



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
TO THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Press Handout

STARTS:

The European Union undertook a fact finding mission at the Kenyan coast on Monday 29 October and Tuesday 30 October. Participating in the mission were Ambassadors and High Commissioners from Belgium, Denmark, the EU, Finland, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden and the UK.

Their main objective was to listen and learn more about social and economic development and security in at the coast. The EU and many member states already support various social and economic development and security initiatives at the coast, and they used this visit to help monitor and evaluate some of those programmes and assess further needs.

During the visit, the leader of the delegation Ambassador Lodewijk Briet said:

“We are deeply concerned about recent violence in Mombasa, Tana River and elsewhere - it is a reminder of the consequences of hatred and intolerance. The region is an important and integral part of Kenya with a rich cultural heritage, huge economic importance, and a holiday destination for many European Union tourists every year.

“For all these situations it is important that the perpetrators of violence are held to account, that all parties exercise restraint and respect for the rule of law, and that there is a swift return to stability and peace. We encourage people to come together, to address the root causes of instability and their underlying grievances.

“The success of the 2010 constitutional election showed violence is not inevitable. Kenyans worked hard to realise their new Constitution, rejecting the old ways that have prevented Kenyans from reaching their great potential. Our purpose is to support Kenya to reach that potential and work in partnership with Kenya on our many shared interests to all of our benefits.”

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