

# EUROPEAN UNION NEWS

Newsletter of the Delegation of the European  
Union to the Republic of Namibia

July - November 2010

## Caprivi Link Interconnector inaugurated - a major step in integration of regional energy markets



*Culture and Technic: Traditional dancers in front of the Caprivi Interconnector.*

**The 950 km long 300MW high voltage Caprivi Interconnector was officially inaugurated on 12 November 2010 by President Hifikepunye Pohamba, in the presence of the Presidents of Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.**

The Caprivi Link Interconnector is a NAD 3 billion (EUR 300 million) infrastructure which links the Namibian and the Zambian power grids, thereby reinforcing the Southern African Power Pool. It is the first project in the region which received support under the EU Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund, in the form of a EUR 15 million interest

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### Ambassador's Message

Dear Reader,

As I am writing this message, the year is coming to a close, as is my time in Namibia as Head of the EU Delegation. A lot has happened in the four years: people in the EU and in Africa, and in other parts of the world, were catapulted into an age of heightened uncertainties and insecurity by the global financial and economic crisis, and questions about the impact of climate change.

The EU has finally adopted in December last year an institutional reform in the form of the Lisbon Treaty which aims to adapt the European Institutions and its decision making to the enlarged Union – which grew from 15 at the beginning of 2004 to 27 member states in 2007. An important element of this reform is a stronger and more unified representation of the EU in the World. This manifests itself in the creation of the European External Action Service, the EEAS, headed by Baroness Ashton, which comes into being on 1 December 2010, exactly a year after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. As from 2011, it will be in charge of the running of the EU's network of over 130 Delegations in the world, whose staff component will now also include officials from EU Member States administrations.

While the beginning of this new era is bound to encounter teething problems, we are convinced that in the medium to long-

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subsidy added to the loans of EUR 35 million each from EU (EIB), French (Afd) and German (KfW) Development Finance Institutions. The Caprivi Link connects the energy transmission lines between Katima Mulilo on the Zambian Border and Gerus, close to Otjiwarongo.

Namibia's President Hifikepunye Pohamba said the past decade will go down

in the history of SADC (Southern African Development Community) as a time characterised by high demand for electricity, resulting from increased economic and social development efforts in our region.

"It is encouraging to note that during the last five years, power utilities in the region have been extremely busy with significant power development initiatives aimed at alleviating imminent power shortages," he said.

"Given the immensity of the task, our Governments should continue supporting the commendable work done by our power utilities in addressing the power situation in the region," added.

He expressed the Namibian Government's appreciation for the European financial support to the project. The Presidents of the neighbouring countries reinforced the message of importance of regional infrastructure and regional integration more broadly.

Namibia's Minister for Mines and Energy provided a background and history of the project, stressing the state of the art of the Connector, which can serve as a model for future investments elsewhere.

Nampower Managing Director, Paulinus Shilamba highlighted: "The Caprivi interconnector will enhance electricity supply to NamPower's customers and fortify Namibia's role in the regional electricity network."

The Caprivi Link Interconnector will encourage greater competition in the



President Hifikepunye Pohamba (l) with President Seretse Khama Ian Khama of Botswana and Ambassador Elisabeth Pape during the commissioning of the Caprivi Link Interconnector.

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## Message...from page1

run, the European citizens as well as our partners in the world will benefit from this reform.

During my time in Namibia I was privileged to oversee a whole cycle of programmes and projects, mostly financed under the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF (European Development Fund), and the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF. The biggest programme under the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF was the Rural Poverty Reduction Programme (RPRP) with a financial allocation of €53 million, which is now also winding down and coming to an end. Out of five RPRP components, one, received – and required - a lot of attention: the so-called demand-driven, decentralized actions - in short DDDA, a system by which grass roots initiatives received grants for poverty reduction initiatives.

I am gratified to see that most of these initiatives have gotten off the ground, and have actually delivered what they set out to do. Examples are that small miners in Usakos now have access to better implement and mar-

keting stalls, emerging farmers have received useful training, remote farmers have better and cheaper transport possibilities to bring their cattle to the market, and a project seeks to improve land productivity through debushing and using the invader bush for energy generation. According to an independent evaluation, more than 7000 jobs were created through the RPRP, of which over 4000 are permanent, while the number of beneficiaries reaches 70 000, not a small achievement.

We hope that many of those activities supported will survive and sustain their activities, and also serve as inspiration to others. As part of RPRP's winding up a marketing fare was organized which brought together a large number of DDDA beneficiary organizations with well established enterprises in Namibia with the intention to foster partnerships. This has been a great success and I am convinced will turn out to have been the icebreaker for success for some of these DDDAs. Read about this and other events in the newsletter and stay tuned for what is yet to come.

With this edition, the history of Delegation newsletters comes to an end, at least in its printed version. The EU considers that in the age of Information Technology, it has become an outdated form to make contact with stakeholders and the general public. We would therefore highly recommend that you frequently visit our web-page [www.delnam.ec.europa.eu](http://www.delnam.ec.europa.eu) if you would like to stay abreast with the work of the EU Delegation in Namibia.

I certainly would like to thank you for the interest you have shown in what we do during my four year term as Ambassador and Head of Delegation. I will leave Namibia in a few weeks, with a lot of good memories, rich in experience and friendships that I hope will stand the test of time. Please welcome my successor, Raul Fuertes Milani, who will take up his post in mid January, with the same openness and positive spirit that you have afforded me. Thank you. Vielen Dank, Ondapandula. Dankie, Litumezi. Kai aios. Okuhepa. Kea leboga.

# High Representative Catherine Ashton completes the EAS top management team

***Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, has on 25 October 2010 announced the appointment of Pierre Vimont as the Executive Secretary General of the future External Action Service and David O'Sullivan as its Chief Operating Officer. On 29 October 2010 she further announced the appointment of two Deputy Secretary Generals for the External Action Service (EAS) - completing her top management team. She has appointed Helga Schmid as the Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs and Maciej Popowski as the Deputy Secretary General for Inter-institutional Affairs.***

"I promised to appoint the brightest and best and in Pierre Vimont as the Executive Secretary General, and David O'Sullivan as Chief Operating Officer I have done just that. Pierre is held in the highest regard by the diplomatic community and will bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise on foreign policy issues. David has served in the highest capacity in the European Commission, as well as having a diplomatic background. In their respective roles they will help to create a European diplomatic service that the people of Europe can be proud of," said Catherine Ashton.

