

Newsletter

Newsletter of the Delegation of the European Union to Yemen

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Two EU high-level officials visit Yemen

EuropeAid Director Marcus Cornaro visited Yemen between 24 and 27 October to review EU-Yemen development cooperation. Mr Cornaro met with several Yemeni government ministers and discussed ways to broaden cooperation with Yemen. The visit provided an opportunity to engage with Yemeni stakeholders and consult on progress made in different areas of cooperation. During his high-level meetings with Yemeni officials, Cornaro underscored EU's commitment to working closely with Yemen to address its numerous development challenges.

A financing agreement of euro 24 million was signed between the European Commission and Yemen toward the food security sector during the visit.

Mr Cornaro also undertook field visits to Hudeidah and Taiz to get firsthand experience of EU-funded projects in the two governorates. While in Hudeidah, he had the opportunity to see EU-funded rural development projects in the Tihama region. On his way to the district of Hais, he toured the beautiful old city of Zabid. Cornaro met with local government officials in the district of Hais together with staff of a local NGO implementing an EU-funded project aimed at empowering marginalised groups in the districts of Hais, Zabid and Bait al-Faqih.

In Taiz, Cornaro discussed with local officials the outcome of EU-funded health projects in the province. He also attended the launching ceremony of the second phase of EU-funded health project, covering both Taiz and

Lahaj provinces.



Mr Cornaro during a closing ceremony of a health project in Taiz

Back in Sana'a, the Director had a working launch with representatives of civil society to exchange views on various issues related to the work of CSOs.

The Director was accompanied in all these meetings by the Head of Delegation Ambassador Michele Cervone d'Urso, Head of Operations Philippe Jacques and Desk Officer for Yemen and the GCC Willem Brinkmann.

In July, the Director for Middle East and South Mediterranean Tomás Dupla del Moral undertook a two-day official visit to Yemen on 12 – 13 July 2010 to take part in the EU-Yemen Joint Cooperation Committee's (JCC) meeting. The JCC is the annual consultation forum for exchanging views and strengthening cooperation between the European Union and Yemen on development, economic and political issues.

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Editorial

The Friends of Yemen meeting in New York of 24 September provided the forum to underscore international commitment and support to Yemen. The meeting firmly anchored Yemen in the regional context and charted a series of milestones which will lead to the Riyadh meeting in February. The EU was represented by High Representative and Vice-President Baroness Catherine Ashton who reiterated the full backing of the EU to a comprehensive, multilateral and long-term commitment to Yemen, under Yemeni leadership. The High Representative also reemphasized her statement of 19 July supporting President Saleh's call to launch the National Dialogue process as the key to unlocking progress on both the political and economic fronts and to securing national unity and forging national reconciliation. The EU also welcomed Yemeni efforts to implement the IMF programme as a mechanism to help Yemen turn its economy around. The EU is committed to help manage the impacts of these adjustments and particularly any social impact through its support to the Social Welfare Fund (SWF).



The EU kick-started in July the local EU Presidency with the annual EU-Yemen Joint Consultative Committee which took place on 12 July under the leadership of HE Deputy Prime Minister Al Arhabi and Mr Tomás Dupla del Moral, Director for the Middle East and Mediterranean Region. It signalled the approval of the new Yemen – EC Country strategy for 2011-13 adding a further another euro 71 million to the already programmed euro 70 million. The visit was also an opportunity to engage with Yemeni political actors on the national dialogue process as well as exchanging views with Human Rights Defenders. It was followed by the first high-level mission to Yemen by EuropeAid Cooperation office to Yemen in October that took stock of progress and discuss with the Yemeni authorities EU support to Food security and Health in Yemen. Political consultations between Yemen and the EU will take place in the coming weeks as part of EU-Yemen political dialogue process.

In addition to the political and development dimension of EU engagement with Yemen, security sector support, as highlighted in the newsletter, has increasingly become an important area of EU-Yemen cooperation covering some of the main issues emerging the Friends of Yemen meeting in New York such as Yemen law-enforcement capacities and maritime security. The EU together with Yemen's friends remains committed to a comprehensive approach that intends to tackle together development, state-building and security concerns.

