



DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

PRESS RELEASE

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EU Ambassador on official visit to Belize

Head of Delegation for the European Union to Belize, Ambassador Paola Amadei is currently visiting Belize. On Saturday, May 16, The Ambassador attended the official opening of the Maya House of Cacao. This initiative, operating under the Belize Rural Development Programme, has sought bring advancement to not just the growth of the cacao industry in the area, but also to bring tourism to an area steeped in history since the original Maya peoples processed the cacao bean.

Throughout this week the Ambassador will be seeing the progress made in some of the many EU funded projects within the country, inclusive of developments in the banana sector.

Ambassador Amadei will also bring greetings to Prime Minister Dean Barrow on Wednesday May 20, to discuss the various projects and advances in the Belize-EU relationship, as well as preparations for EU – CELAC Summit in June and the pivotal United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in November. She is also meeting other Government officials, representatives from donor agencies and local EU project partners.

On Thursday, May 21, she will give an in-depth overview on the EU-Belize partnership on Channel5Belize programme *Open Your Eyes*.

Speaking on the timeliness of her visit, Ambassador Amadei reiterated that *"As our Delegation celebrates Europe Month, and its message of peace and cooperation, it is my hope that my various stops here in Belize show all concerned how special the EU-Belize relationship is. Many lives are impacted, especially those with least resources, and it's for this reason we keep pushing for these projects that mean so much to those involved."*

The Ambassador will depart Belize on Thursday, May 21.

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Notes for editors:

Further information on EU-CELAC Summit:

http://eeas.europa.eu/top_stories/2015/150610-11_eu-celac_en.htm