Pierre Vimont is described as the "diplomats' diplomat" with a career spanning over more than 30 years. During that time he was chief of staff for three French Foreign Ministers and Minister for European Affairs. He was the Permanent Representative of France to the European Union in Brussels for four years, where he was considered outstanding during the French Presidency of the Council in 2000. He has also been posted in London and most recently in Washington as the Ambassador of France to the United States.

David O'Sullivan started his career at the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and went on to work for the European Commission, where he excelled as one of the most talented officials of his generation. In his 30-year career he was Director and Director General (DG Education and DG Trade), member of the Cabinet of two commissioners, head of the cabinet of Commission President Romano Prodi before eventually being appointed Secretary General of the European Commission.

Helga Schmid has over 20 years of experience in the world of diplomacy. She has been the Political Adviser to two German Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Head of the Foreign Minister's office, before relocating to Brussels to become the Director of the Policy Planning and Early Warning Unit of the High Representative in the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, a post she has held successfully for the last five years.



*Mr. Pierre Vimont  
Executive Secretary General*



*Mr. David O'Sullivan  
Chief Operating Officer*



*Mr. Maciej Popowski,  
Deputy Secretary General  
for Inter-institutional Affairs*



*Ms. Helga Schmid,  
Deputy Secretary General  
for Political Affairs*

Maciej Popowski started his career in the Polish Diplomatic Service almost 20 years ago and took part in the accession negotiations of Poland with the European Union. He was deputy head of Poland's representation to the EU and after the 2004 EU enlargement the first Permanent Representative of Poland to the EU's Political and Security Committee for over five years. He then joined the European Commission as the director in DG Development before becoming Head of the Cabinet of the European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek.

Catherine Ashton announced the appointment of Helga Schmid and Maciej Popowski only days after she appointed Pierre Vimont as the Executive Secretary General and David O'Sullivan as the Chief Operating Officer for the future External Action Service. She made the announcements after the Council endorsed the complete legal base for the EAS (adoption of the EAS Decision on 26 July and the amendments to the Staff and Financial Regulation on 25 October). The EAS will start operating by the end of this year.

# Commission adopts strategic priorities for 2011

**2010 has shown the readiness and ability of the EU institutions to meet adversity with resilience, decisiveness and solidarity, to tackle the unprecedented challenges of the financial and economic crisis. The task now at hand is to ensure that recovery is sustained. The European Commission has adopted its work programme for 2011 which translates these objectives into concrete actions. The Work Programme reflects the Commission's determination to lead Europe out of the crisis and towards a future of prosperity, security and social justice.**

European Commission President, José Manuel Barroso, said of the new work programme: *"The European Union has proved equal to the challenges facing it but we are not yet out of the woods. Our policies need to reflect our ongoing commitment to creating sustainable growth and jobs based on the Europe 2020 Strategy and we*

*need to concentrate on initiatives where the EU can bring a real value-added. The work programme adopted today will ensure that recovery is sustained into the new year and beyond. I note a great degree of convergence on the overall priorities for Europe. I hope that this will translate into early political results to the benefit of citizens."*

The priorities for 2011 fall under five main headings:

**Sustaining Europe's social market economy out of the crisis and beyond** (examples include a legislative framework for bank crisis management, proposals to reinforce the protection of consumers of financial services and a regulation on credit rating agencies – aiming to complete the ambitious reform of our financial sector next year)

**Restoring growth for jobs** (examples include new fiscal enforcement mechanisms, proposals to support the competitiveness of EU enterprises, especially SMEs, a European Energy Efficiency Plan, a Social Business initiative, legislative initiatives on

posting of workers and working time to be elaborated in close dialogue with social partners, improvement of the frameworks for company taxation and VAT)

**Pursuing the citizens' agenda: Rights, Freedom and Justice** (examples include strengthening of consumer rights, a Common Framework Reference for contract law, renewed Civil Protection Legislation, A Registered Travellers Programme and a new governance structure for OLAF, the EU's anti fraud office)

**Europe pulling its weight on the global stage** (examples include supporting the new European External Action Service, projecting the 2020 growth objectives on the external scene and continuing to improve EU's development assistance to target those most in need)

**From input to impact: making the most of EU policies** (examples include a proposal for the next Multi-annual Financial Framework, according a central importance to smart regulation and prolonging the Consultation period to 12 weeks)

## Climate Change

# With political will, Cancún can mark climate progress

*By Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action*

**By 2050 there will be more than nine billion people on Earth. To accommodate this jump in population without stoking dangerous climate change we have no choice but to complete the transition to a low-carbon global economy. That is what is at stake in the international negotiations on climate change, and that is why the forthcoming UN climate conference in Cancún is important.**

An ambitious and legally binding framework for global climate action is needed. The European Union would be ready to agree this at the Cancún conference starting on 29 November. Regrettably a number of other major economies, including the US and China, are not.

Cancún will therefore not be the end of the road. Nonetheless the conference can still mark a significant step towards a legally binding global climate deal. It can – and must – deliver progress by agreeing a politically balanced package

of decisions on a number of substantial issues that lead to immediate climate action on the ground.

These decisions should capture the progress achieved in the international climate negotiations so far and lay down some major elements of the 'architecture' of the future global climate regime. They should build on the Kyoto Protocol and incorporate the political guidance of last December's Copenhagen Accord.

In recent preparatory meetings for Cancún I have seen a hunger for agreement



*Commissioner Connie Hedegaard*

along these lines. With political will, the conference can translate this into a real step forward.

Decisions are within reach on issues such as adaptation to climate change, the fight against deforestation, technology cooperation and governance rules for a new climate fund.

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For the EU, a balanced package must include progress on mitigating global greenhouse gas emissions. In particular, the emission reduction pledges that developed and developing countries have made under the Copenhagen Accord need to be brought into the United Nations framework.

