



## **EU Head of Delegation visits Aden**

05 March 2014 -- The Head of the EU Delegation, Ambassador Bettina Muscheidt, attended in Aden on Wednesday, 5 March, a meeting of the local dialogue for Aden and Hadramout. The local dialogue initiative is an EU-funded project aimed at supporting the political participation of Yemeni citizens in the current transitional process.

*Ambassador Muscheidt said: "I am very pleased to be back in Aden for the third time in less than a year. Yemen is embarking on a new phase that requires the hard work and devotion of everybody to make a better future for this country. This is a historic moment to turn a new page and start addressing Yemen's real economic and social challenges. The Yemeni people are looking forward to reaping the outcome of National Dialogue Conference, which should serve as a roadmap for Yemen's future. The Yemeni people deserve a better life and better opportunities. The EU reaffirms its commitment to accompany and support Yemen in this endeavour and condemns any acts aimed at undermining state institutions and the transition process."*

During her visit, Ambassador Muscheidt met with a number of politicians and civil society activists from Aden and Hadramout.

### **Background:**

The local dialogue project supports political participation of Yemeni citizens and relevant stakeholders at provincial level. Over the past months, the local dialogue committees provided concrete recommendations to the National Dialogue Conference and contributed to enhancing understanding and cooperation between the local and central levels in Yemen. The project is implemented by the Political Development Forum (PDF) and Berghof Foundation with an EU contribution of approximately EURO 430.000. The overall EU support to Yemen amounts to around EURO 100 million a year, including humanitarian aid.