



## DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION PRESS RELEASE

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### **Agualta Vale roundabout renamed Robert Schuman roundabout in recognition of EU support to Jamaica**

The Agualta Vale roundabout in St. Mary was today (Thursday, May 9) officially renamed the Schuman roundabout in honour of Robert Schuman, one of the founding fathers of the European Union. The roundabout is the starting point of the section of the North Coast Highway which received JMD\$10 billion (calculated at the current exchange rate) in funding from the European Union. The remaining twenty five percent of the cost was funded by the Government of Jamaica. The road which is approximately 96 kilometres in length is the section of the Northern Coastal Highway between Ocho Rios and Port Antonio and links the parishes of St. Ann, St. Mary and Portland, parishes which are all critical to the island's tourism sector.

Through Cabinet approval, the roundabout was renamed on Europe Day in recognition of the EU's contribution to Jamaica and Mr. Schuman for his pioneering work towards a united Europe. Twice Prime Minister of France, Schuman was instrumental in building post-war European and trans-Atlantic institutions. His convictions are well represented in the 'Schuman Declaration' of 9<sup>th</sup> of May 1950 that he pronounced in Paris, a date that is still celebrated as European Union Day. In this declaration, he proposed to Germany and the rest of the European countries to work together towards a merger of their economic interests.

The unveiling of the plaque for the roundabout was done in the presence of the Minister of Transport and Works, the Hon. Omar Davies, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Sen. The Hon. A.J. Nicholson, Head of the EU Delegation to Jamaica Ambassador Paola Amadei, Opposition Spokesman on Transport and Works, Karl Samuda and representatives of EU Member States resident in Jamaica.

Several pieces of equipment were also this morning officially handed over to the Ministry of Transport and Works as part of an EU funded J\$1.25 billion project which offers support to the road sector.

Speaking this morning, Head of Delegation of the European Union in Jamaica, Ambassador Paola Amadei said *"In honour of Robert Schuman's pioneering work towards a united Europe, without which our continent will probably look very much different today if it was not for his vision and conviction in building a peaceful world, I am delighted that the Government of Jamaica has decided today to name this roundabout after him. I wish that this critical road infrastructure linking the capital Kingston with the beautiful North coast will be seen and stand as a permanent symbol of the good relations and cooperation between the people of Jamaica and Europe, and as a vision that a better world for our future generations can only be built if people unite in addressing all together the major challenges they face today."*

For more information:

Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica,  
Belize, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bahamas and the Cayman Islands  
Tel: 924-6333-7

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