"Anchoring" the pledges in this way will provide a global forum to discuss uncertainties surrounding some of them and to consider ways to make them more ambitious over time. The current pledges are a start, but it is clear that they are not sufficient to keep global warming below 2°C, as the Copenhagen Accord recognises is necessary.

We also need to see progress in Cancún towards reforming and expanding the international carbon market in order to capture the huge potential for emission savings in the major emerging economies. As Europe knows from our own Emissions Trading System, carbon market mechanisms reduce the cost of cutting emissions, can drive investment in innovative low-carbon technologies and can be important sources of funding for future climate action.

It is key that developed countries deliver on their pledges of 'fast start' funding to help the developing world fight climate change. The EU is doing so. We have mobilised €2.2 billion in fast start funding this year as part of our commitment to deliver €7.2 billion over 2010-2012. In Cancún the EU will give a comprehensive report of how we have implemented our pledge this year.

Building trust also requires greater transparency - transparency in how countries deliver on their emission pledges, and transparency in how developed countries will provide long-term funding to help the developing world tackle climate change. That is why the EU is pressing for agreement in Cancún to draw up stronger monitoring, reporting and verification rules.

A set of decisions in Cancún along these lines would constitute a significant intermediate step towards the robust and legally binding global agreement the world needs. An ambitious global framework will help to accelerate the low-carbon revolution that is under way, spurring 'greener' growth, creating new jobs and strengthening Europe's energy security.

Achieving a politically balanced package will not be easy, but it is within reach. Failure, on the other hand, would raise the risk of the international climate negotiations losing momentum and relevance. With political will, Cancún can succeed. Europe will be working throughout the two weeks of the conference to ensure that it does.

## EPP-African democratic party dialogue in Namibia

- By *Hon. Michael Gahler, MEP*

*On 30 October-1 November, Members of the European People's Party (EPP) Group met with their counterparts from UAPDD, the Union of African Parties for Democracy and Development, in the framework of the "Windhoek Dialogue", to discuss issues of concern for the economic development and state of governance in African states, with a view to provide their input to the EU-Africa Summit which will take place in Libya on 29-30 November.*

Under the overarching theme of "Investment, Economic Growth and Job Creation", Heads of States and Governments will address key issues, like peace and security, climate change, regional integration and private sector development, infrastructure and energy, agriculture and food security, migration.

The overarching theme ties together several topics and underlines different facets of the partnership, which will allow fostering joint positions in the upcoming key international negotiations.

The political commitments of the Heads of State and Government will be translated in the Action Plan (2011-13) to be adopted at the Summit. This action plan will include concrete actions to strengthen cooperation in the 8 partnerships and will also move into new promising areas.

"It was clear from the discussions that both Europeans and African democratic parties, many of which face great difficulties as opposition parties working under non-democratic conditions, are extremely worried by the trend towards a worsened situation with regard to good governance and free and fair elections in many countries," said Michael Gahler, co-chairman of the Dialogue.

"We have therefore focused on adapting a number of precise recommendations to insist that election processes in Africa must abide by basic principles of transparency and fairness at all stages, in our final declaration. Furthermore, we have issued a sharp warning against the increased tendency by incumbent presidents to change constitutions and election laws to make their mandate last indefinitely", said Gahler.

Source: EPP



*Hon. Michael Gahler*

# Bush to energy: turning the bush encroachment problem in Namibia into clean energy

*Namibia suffers from the overgrowth of rapidly growing, robust bush, which is disruptive to cattle raising, the country's poor farmers' primary source of livelihoods, and terrorizes the survival of other plant species. Combating Bush Encroachment for Namibia's Development (CBEND), a bio-energy project aimed at reducing extreme*

*rural poverty and environmental degradation in the country was launched on 22 September 2010. CBEND is funded by the European Union (EU) Delegation to Namibia to the tune of N\$ 14 million and being implemented by the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN). A 250 kW gasification plant will convert invader bush – ac-*

*knowledged as an environmental problem in Namibia – into electricity via a wood-gasification process, and has the ability to supply electricity to about 200 middle-income houses. The plant is built on Farm Pierre, 90 kilometres north-west of Otjiwarongo in the Outjo District.*

Speaking at the inauguration of the plant, Head of the EU Delegation Dr. Elisabeth Pape said, the plant presents a truly novel opportunity to address a number of critical development challenges in the country. "The project will help increase land productivity, create new employment opportunities and diversify income in the agriculture sector," she said.

She added: "Bush encroachment, for all its potential as a source of renewable energy, remains primarily an agricultural challenge. I am pleased to see that the National Agriculture Policy of 1995 already states that the GRN intends to 'establish mechanisms to support farmers in combating bush encroachment effectively over both the short and long term', and promises that Government will endeavour to 'promote labour-intensive and private sector initiatives which utilise bush products.'"

Vast areas of the country's scarce farmland have become uncultivable because of encroachment by hardy shrubs and trees, generically known as 'invader bush'. Studies indicate that approximately 26 million hectares of agricultural land are infested, which is preventing the growth of useful grass species and which results in the compaction of soils in the bush encroached areas. This has reduced Namibia's carrying capacity for livestock, resulting in reduced cattle numbers over the past 50 years - from 2,5 million in the commercial farming areas down to some 800 000 head of cattle.



*From left, Permanent Secretary at the National Planning Commission, Mr. Leevi Hungamo, Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy, Hon. Willem Isaacks, Ambassador Elisabeth Pape and DRFN Energy Desk Coordinator, Mr. Robert Schultz.*



*Clearing land for grazing while simultaneously supplying Namibia with clean, renewable electricity.*

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According to studies, the reduced availability of land for grazing causes economic losses of N\$700 million in the agricultural sector every year. Another worrying factor is that the extensive root network - up to 40 metres long - of some invader bush species robs the soil of moisture. Soil also gets compacted, which prevents rain water from penetrating the soil and replenishing the underground water table.

