



## Jamaica and EU launch 40 year anniversary celebrations

The Government of Jamaica and the European Union this afternoon kicked off celebrations to mark the 40 year partnership anniversary between them. The launch ceremony held at Jamaica House in the presence of Prime Minister the Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, Finance Minister Dr. the Hon. Peter Phillips, Head of the EU Delegation in Jamaica, Ambassador Paola Amadei, other Government Officials and 12 Heads of Mission from European Member States (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, The Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom) is the first in a number of activities celebrating the partnership throughout 2015.

The forty year anniversary marks the signing of the Lomé Convention between Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific (ACP-Group) in 1975 and the establishment of the EU Delegation in Jamaica shortly after. The EU and Jamaica have over the years enjoyed close economic and political relations with EU assistance covering several areas of development in agriculture, infrastructure, community renewal and poverty reduction, national security, justice reform, human rights, education, culture, health, trade, scientific development and the environment.

Giving her congratulatory remarks on this milestone achievement between Jamaica and the EU, Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller cited a number of projects which have impacted infrastructure development as well as social and human capital across the country. She reiterated the government's commitment to continuing development. **"I view our ongoing partnership with the EU as critical support for social transformation and economic growth agenda. We are working to improve the pace of the growth that has started in the economy. We recognise that a greater level of growth in Jamaica is connected to Jamaica's competitiveness....We are resolute that growth must be accompanied by jobs and increased opportunities for the creation of new businesses."**

Head of the European Union in Jamaica, Ambassador Paola Amadei used the occasion to commend all EU Member States for their continued support to the goals of the institutions. **"I**

**wish to take the opportunity of the presence of as many as twelve EU Member States Ambassadors to pay tribute to their countries and by extension all EU Member States as well as the Government of Jamaica. The accomplishments of our partnership over the last 40 years have been possible because of the unique relationship we all share and our collective commitment to upholding it."** She also emphasised that the Jamaica- EU partnership went beyond development cooperation, noting that while project activities were more tangible than other areas, Jamaica and the EU shared a deep relationship based on shared values and goals and spanning all areas.

Achievements under the Jamaica-EU partnership will be recognised with a number of special events as throughout 2015. To date, the EU has contributed over €1 billion in grant assistance to Jamaica.

**Contact:**

**Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica,  
Belize, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bahamas and the Cayman Is.  
Tel: 1 876 924 6333**