Michele Cervone d'Urso
Head of Delegation

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EU WELCOMES NATIONAL DIALOGUE

Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the national dialogue process in Yemen (19 July 2010) – Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, made the following statement:

“I welcome the recent Agreement reached in Yemen between the General People’s Congress (GPC) and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) on national dialogue. I also welcome the announcement by President Saleh on the implementation of the confidence building measures first signalled in his speech of 22 May 2010. These are important steps forward in the national dialogue process, which offers an opportunity to unlocking progress on many issues, from economic and political reform, to national reconciliation. I would like to encourage all the parties to implement the new Agreement, and reiterate that the European Union stands ready to support the dialogue process. I also take the opportunity to restate the full support of the European Union for a democratic, united and stable Yemen.”

EU provides €10 million in humanitarian aid to IDPs and refugees in Yemen

26 July 2010 - The European Commission announced a funding package of euro 10 million to respond to urgent humanitarian needs in Yemen exacerbated by a lack of support from the international community. The funds will be used to provide shelter, water and sanitation, food and livelihood support, basic health care and protection. The money will be directed to those most vulnerable among the 350,000 internally displaced persons and their host communities, and 170,000 foreign refugees in Yemen.

Yemen is facing two major humanitarian challenges which are overstressing the country’s resources, said Kristalina Georgieva, the Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response. Due to the recurrent conflict, we have about 350,000 internally displaced people in the north. There are also over 170,000 refugees, mainly from Somalia, who are trying to escape the instability in the Horn of Africa, scattered all around Yemen. The most vulnerable among both groups are largely dependent on international humanitarian aid as livelihood opportunities are scarce and the resources of host communities have been depleted and overstretched over the past few months.

The Commissioner continued, We are facing a situation, where humanitarian organisations are confronted with a shortage of funding that could force them to reduce or discontinue their operations. Urgent and immediate financial support is needed to ensure the continuation of the relief effort. I am therefore extremely glad that the European Commission is able to make such a substantial contribution to saving the lives of tens of thousands of people who are living in deplorable conditions in Yemen.

The aid will be distributed in particular through UNHCR, Médecins du Monde, Care, Oxfam, ICRC, and WFP. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs will also be supported to help provide monitoring, coordination and advocacy.

EU Delegation assumes permanent local presidency of the EU in Yemen

6 July 2010 - On the 1 July, the Delegation of the European Union to Yemen assumed the role of the local Presidency of the European Union which entails the task of representation, coordination and negotiation on behalf of the European Union. The local representation of the European Union will be unified under the authority of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Baroness Catherine Ashton, bringing together the previous tasks performed by the European Union Delegations with the role and functions exercised by the rotating EU Presidencies.

The EU Delegation will seek to deepen and strengthen EU cooperation with the Government and the people of Yemen in close coordination with the Embassies of the EU Member States on a number of key issues, including state-building, national dialogue and economic reforms, said the EU Head of Delegation, Ambassador Michele Cervone d’Urso. The Delegation is expanding right now to respond to growing responsibilities and will soon be well-equipped to handle its new role. We look forward to a more robust engagement with the Yemeni stakeholders at all levels.

With the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009, the High Representative is responsible for the EU’s political dialogue. The High Representative represents the European Union in matters relating to the Common Foreign and Security Policy and conducts political dialogue with third parties on the Union’s behalf. The EU rotational presidency will continue to exist, but Delegations in third countries will assume permanent local presidency of the EU.

EU provides euro 18.3 million to support Yemen safety net

26 July 2010 – An EU-funded project of euro 18.3 million to support Yemen’s safety net was launched at the Movenpick Hotel in Sana’a. The project is implemented by the World Bank and designed to address poverty in the most affected communities and contribute to creating temporary job opportunities for thousands of households through more than 100 community projects.

The EU funding for this important intervention came as part of an EU sustained

support to the social safety net given the importance of this scheme in mitigating the suffering of the poorest people in the country, said EU Head of Delegation Ambassador, Michele Cervone d’Urso.