The gasification plants are simple enough to be operated and maintained by farmers with access to the national electricity grid. Fed into the power plant, one hectare of bush can generate between 0,5 megawatt and 2,5 megawatts of electricity. The aim is to clear 1,5 million hectares of bush each year. A wood gasifier extracts gas from the wood at high temperatures, which is then transferred to a generator where almost 100 per cent combustion takes place. Thanks to new technology, virtually no carbon dioxide will be emitted.

Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy, Hon Willem Isaacks, said the power plant introduced a new technology to Namibia with the scope not only to support national electricity but also to address rural electrification.



*Namibia's first bush-to-energy plant.*

"With all the hassle and bustle in the country around a looming electricity crisis, booming uranium mining and the global economic crisis, it went almost unnoticed that in rural Namibia, a small project was taking shape in a silently efficient manner that has grabbed the imagination of many rural people locally and internationally," he said.

"The power plant actually stood up to tackle two major concerns to Namibia development. A plant that seek to open new income generating opportunities to the agriculture sector which still formally and informally employs almost 50% of all Namibians.

"A plant that successfully engaged Namibia's Electricity Control Board, Nam-

Power and CENORED while maintaining and adhering to the rules governing the electricity supply industry," Hon Isaacks said.

Namibia's electricity consumption is about 400 MW. Another plan is to create small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to decentralise electricity supply and to involve more commercial and communal farmers and other people living in rural areas, where bush encroachment is found, to become suppliers of invader bush for small electricity plants in future. Namibia already makes use of invader bush to produce charcoal. About 45 000 tonnes of charcoal a year is produced, providing welcome additional income for farmers.

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Southern Africa Power Pool and allow Namibia to benefit from cheaper and more reliable energy. Around 50 per cent of electricity used in Namibia is imported and the project will reduce the need for coal power generation during the dry season when the main Ruacana hydro plant cannot operate at full capacity.

The Link will enable more efficient transmission of electricity imported from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Currently, regionally generated electricity is transported via South Africa. Remote regions in Botswana, which are not connected to the national grid can now also receive electricity through the

interconnector. It is also noteworthy, that the construction of the transmission line avoided nature reserves and conservation areas, did not require resettlement of local communities and addresses social issues of local communities.

Speaking at the event on behalf of the financiers, the Head of the EU Delegation to Namibia, Elisabeth Pape, said: "This project represents close European cooperation in supporting energy infrastructure essential for economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Caprivi Interconnector has significant regional benefits, and the grant is also motivated by the fact that the Namibian tax payer and consumer should not have to pay for benefits accruing to the region outside their borders. The Interconnector is an excellent model for future financing institutions."

"The cooperation of the three European Development finance institutions is a clear sign of the willingness and capability of Europe to be a key partner for the development of the region as a whole," she said.

The EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund became operational in 2007 and targets energy, water, transport and telecommunications infrastructure. The Trust Fund benefits cross-border and regional infrastructure projects in sub-Saharan Africa and blends grant resources from the European Commission and European Member States with the lending capacity of European development financiers. For more information visit the Trust Fund's website at [www.eu-africa-infrastructure-tf.net](http://www.eu-africa-infrastructure-tf.net).

# Ohandje Co-operative: Alternative economic tool to combat joblessness and rural poverty

*The need for alternate community and economic development strategies throughout Namibia has been widely acknowledged. This is specifically relevant in the increasingly fragile climate where*

*the bastions of rural economies, namely agriculture and tourism, operate. In response to decreasing agricultural opportunities and growth pressure, co-operatives could serve as alternative eco-*

*nomie development approach for rural communities.*

One such case in point is the Ohandje Artists Co-operative (OAC) formed by 20 basket weavers and clay potters in 2005. Today, its membership has grown to 2 100 members. The members are entirely rural women, many of who are taking care of orphaned children. They produce traditional baskets, clay pots, clothes and jewellery at their homes and deliver to Ohandje for marketing. The products are sold mainly to Namibia's growing number of tourists, generating the much-needed income for them.

The OAC is also successfully running its own craft shop in the Namibia Wildlife Resorts' Namutoni Resort in Etosha National Park. In 2005, it was awarded both the first prize in the Art and Craft category and the Overall exhibitor's prize at the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair, and was in 2006 again awarded the first prize in the Art and Craft category.



Ohandje Arts and Cultural Centre in Ondangwa was officially inaugurated on 23 September 2010.

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*The National Planning Commission (NPC) in collaboration with the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI) and the EU Delegation to Namibia on 29 September hosted a marketing fair in the capital showcasing improved products and services of small rural enterprises.*

*This platform presented a unique opportunity for the businesses to identify prospective suppliers of locally made quality products for their outlets, while at the same time enhancing their corporate social responsibility portfolio by supporting local communities and organizations.*

*Implemented by the NPC with EU funds provided through the "Rural Poverty Reduction Programme", the enterprises cover a wide range of business endeavours: from arts and crafts, textiles and carpets, food and gems to training courses for artisans, management of community based enterprises and many more.*

## Small and Medium Enterprise Gateway to accelerate business ne



From left, Ambassador Elisabeth Pape, British High Commissioner to Namibia, H.E. Mr. Mark Bensberg, Hon. Tom Alweendo, Director General of the National Planning Commission, French Ambassador to Namibia, H.E. Mr. Jean-Louis Zoël and NCCI President, Mrs. Martha Namundjebo-Tilahun at one of the SMEs' stalls.

## Ohandje...from page 8

On 23 September 2010, women of the Ohandje became proud owners of an arts and cultural centre after the European Union (EU) came to their rescue with an injection of N\$ 2,905,271 for its erection.

"I am pleased to note that Ohandje Cooperative has responded positively to the call that the battle against poverty is not to be fought by Government alone, but that it requires coordinated efforts with the private sector as well as ultimate beneficiaries," said the Director-General of the National Planning Commission (NPC), Tom Alweendo, in a statement read on his behalf by the Oshana Regional Governor, Hon. Clemens Kashiupulwa.

Ohandje Co-operative is component of the Rural Poverty Reduction Programme (RPRP) a Namibian government's initiative, which overall objective is to contribute to sustainable development leading to the attainment of the government's vision 2030. The programme is funded by a €53 million grant from the EU.

