

The Delegation's history

26th November 1991

The EC becomes the **161st member of the FAO**. Within the FAO, the EC is admitted for the first time as a Regional Economic Integration Organisation with the status of a full member. This accession represented an institutional breakthrough as it was the first time that the EC became a Member as such of a UN Body.

1993

Agreement on **Procedures for Technical Cooperation** between the EC and the FAO.

1995

Beginning of the talks of EC accession to the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

2003

EC accession to the **Codex Alimentarius** Commission.
Signature of the **Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA)** between the EC and the FAO (includes also WFP).

2004

Signature of **EC/FAO Strategic Partnership Agreement**.
Signature of the **Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA)** between the EC and IFAD

2005

Signature of the **EC/WFP Memorandum of Understanding** concerning the establishment of a Strategic Partnership Agreement.

2006

Accreditation of Mr. Luis Ritto as Ambassador to the **Holy See** on 24 June 2006. To pave the way to this accreditation, President José Manuel Barroso came to pay a visit to the Holy Father in May 2006. In November 2006, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner organised the first official visit to the Vatican after the full reciprocity of diplomatic relations had been finally ensured.

2007

Mr. Luis Ritto was appointed as representative of the European Commission to the **Order of Malta**.

2009

1 September: Mr. Yves Gazzo was appointed Head of the European Commission Delegation to the Holy See, the Order of Malta and the UN Organisations in Rome.

19 October: The New Head of Delegation, Mr Yves Gazzo, officially presents his credentials to the Holy Father.

3 November: The New Head of Delegation, Mr Yves Gazzo, officially presents his credentials to the FAO Director General, Mr Jacques Diouf.

6 November: The New Head of Delegation, Mr Yves Gazzo, officially presents his credentials to the Grand Master of the Order of Malta, Fra Matthew Festing

1 December: With the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, the Delegation is no longer designated Delegation of the European Commission but Delegation of the European Union.

2011

27 June: Signature of the Statement of Intent for a Programmatic Cooperation on Food Security and Nutrition between the European Commission and the three UN Rome-based agencies (FAO, WFP and IFAD)

2012

9 January: Ms. Laurence Argimon-Pistre was appointed Head of the European Union Delegation to the Holy See, the Order of Malta and the UN Organisations in Rome.

9 February: Ambassador Laurence Argimon-Pistre presents her credentials to Pope Benedict XVI as new Head of the EU Delegation to the Holy See

10 February: Ambassador Laurence Argimon-Pistre presents her credentials to the Grand Master of the Order of Malta, Fra Matthew Festing, as new Head of the EU Delegation to the Order of Malta

16 February: Ambassador Laurence Argimon-Pistre presents her credentials to the FAO Director General, Mr José Graziano da Silva, as new EU Permanent Representative to FAO