The project includes two components: community projects through the SFD and cash flow to the hands of the poor through SWF. More than 100 projects will be implemented by SFD to create temporary jobs to at least 12,000 households for communities most affected by food crisis, drought and floods. These basic infrastructure projects will cover soil protection, maintenance and improvement of feeder roads, and other types of labour-intensive interventions. The SWF will seek to ensure direct cash transfers to 41,000 of the poorest households in flood affected areas (Hadramout and Mahara), conflict affected areas (Saada and Amran), and areas with high prevalence of child trafficking (Hajja, Al-Mahweet and Hodeidah), covering 58 districts in seven governorates.

The launching ceremony of this project was held on 26th of July 2010 and was attended by the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, the Minister of Social Affairs, the European Union’ Ambassador to Yemen, Michele Cervone D’Urso, and the World Bank Country Manager.

EU provides euro 4.2 million in conditional cash transfers to vulnerable groups in Yemen

21 July 2010 - The European Union is providing euro 4.2 million in conditional cash transfers to the most vulnerable groups in selected areas of Yemen to enhance direct social protection and increased school attendance. This intervention aims to address a number of issues related to social protection including: improved income, better rural-poor access to education, improved health services, and increased school enrolment. It is anticipated that this action will have an overall impact of contributing to poverty reduction, rural growth and improving food security in the target areas.

The EU Head of Delegation, Michele Cervone d’Urso, said, Helping the Social Welfare Fund (SWF) is essential to consolidate an effective safety net in Yemen to protect the poorest and alleviate the effects of fiscal adjustment.

The European Union is a leading donor for the SWF and has provided funding of around euro 14 million since 2006 and is planning an additional allocation of euro 7 million towards this sector.

The EU is breaking new ground with this pilot project of conditional cash transfers to the most vulnerable groups in Yemen. This action also complements other programmes funded by the EU, which are aimed at poverty reduction, rural development, and capacity-building of relevant stakeholders. The EU is also contributing to setting up a National Food Security Strategy, which will provide a comprehensive approach to address all dimensions of food security in Yemen.

UNHCR, EC support refugees and host communities around Aden

5 June 2010 – UNHCR inaugurated together with the European Union two EC-funded projects for some 13,000 refugees in Kharaz camp and another 40,000 people in Basateen urban area, including nearly 17,000 refugees and 13,000 Yemenis. The EU Head of Delegation, Ambassador Michele Cervone D’Urso and HUNCHR Country Representative, Claire Bourgeois, also visited several other projects supported by the EC humanitarian aid department, ECHO. During a ceremony hosted by the Deputy Governor of Aden, Sultan Mohammed al Shaidi, within the office’s premises, the EU Ambassador handed over two EU-funded trucks for the garbage collection to the Cleaning Fund operating in Basateen, a marginalised area in the outskirts of Aden where UNHCR provides a number of services for the refugee and host communities, including the management of waste disposal. The Ambassador of European Union expressed his deep satisfaction and gratitude to the Government of Yemen and especially to Authorities in Aden for their continued efforts in protection refugees and asylum seekers. The European Union is particularly committed in supporting Yemen to respond to the unique challenges that refugees and host communities face in urban environments, Cervone said. On her part, Clair Bourgeois said: We expressed our deep gratitude to the European Union for their tremendous contribution towards refugees in Yemen and to the Government of Yemen for their continued commitment to protect refugees and asylum seekers.

EU Delegation to Sign 13 new contracts with civil society actors

While most of the EU development cooperation is delivered through Government institutions, cooperation with Civil Society Actors has significantly increased throughout the past years. Indeed, this cooperation is increasingly becoming a major component of the EU's engagement with Yemen. During 2010, the EU launched several calls for proposals on various themes, inviting Civil Society Organisations to submit their own project proposals to be implemented with EU funding. The main characteristics of this type of cooperation are the freedom of the CSO in developing their project proposals and managing the projects afterwards, as well as their close links with community-based priorities and objectives and the direct impact of such actions on the local population.