"After five years of its implementation, the RPRP has demonstrated great potential to improve rural household incomes through the participation of beneficiaries

such as the Community Skills Development Centres of Ohandje and Dorkambo," said Alweendo.

In addition to the centre, the European Community also contributed towards the construction of the Glass Recycling Studio at COSDEC Ondangwa, financed the re-allocation of Dorkambo from Dordabis to Oniipa and development of six small and medium enterprise's Glass Recycling Units.

"Supporting the Government of Namibia in rural development was and still is one of the EU development priorities with Namibia," said Head of the EU Delegation, Dr. Elisabeth Pape.

"In addition to that, the EU is also engaged in Education helping the Government to address one of the most important underlying causes of poverty," she added.

"The OAC is a fair trade organisation that hopes to reach local, national and international markets with its array beautiful made crafts and hopes to encourage traditional culture and promote re-forestation and natural resource initiatives," said Ohandje Co-operative Coordinator, Fredrika Luanda.

She said the co-operative has had many positive spin-offs: clean water to



Head of the EU Delegation, Dr. Elisabeth Pape and Oshana Regional Governor, Hon. Clemens Kashiupulwa, at the opening of the centre.

homesteads, small incomes to women that have allowed many to branch off into other income-generating activities and access to HIV medication and information, among others.

## Prizes (SME) Fair Networks



# New road helps Ibbu communities

***Rural roads represent the grassroots of the road network which feed traffic into the secondary and primary roads opening access to the rural area - one of the underlying causes of rural poverty, often, is poor access. Improved access generally improves living conditions and hence reduces poverty, whereas, inaccessibility on the other hand restricts movement of people, goods and services and limits the development of markets and other service centres. Rural communities at Ibbu Area some 88 kilometres away the town in the Katima Mulilo Rural Constituency of the Caprivi region, who previously faced challenges with lack of road infrastructures received a 36,5 kilometres spanking new gravel road that will link them with the rest of the country and the globe. The construction of the new Muyako / Ngoma road was made possible with co-funding from the European Union (EU) Delegation to the tune of N\$32.4 million.***

Officially opening the road on 29 July 2010, the Deputy Minister of Works and Transport, Hon. Chief Samuel Ankama, said the road is economically viable as it runs through a relatively densely populated area all the way from Muyako to Ngoma.

“This project is one of the many labour-based road projects embarked upon by the SWAPO government after independence and the labour-based approach is designed to afford rural communities an opportunity to participate while at the same time deriving economic benefits from regional projects.

“In this context, the construction of the Ngoma-Muyako Road generated over 500 temporary jobs. In addition, contractors were encouraged to buy construction materials from within the region thereby boosting the local economy,” explained the Deputy Minister.

The major thrust of Namibia’s development policies is poverty reduction, aiming at improving the livelihood of the rural population, thus also counter rural-urban drift.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Joachim Knoth, Head of the Rural Development Section, said the EU is committed to assist Namibia in pursuing these policies through the Rural Poverty Reduction Programme (RPRP), for which Euro 53 million has been provided under the 9th European Development Fund (EDF).

“Rural roads are an imperative sector in rural development, which deals in all aspects of development including agriculture, health, education, forestry, small-scale industries, trade, commerce, and so on, all depending on good communication. A rural transportation network will give shape to the living environment of villagers; rural transportation is a vital artery to the lifeblood in society,” he said.

Twenty years after independence rural poverty is still striking and the population living in the northern parts of Namibia is most concerned. Access to water, sanitation and health facilities as well as to education is less developed than for the rest of the Namibian population.

Besides livestock rearing and some crop production, little economic activities are available to contribute to their livelihoods. Distances between rural settlements and the few urban centres are large and the lack of road infrastructure makes it very difficult to reach those centres.

The Ngoma – Muyako gravel road will connect a number of smaller villages located along this road to the provincial road network. This will in turn provide access to agricultural land and social facilities and therefore significantly contribute to improving communications and living conditions of the Namibian population settling in this remote part of the country.



*From right, Deputy Minister of Works and Transport, Hon. Chief Samuel Ankama assisted by the Governor of Caprivi, Hon. Leonard Mwilima, Dr. Joachim Knoth, Head of the Rural Development Section and Roads Authority Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Erastus Ikela, cuts the ceremonial ribbon to mark the official opening of the road.*

# EU envoys meet Prime Minister Angola



Mr. Joris Heeren of the EU Delegation, British High Commissioner, H.E. Mr. Mark Bensberg, H.E. Mr. Egon Kochanke, Ambassador of Germany, Rt. Hon Prime Minister Nahas Angula, Head of the EU Delegation, Ambassador Dr. Elisabeth Pape, H.E. Mr. Alfonso Barnuevo, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain, H.E. Mr. Jean-Louis Zoel, Ambassador of France and Mr. Janne Sykkö of the Embassy of Finland.

**European Union (EU) Ambassadors met with the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Nahas Angula on 29 July for an exchange of views and a working lunch at the EU Residence. The meeting is part of the political dialogue between the EU and Namibia, as foreseen in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)-EU Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, whose second revision was recently adopted in Ouagadougou.**

Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement states that “The Parties shall regularly engage in a comprehensive, balanced and deep political dialogue leading to commitments on both sides”. It further describes that “the objectives of this dialogue shall be to exchange information, to foster mutual understanding, and to facilitate the establishment of agreed priorities and shared agendas...”. It further calls for the association of regional and sub-regional organisations as well as representatives of civil society organisations to this dialogue.

Until now, regular meetings in this framework had been organised by the rotating Presidencies. Under the recent Spanish Presidency, EU Heads of Mission met inter-

alia with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Gender, the Minister for Trade and Industry, the Swapo Secretary General as well as with a group of representatives of Civil society organisations, in a similar format.

With the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the political Coordination for the EU rep-

resentations in Namibia has shifted to the EU Delegation.

Main topics discussed during the meeting included the overall agenda for the Government in this five year term, “MDG+10” Summit in September and EU-Africa Summit in Tripoli, Libya in November 2010. Participants compared positions with respect to the

“MDG+10” Summit. They also discussed regional integration and the status of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations.

