



DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

PRESS RELEASE

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EU Ambassador visits Belize during Independence Celebration period

The Head of Delegation for the EU to Belize, Ambassador Paola Amadei, is going to be in Belize on Thursday, September 17, in time to attend various celebratory events as Belize marks 34 years of independence. She noted that *"The Belize-EU relationship has blossomed this year, with lots of achievements to celebrate, and so it's a pleasure to be here in Belize and participate in events to honour Belize's independence celebrations."*

Ambassador Amadei will meet with the Hon. Wilfred Elrington, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on September 17. Discussions will centre on the progress of EU partnership, as well as global issues of mutual interest including the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in November and opportunities for further collaboration. She will also join EU member state Heads of Mission accredited to Belize for a luncheon with Mr. Elrington the day afterward. Additionally, she will meet with Hon. Senator Joy Grant, Minister of Energy, Science & Technology and Public Utilities, on Friday September 18. Throughout the course of her visit she will also speak with representatives of the diplomatic corps, representatives from donor agencies and local EU project partners.

On September 23, two EU-funded projects will be in focus. The first event will see the handover of Vocational Training Equipment at the Georgetown Technical High School in Dangriga in the Stann Creek District. This project, funded from resources of the Banana Accompanying Measures (BAM) programme, will benefit the school that has previously received funding from the EU. Following this event, there will be ceremony at Monkey River Village in the Toledo District, where a refurbished village community centre will be handed over. This project, with contributions from the EU and the Government of Belize amounting to over BZD\$1.5 Million, is part of a support programme, in which nineteen (19) community centres, located throughout Belize, have been rehabilitated.

Ambassador Amadei spoke on both projects: *"We are proud to be involved in these kinds of projects that benefit the people of Belize on a personal level. As this partnership continues, the EU looks forward to future efforts that will benefit Belizeans as a whole."*

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