In January 2010, the EU Delegation launched a call for proposals under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, requesting proposals dealing with the promotion and protection of civil and political rights as well as the right of association and the right to freedom of expression. A total of six contracts are currently being prepared with local partners to start implementation of their activities by the end of this year. The selected projects will work on different areas such as rationalisation of death penalty (meant to ensure that death sentences are only issued after all constitutional and legal conditions have been respected), awareness on the non-acceptability of use of torture within security services (particularly in relation to juveniles), improving the living conditions of female prisoners and the production of radio programmes to raise general awareness on human rights among wider groups of the population. The overall budget for these projects is approx. euro 1 million. These projects will be implemented by HOOD, Women Media Forum, Political Development Forum, Democracy School, Transparency Centre and Abou Mousa al-Ashary Charitable Association.

Another call for proposals was launched in February 2010 under the Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development Programme. This programme had identified the themes of youth empowerment, local council capacity-building and re-integration of minority groups (incl. people living with disabilities, but also victims of armed conflicts) into society as its priorities. Currently, the Delegation is preparing contracts with two international NGOs (CARE Germany/Luxemburg and the German Red Cross) and three local NGOs (Civic Democratic Initiatives Support Foundation (CDF), Seyaj for Protecting Childhood and the Arab Human Rights Foundation). These interventions will jointly be implemented with two local councils (al-Baidha governorate and Hajja governorate, Nagrah district). The projects selected under this call for proposals will work on economic empowerment of young people (in particular in Hajja governorate); increasing the involvement of youth in civil society; raising awareness on the rights of disabled people; strengthening capacities of local authorities towards local development; and establishing a rehabilitation centre for young victims of landmines. The total amount contracted under this programme is almost euro 2.1 million.

Formal consultations with civil society on the priorities to be included under next year's programmes are set to take place towards the end November. A new call on human rights and another new call for local authorities are expected to be launched towards the beginning of 2011.

WELCOME TO

Name	Title
Ignacio Sobrino Castello	Head of Section, Operations
Peter Robinson	Deputy Head of Finance and Contracts
Abdelaziz Cherradi	Finance and Contracts Officer
Sarah Bernhardt	Programme Manager, Health Sector
Hanan Abumunassar	Accountant
Marwan al-Tawqi	Development Coordination Programme Officer
Hayet Maraoub	Personal Assistant to Head of Delegation

EU organizes arts competition

22 June 2010 – The Delegation of the European Union to Yemen organised a painting exhibition of artworks submitted to the Delegation as part of its first art competition in Yemen. The exhibition featured more than 47 artifacts made by prominent and young artists who took part in the competition. Housed at the Bab al-Yemen Gallery, the exhibition was open to the public from 22 to 28 June 2010. The competition was organised under the motto of “Nour”.

“Organising this contest and the subsequent exhibition came to reflect the Delegation's commitment to promoting artists in Yemen,” Ambassador Michele Cervone d'Urso said. “I wish to pay tribute to the efforts made by every artist to contribute to this competition.”

Artists let lose their imagination to echo the theme of the contest Nour, with women forming a central element of most of these paintings. A panel of two Yemenis and two Europeans chose six winning paintings by these artists: Ali Mohammed Qaed, Mazhar Nizar, Salwa al-Matari, Zaki el-Yafai, Fuad al-hadad, Khalid al-Anisi.

EU organises three photo exhibitions at the national museum

The Dutch Embassy, EU Delegation to Yemen, Czech Embassy and British Council in Yemen organised three photo exhibitions at the National Museum in Sana'a from 8 to 20 May.

Light on Culture exhibition, organised by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Sana'a, explores similarities and differences in the way the people in the Netherlands and Yemen have been building their houses over the past decades and even centuries. It presents a colourful selection of photographs documenting the art of building in both countries. The exhibition documents prevailing architectural trends and offered a fascinating insight into the development of architecture in Yemen and the Netherlands.



Hayd al-Jazil
(Wadi Daw'an)

“Yemen: a treasure trove” photo exhibition was also opened around the same time. Sponsored by the EU Delegation to Yemen and the Czech Embassy in Sana'a, the exhibition is a representation of a successful photo exhibition organised in Dubai, UAE in late 2009 by Dubai-based Total Arts Gallery in collaboration with Arabia Felix. The exhibition narrates the story of a country and its people as seen through the lenses of a group of photographers - two Yemenis among them. The pictures show various facets of the country, its people, and its way of life.