The Ambassadors and High Commissioners emphasised the importance of the political dimension of the Partnership, alongside the traditional role as development partners of Namibia.

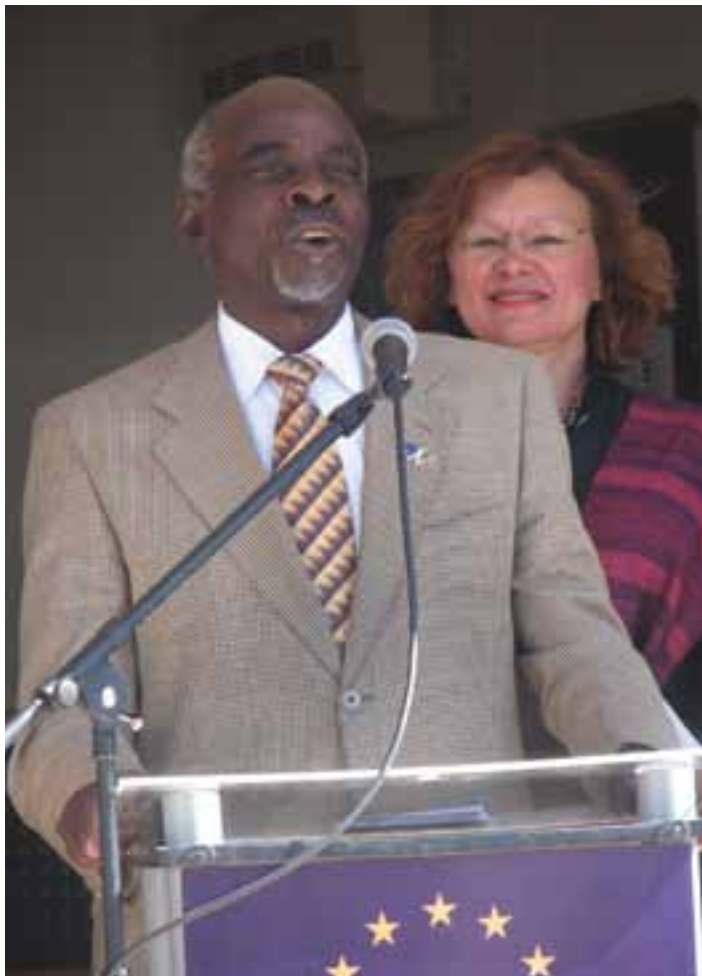
Prime Minister Angula said the meeting was aimed at fostering a general understanding between Namibia and the EU, hailing the EU as an important development partner of Namibia.

## Background information on Cotonou Agreement

The Cotonou Agreement is the most comprehensive partnership agreement between developing countries and the EU. Since 2000, it has been the framework for the EU’s relations with 79 countries from the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP). The first revision took place in 2005 and prepared the ground for the 2007-2013 financial framework of development assistance.

The second revision adapts the partnership to the important changes which took place over the last decade, in particular: the growing importance of regional integration in ACP countries; security and fragility; food security, HIV-AIDS and sustainability of fisheries and climate change, among others.

# Delegation celebrates International Day of the World's Indigenous People



*Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Nahas Angula and Ambassador Elisabeth Pape.*



*Author of the book, Misho (Mihail Mihaylov), signing the autography for the Chief Executive Officer of the Development Bank of Namibia, Mr. David Nuyoma, and the Governor of the Bank of Namibia, Mr. Ipumbu Shiimi.*

*The Delegation on August 2010 held a reception at Europe House to celebrate the International Day of the World's Indigenous People. A book highlighting the precarious life of the San people entitled *Bushman Curse* by Misho was launched during the event by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Nahas Angula.*

The International Day was first commemorated in 1995 following a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly to give wider consideration to the plight of the Indigenous Peoples around the world, and to encourage governments to make greater efforts to address the human rights situations in harmony with the indigenous peoples.

The Prime Minister noted that the Namibian Government continues to work diligently to ensure that equal opportunities and improved standard of living of its Indigenous People are maintained, especially of the San. He called on civil society to also fulfil their commitment to advancing the status of those who are living at the margin. He said the difficulty found by Government is to strike a balance between the socio-cultural values and ways of living of minorities and the modernity of new times.

"Bushman Curse" is a hunting novel based on a true story, and symbolises the predicament of a proud people struggling to keep up with the unstoppable advance of modernity.

Conveying a message by the EU High Representative and Vice President, Baroness Catherine Ashton, on the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, the Head of the EU Delegation Ambassador Elisabeth Pape paid tribute to the enormous contribution the traditions and knowledge [of indigenous people] have made to the world's cultural heritage and to the sustainable development of our planet. "On behalf of the European Union, I pledge to strive to put an end to discrimination and unequal treatment – not only in principle, but most importantly in practice" she quoted Ashton.

Ambassador Pape also provided examples how the EU supports the cause of the San people in Namibia:

"Under the Rural Poverty Reduction Programme designed and implemented together with the Government of Namibia, a grant of 1,8 million NAD was given to the Nyae Nyae Development Foundation of Namibia (NNDNF) for Poverty reduction in the San conservancies of Nyae Na Nꞑa Jaqn". She added: "The Delegation has also supported a project implemented through Health Unlimited for improving San adolescent sexual and reproductive health in the Omaheke and the Otjozondjupa regions, as well as co financing of about half a million EUROS to improve rural livelihoods and promote the conservation of forest biodiversity and the sustainable utilisation of natural resources in the Bwabwata National Park, benefitting in particular the San population."

# Mweshipandeka Senior Secondary School takes top prize in EU Quiz

**As part of educational outreach on the European Union (EU), the EU Delegation to the Republic of Namibia organised a quiz competition for the 10 best performing schools in the Oshana region on 24 September 2010. Eight schools eventually took part in the competition. Upon special request by Prime Minister Nahas Angula, the Delegation organised the school quiz in the North, which is the most densely populated area of the country. Like the first quiz of this kind held in the capital Windhoek last year, it again invited learners to demonstrate their knowledge on the EU and EU-Namibia relations, with a view to deepening the understanding of the EU's role in Namibia.**

Two teams at a time were set as rivals until the eight teams - representing Gabriel Taapopi Senior Secondary School, Omunhama Combined School, Andimba Toivo ya Toivo Senior Secondary School, Ondjondjo Combined School, Mweshipandeka Senior Secondary School, Ondjola Combined School, Omunganda Combined School and Okatana Combined School - were reduced to the two finalists: Mweshipandeka and Andimba Toivo ya Toivo. Mweshipandeka came out as the winner, while Ondjondjo and Okatana shared the third place.

