



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

## LESOTHO AND EUROPEAN UNION STRENGTHEN THEIR CO-OPERATION DURING 2013

### INTRODUCTION

The year 2013 has been another satisfactory year for the co-operation between Lesotho and the European Union. The European Union remains one of Lesotho's leading development partners. Also politically the Lesotho – European Union partnership progressed well during 2013. The latter is illustrated by the first ever Governance dialogue held 30 May 2013 and the third consecutive political dialogue held 27 November 2013.

2013 was the last year under the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF 10). Good progress, involving many stakeholders, was achieved in preparing future co-operation under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF (2014 to 2020). The sectors of water, energy and governance were identified as focal sectors for future Lesotho - European Union co-operation. Subject to final confirmation, the European Union will make an indicative amount available of EUR 142 million (about LSL 2 billion) for the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF.

### FINANCIAL KEY INFO ON THE EU'S CO-OPERATION WITH LESOTHO IN 2013

- A total amount of EUR 34.7 million (about LSL 509 million) was disbursed in 2013. A large part of EU support was in the form of budget support (EUR 22.4 million or LSL 329 million). EU support contributed directly to the fight against poverty, including provision of clean water and sanitation, grants to vulnerable children and improving government systems. Decentralisation and the judiciary benefited from EU support as well.
- Taking into account the 2013 results, the total amount of disbursements from the European Union since 2010 reached EUR 170 million (about LSL 2.5 billion) at the end of 2013.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EU'S CO-OPERATION WITH LESOTHO IN 2013

- Europe Week (2 to 8 May 2013) underscored the Unions' support for civil society. An exhibition in Maseru's Pioneer Mall, a football tournament, a panel debate and the traditional reception were part of the well-attended events.
- Four new contracts with civil society organisations were signed for an amount of over EUR 3 million; this is one of the biggest supports ever for civil society in Lesotho.
- Good progress was made in the social protection programme implemented by the Ministry of Social Development with support of UNICEF. The payment of the grants was successfully taken over by the national budget. The Cash Grant Programme supports now more than 50,000 vulnerable children; over 100,000 households are registered in the National Information System of Social Assistance (NISSA). The EU's support concentrates now on capacity development.
- Joint annual review meetings (February and July) for the two ongoing budget support programmes contributed to a better policy dialogue between the Government, members of Parliament, civil society and development partners.
- A grant contract (EUR 1.2 million) was signed with the Lesotho Institute of Accountants. The EU's contribution supports the further development of accountancy practices in accordance with international standards.
- The European Union's humanitarian programme (ECHO) supported food security in Lesotho through the WFP and the FAO for an amount of EUR 3.5 million.
- A new justice project started with the arrival of two EU-funded resident experts. A key objective of this project is to contribute to the quality of and access for all to justice.