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## DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION PRESS RELEASE

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European Union Director for Development in Caribbean and Latin America reasserts partnership with  
Jamaica – announces JMD\$951 million in Budget Support disbursements

The EU's Director for Latin America and Caribbean for Development and Cooperation Jolita Butkeviciene this afternoon completed her first visit to Jamaica.

During her four day comprehensive tour, Ms Butkeviciene made a courtesy call to Prime Minister the Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, and met with the Ministers of Finance and Planning; Industry and Health. The Director also had several high level meetings with representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade; Justice and National Security, as well as the Planning Institute of Jamaica, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and World Bank.

The meetings focused on the EU's ongoing development cooperation with Jamaica, and provide a better understanding of the Government's economic reform programme. EU development cooperation payments is forecasted at **JMD\$ 7 billion** for 2013 and includes support to the sugar and banana sectors, poverty reduction and social intervention, human rights, security and justice reform.

Over the years, the EU has allocated **JMD\$6.3 Billion (€46.925 Million)** to the banana sector and **JMD\$20 Billion JMD (€ 148 Million)** to the sugar sector. Meanwhile, the ongoing and highly successful Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP) has benefitted from over **\$6 Billion JMD (€41.5 Million) in funding**.

Critical to the Director's visit was the signing of a financing agreement for a **JMD \$2.6 billion dollar (€ 22 million)** health initiative aimed at reducing child mortality and improving maternal health. The project, entitled Programme for Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality – PROMAC, will be rolled out this year across the island.

At the same time, Ms. Butkeviciene also announced the payment of over **JMD \$951 million (€7 million)** in direct budget support to the Government aimed at mitigating the effects of natural disasters on the island. This marked the restoration of Jamaica's Budget Support payments after two (2) years.

Ms Butkeviciene also met with representatives of private and public sector; as well as civil society groups. She reaffirmed the desire of the EU to work with Jamaica as a partner in its development, and was optimistic for the continuation of strong cooperation in the future.

Before departing Ms Butkeviciene offered her sincere appreciation for the warm welcome she received from both officials and the Jamaican people.

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