Deputy Minister of Education, Hon. Dr. David Namwandi and Quiz moderator, youth activist Samuel Kapepo, principals, teachers and parents greatly supported the event. Their presence played a major role in making the day a success. Learners came well prepared for the competition and were thrilled with their prizes, which included school bags filled with stationary and EU branded promotional materials, as well as CD players for the winning school.

"The EU and Namibia have a strong and longstanding relationship," said the Deputy Minister of Education, Dr. David Namwandi. "To maintain this relationship and to make it even more productive, we seek to engage with each other at all levels of our societies, and learn about one another: how our political, economic and social systems function and how we make decisions which advance our common goals," he added.

He said the EU School Quiz Competition is unique, as it aims to deepen the understanding of the EU and EU-Namibia relations among the learners. He added that in the global village, no individual, organisation, country or nation can continue to work in isolation, as everything has become interdependent and interconnected.

"But that can only happen if we, as global citizens, listen to each other, respect each other, learn from one another, care for each other, and seek common ground. Unity is forged when there is joint participation, sharing of experience and only we



**Euro Quiz champion:** Mweshipandeka team with Deputy Minister of Education, Hon. Dr. David Namwandi and Ambassador Elisabeth Pape.

*Photo by New Era*

can develop a common understanding of our journey," said Namwandi.

Since Independence, the EU and its Member States have supplied by far more than half of the funds by the international community in support of the country's development efforts, making the Union the biggest donor in the country. "Reducing poverty is central to our development policy and the EU continues to assist the Government in supporting this objective, most importantly in the areas of education and rural development," said Dr. Namwandi.

Head of the EU Delegation, Dr. Elisabeth Pape, told the contestants that the fact that they took part in the competition meant they were winning schools because only the best schools were invited to the EU quiz.

She said the quiz was first introduced last year when eight high schools in the Khomas region participated in the competition. "The first place went to A. Shipena Secondary School from Katutura and the second place went to the Deutsche Höhere Privatschule (DHPS), while Cosmos High School and Concordia College shared the third place. This year, it was moved to the Oshana region," she added.

Despite being the smallest, the Oshana region is the most densely populated of the thirteen regions in Namibia, with an estimated population of 177 022, thirty one per cent of which are represented by the youth.

The Delegation hopes to turn the competition into an annual event, and to reach out to the remaining Western, Eastern and Southern regions of the country.

# EU Trade Commissioner meets EU Development Ministers and African Trade Ministers

*On 22 October in Brussels European Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht and Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs met European Development Ministers. This was followed by a Joint Ministerial Trade Committee (JMTC) with African Ministers.*

The JMTC, in particular, addressed the Doha Development Round, Aid for Trade and World

Trade Organisation (WTO) Accession process for ACP States. Other issues on the agenda included the future of EU trade policy, an update of EU Free Trade Agreements (FTA) negotiations with third countries, rules of origin and commodities.

The JMTC then devoted a special session on ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), with a dialogue on status and future perspectives.



Trade Commissioner  
Karel De Gucht

## Regional seminar on the EU-SADC EPA

From 13 to 15 September 2010 at the Commodore Hotel in Cape Town (South Africa) the European Union (EU) and TRALAC (Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa) jointly hosted an information seminar on the EU-Southern African Development Community (SADC) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

The event aimed at providing for a platform for exchange of views on benefits and challenges of the EPA in the SADC EPA Group region. It brought together 65 representatives of the public and private sector from SADC

EPA Group countries (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland) with a view to help stakeholders better understand the EPA and its potential impact on the national and regional economic climate and business realities. EU and TRALAC experts, along with experts from government, academia and independent think tanks, discussed the state of play of EU-SADC EPA Group negotiations, including technical and outstanding issues, and the way forward.



Development Commissioner  
Andris Piebalgs

Source: European Commission Trade Directorate-General

## Annual Action Programme

# EU supports Water supply and sanitation, Basic Education and governance in Namibia

*The European Commission adopted the Annual Action Programme (AAP) 2010 in favour of the Republic of Namibia worth a total of €61.65 million on 11 October 2010.*

“The objective of this year’s AAP is to support Namibia’s strategic approach to poverty reduction embedded in its Vision 2030 and its National Development Plan 3. Special focus of the programme is on the two sectors of concentration of the EU aid, Rural development and Education, with a €42.15 million program supporting Basic Education within the sector wide reform of the Government and a €18 million program supporting efforts to improve access to safe water and sanitation in the country. It also includes

a programme in the area of governance, to support the accountability of the Parliament,” said Elisabeth Pape, Head of the EU Delegation in Namibia.

The objective of the Education Sector Policy Support Program (€42.15 million) is to assist the Government of the Republic of Namibia in reaching the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty) and MDG 2 (Achieve universal primary education) and meeting the challenge of ensuring equality of educational opportunities. It will contribute to reducing access and quality school inequities and inefficiencies at pre-primary and primary levels through needs-based planning and monitoring.

The overall objective of the Support to Namibian Water Supply and Sanitation

Sector Programme (NAWASA) is to support development objectives as defined by the Government of the Republic of Namibia in its Vision 2030. The purpose of this programme is to improve access to potable water and to appropriate means of sanitation for the Namibian population. This will assist the Government of the Republic of Namibia in achieving the MDG particularly for the rural population where more than 20% do not have access to potable water and more than 86% of rural households lack access to appropriate sanitation facilities.

