



DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

PRESS RELEASE

Kingston, Friday, March 6, 2015

Two Jamaican female Senators selected to participate in highly competitive EU Visitor's Programme (EUVP)

Two Jamaican Senators have been selected to participate in the highly competitive EU Visitor's Programme (EUVP) during 2015. Senators Imani Duncan-Price and Kamina Johnson-Smith were selected from a list of high ranking officials across North America, Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. The programme invites young, promising leaders from countries outside the European Union to visit EU institutions to gain a first-hand appreciation of the EU's goals, policies and peoples and to increase mutual understanding between professionals from non-EU countries and their EU counterparts. Selections are made through a committee of the EU parliament.

Head of Delegation of the European Union in Jamaica Ambassador Paola Amadei said the news is especially welcome since Jamaica was originally not included in the list of countries which qualified to have any participation in the programme. *"The fact that we submitted to applications during a period where we were entitled to none and both were accepted speaks to the quality and high standard of leadership that both candidates have. I am particularly pleased that both are female candidates representing the main political parties. It is also a good way to recognise and honour the Jamaica –EU 40 year partnership celebration which we mark this year."*

Both Senators Duncan-Price and Johnson-Smith have worked extensively within the Senate and the public arena to promote women's and girls' rights. They have also been active participants in the EU-led Women's Network here in Jamaica. Senator Kamina Johnson-Smith who will be the first to participate in the programme between March 9 -19 said *"As a Jamaican I am truly grateful to the EU head and delegation based in Jamaica for having pressed for Jamaicans to be considered for this programme for the first time. I am also personally honoured to have been selected as a representative of my country. As a young female parliamentarian, I am excited at the prospect of meeting with the Women's working group of the EEAS, attending the European Parliament, and meeting with technical experts in education, empowerment of youth and women, as well as matters related to democracy and governance. I look forward to not only continuing to build relationships between Jamaica and members of one of our largest developmental partners, but to learning as much as possible for the benefit of Jamaica and the Jamaican people."*

In addition to visiting Brussels, Belgium Senator Johnson-Smith's trip also includes a three day visit to Strasbourg, Germany. Senator Imani Duncan Price will take part in the programme on May 18th (during Europe Month).

The EUVP was established in 1974 by the European Parliament and the European Commission. The EUVP is jointly sponsored and administered by the European Parliament and the European Commission. An EUVP visit consists of an individual 5 to 10 day programme of meetings with EU officials at the EU institutions in Brussels and/or Strasbourg. All programs are coordinated and arranged by the EUVP Secretariat rather than by individual participants. EUVP will cover the participants' travel, accommodation expenses and health insurance throughout the trip.

Contact- Jodi Brown-Lindo
Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica,
Belize, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bahamas and the Cayman Islands
Tel: 1 876 924 6333