



# DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

## PRESS RELEASE

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### EU Head of Delegation in farewell visit to Belize

Prior to ending her tour of duty, Head of the EU Delegation to Belize, Paola Amadei, will be in Belize from January 20 – 25, 2016. She is scheduled to meet with senior representatives from the Government and Diplomatic Corps as well as call on Governor General of Belize, Sir Colville Young, over the period.

On January 21, Ambassador Amadei will also participate in the inauguration of the renewed Punta Gorda Market in the Toledo District, and of the upgraded Hopkins Road in the Stann Creek District. Both are key infrastructural development projects under the Belize Rural Development Project (BRDP), implemented through the National Authorizing Office (NAO). EU funding for the Punta Gorda Market amounts to around BZ\$ One million (~400,000 Euros), while the Hopkins Road upgrades total BZ\$ 6.3 Million (~2.9 Million Euros). Both initiatives will help boost economic development and activity in those areas and enable local residents to benefit from increased economic opportunity. The two projects are a sample of the many implemented over the last few years under the BDRP, ranging from the Maya House of Cacao, to the markets in Belmopan and Independence; from the facilities of the YWCA's, to the training provided through the Belize Botanical Gardens.

She will also speak at the Grant Launching Ceremony for a project with UNICEF. This project, aimed at creating an environment for the protection of children from violence and abuse, is partly funded by the EU, totalling nearly BZ\$ 300,000 (~130,000 Euros).

Following numerous avenues of cooperation between the EU and the people of Belize, including BZ\$110 Million (50.9 Million Euros) disbursed over the four year period of her post, Ambassador Amadei has described this last visit as bittersweet. During her posting many strides have been made in the EU-Belize relationship she noted that: *"The EU-Belize partnership has really continued to flourish. While focus is on the very crucial development work, it now involves in-depth political dialogues, a trade relationship that continues to improve year on year, and working together on shared global values including in multilateral fora, for instance, on Climate Change including the recent success at the COP21 Summit in Paris. The EU has also been a dedicated partner in supporting the peaceful resolution to the Belize – Guatemala differendum with the objective of creating an area of peace and prosperity for the people of both countries. With various future projects and collaborations in tow, I look forward to hearing even greater things coming out of Belize. "*

She spoke also on the opportunity of her next undertaking as Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation in Hamburg, Germany: *"I am sad to be leaving, but Belize and the Caribbean will stay with me as I take up my new position, where I will look towards the interests of the wider EU relationship with Latin America and the Caribbean. I won't soon forget the wonderful experience I have had here."*

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