Under Governance (non focal sector of the Country Strategy Paper), the AAP, through its Parliamentary Support Pro-

## ETSIP Review Meeting

*Discussions during the April 2010 Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme (Etsip) Review Meeting were recently followed up by a three- day technical meeting between representatives of Government, Development Partners and Non State Actors stakeholders. The meeting which took place from 9 to 11 November 2010 focused on specific sector issues emerging from past discussions and recommendations.*

In relation to equity objectives, the School Development Fund and the Education Development Fund together with the school register of needs and school profiling were discussed. The costs of schooling in Namibia are acknowledged to represent an heavy burden for many poor households and to often constitute a barrier to accessing education services. The European Union (EU) Delegation, in close cooperation with Development Partners, is engaged in discussing with the Ministry of Education alternatives which would support concomitant efforts in achieving the MDG goal of Universal Primary Completion. Progress has been made in developing the school register of needs and the profiling of schools according to specific standards and criteria with a view to ensure that planning and budgeting in the education sector are more needs- and evidence based. An analysis of EMIS figures for 2009 shows how the divide between rural and urban and between poverty quintiles persists and the need for more targeted interventions is prominent.

The efficiency objectives under ETSIP were widely discussed through the presentation of findings and recommendations emanating from the Education Public Expenditure Review (PER). The Ministry of Finance is embarking on a main PER exercise, which the EU Delegation supported by financing the PER for the Education sector. Some of the required follow-up recommendations will be financially and technically accompanied under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF Sector Policy Support program, the signature of which took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2010.

## Financing Agreement for Education Sector Policy Support Program signed

***On 18 November 2010, the European Union (EU) and the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN), through the Director General of the National Planning Commission, have signed the Financing Agreement for the Education Sector Policy Support Program (SPSP). The program amounts to € 42.15 million (NAD 400 million) to be disbursed over four years, with the first disbursement of NAD 50 million expected in the coming months.***

The European Union has been fully supportive of the education sector in Namibia since independence and is committed to continue doing so under the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF), whereby Education/Human Resources Development has again been retained as the second sector of intervention in Namibia. Universal completion of primary education will need inputs of extra resources and better management of support to Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and disadvantaged communities. By committing € 42.15 million to support the Ministry of Education in reducing inequities in terms of access and disparities and in terms of quality at pre-primary and primary levels, the European Union believes that the new program will make an important difference. Financial and technical support are timely and relevant to meet the significant needs of the schools, learners, teachers and school staff alike. € 38 million will be channeled as budget support, and thus disbursed directly into the State Revenue Fund. Disbursements will be linked to progress in terms of to access to pre-primary, drop out rates, survival rates, teachers' qualifications, textbooks provision, repetition rates and HIV and Aids. The budget support component will be complemented by a provision of € 2 million to provide technical expertise and capacity building at national and regional levels and invest in research to support national education objectives. €1.6 million have been allocated to a project aiming at increasing participatory grass-roots monitoring of school performance through information on education rights and principles. This project on social accountability and school governance will be managed by UNICEF.

### AAP..from page 14

gramme, will strengthen the performance and the accountability of the Parliament by fostering its engagement on Namibia's development agenda. It will enhance the capacity within the Parliament and its relevant Standing Committees to provide executive oversight and to interact with

citizens on the implementation of the poverty reduction programmes.

### Background

This € 61.65 million allocation is provided through 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF). Namibia received €103 million under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF for the period 2008-2013 to support the efforts of the Government of Namibia to reduce

poverty by focusing on rural development (€ 45.2 million), human resources development (€ 42.15 million) and support to governance, capacity building and non-state actors (€ 15.65 million). The AAP 2010 follows the 2009 AAP, which totalled € 1.5 million and included programmes aiming at improving the country's economic governance.

# New faces at the Delegation



**Xavier RICHOU** is a 42-year old French citizen, married with two sons, who arrived in the Delegation at the beginning of September 2010. After studies in Economics, he started his international career 18 years ago in Madagascar. Since then, he has worked for different organisations:

NGOs, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs... in nearly all corners of Africa (Sierra Leone, Guinea, Kenya, Mauritius), always dealing with administrative and financial management.

He joined the European Commission in 2007 and was previously posted for three years in the European Delegation in Guinea-Conakry as Head of Finance & Contract Section, a position he still occupies in the EU Delegation in Windhoek.

"In many African countries the last decades have been characterised by political instability, bad governance or economic crisis; it is then very interesting and exciting to be in Namibia, one of the few 'success stories' in Africa, and to take part in the EU assistance to accompany Namibia forward in its way to development."



**Laura Lammerts-Imbuwa** joined the Rural Development Section in July as a Programme Officer. Previously, she worked for four years at the Namibia National Farmers Union (NNFU) as a Programme Coordinator- Livestock Department.

She was born and raised in The Netherlands, where she obtained a Master in Animal Science from Wageningen University. She is currently completing a Master in Business Administration (MBA) through distance learning at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

"At the NNFU I have been involved in implementing several donor funded projects. I think that experience gives me an added advantage in working for one of the most ambitious and committed development partners of Namibia. Furthermore, it is great to work in the multicultural environment of the Delegation," she said of her experience.

Laura is married to a Namibian and had her first child in August.



**Eva Saadallah** is a 23-year old French student of Development Economics. Before finishing her studies, she decided to acquire experience in a new country for her. After several internships in West Africa, she joins the Namibia Delegation.

"An internship in the Delegation seems perfect to put into practice my academic background and to understand how the EU Delegation works. I am both delighted to join this pleasant work environment and to discover Namibia," she said.

**Italian Francesca Lo Verde** also believes her experience at the Delegation will give her the skills and confidence she needs for the real world job market.



"Working in the field of international cooperation for development was and is still my dream. This experience with the Delegation is very precious in terms of professional development and it is also an opportunity to create new friendships."

Francesca's three-month internship commenced in October 2010. She holds master degrees in Development Cooperation and International Cooperation for Emergency.

## Farewell



In September, the Delegation bid farewell to **Jose Chantre**, former Head of the Finance and Contracts Section. The Delegation will remember him for his tireless efforts aimed at ensuring sound implementation of the European Union's aid programme with Namibia, particularly by providing support and advice on matters of financial and contract management.

The Delegation wishes Mr. Chantre all the best with his new assignment at the Directorate-General for Trade at the European Commission Headquarters in Brussels.