialogue

between political actors and strengthen the democratic process in Haiti.

Mrs. Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassègue thanked the EU for giving the Institute the possibility to pursue efforts, initiated in 2011, support political parties and parliamentarians to achieve sustainable and effective democracy. She also acknowledged the contribution received from the Presidents of the two chambers in designing this program.

EU Ambassador, Mr. Javier Nino Perez expressed his satisfaction to be in the Senate, in "the house of the people" in such circumstances. He stressed that the EU gave high priority to good governance based on dialogue. He also stressed the need



Ambassador Perez and Mrs. Lassègue signing the protocol

to contribute, through this project, to the strengthening of Haitian institutions at the level of the Legislature, the Judiciary and the executive.

With this project funded by the European Union's IDEA renew their commitment to supporting the Haitian State and democratic structures in reinforcing the rule of law in Haiti.



The French Chargé d'Affaires in Haiti, Dominique Delpuech and EU staff at the signing of the protocol