Simone Santi, football
game at sundown,
Yemen, March 2009

The British Council in Yemen also organised a digital presentation of a British Council project, My Father's House, which explores the relationship between the built environment and cultural identity. Yemeni photographer Boushra Almutawakel and the British Council made a presentation based on a part of her contribution to the “My Father's House” project. The British Council also held a roundtable discussion exploring the relationship between the built environment and cultural heritage with initial contributions by Boushra Almutawakel and Tim Mackintosh-Smith.



Photo by Boushra
Almutawakel

PROVIDING HELP WHERE IT'S NEEDED THE MOST

EU HUMANITARIAN AID IN THE NORTHERN YEMEN

Hundreds of sun bleached tents, organised in neat rows, and coated in a layer of sand after numerous storms; this is the first impression of Mazraq camp number three which lies around 30 kilometres northeast of Harradh town in the northern governorate of Hajjah. Its 3,400 inhabitants avoid the scorching mid-day sun, leaving the sand roads and small paths between the tents empty. Here and there, one can find small groups of children running around and playing between the tents. Women sit just in front of their tents, cooking on self-made earthen stoves.

Leila and her five children arrived at Mazraq camp number three back in February from their small village in the neighbouring Sa'ada governorate. Leila lost her husband two years ago. "When almost everyone left our village because of the fighting, we had to leave as well. There was nobody left to help me make ends meet with food donations or small jobs," she explains. In the camp she has received a tent. Her family is entitled to regular basic food allocations and clean water is provided from a pump a few 100 meters away.

In the three Mazraq camps which offer a temporary home to over 18,000 people displaced by the fighting, the most basic needs of the displaced are covered by funding from international donors. Among them is the European Commission, which allocated this year around €8.8 million for the provision of food, clean water, tents and medical aid.

In Europe, little is known about the impact of the 6th war in Yemen's north. 300,000 people are displaced with the majority of them living in impromptu settlements on the plains of Hajja outside the conflict area. Some are with host families, which by now are struggling to

feed everybody, and a few thousand are living in camps. "As a large institutional donor we especially try to help the victims of natural disaster or conflicts to survive; those who are not in the media limelight and are thus easily forgotten," explains Stephane Quinton, covering operations in Yemen from the Regional Office for EU Humanitarian Aid in Amman. "Thanks to the ceasefire some people have returned home. However the humanitarian needs of the thousands of people who remain because of insecurity and mines, still need to be met."

Note: Since 1994, the European Commission has provided over €33 million in humanitarian aid to help the most vulnerable population groups in Yemen to survive conflicts, displacements and natural disasters. Thousands of refugees from the Horn of Africa also benefited from the aid.

The budget is administered by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department. The aid is delivered by international non-governmental organisations, specialised UN agencies and the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement. The aid goes straight to the victims irrespective of their nationality, ethnic origin, political affiliation or religious beliefs. Currently, in addition to the €8.8 million for people displaced by the conflict in the north, an additional €1.2 million has been allocated to help refugees from the Horn of Africa in Aden and urban areas of Sana'a as well as for coordination of international humanitarian aid by the UN's specialised office OCHA.

Across the world, European Commission humanitarian aid saves millions of lives in around 70 countries each year.



Leila and her five children in Mazraq 3 camp. "When almost everybody left the village because of the fighting, we had to leave as well, as there was nobody left helping us to make ends meet with food donations or small jobs."



Most of the families displaced by the violence left their villages in the mountains with their cattle and resettled a day's walk away in villages with host families or in the open plains in Yemen's north.



Yemeni Coast Guard receiving training on boarding and operating small boats

EU support to security sector in Yemen

As part of EU engagement in support of state-building, the European Union has embarked on a new area of cooperation with Yemen in the field of security, specifically in terms of capacity-building of the different institutions involved in law-enforcement, maritime security, mixed migration and refugees. The following piece will briefly highlight the ongoing and future programmes in this area. The overall objective of the EU cooperation with Yemen in this field is to help build the capacities of Yemeni law-enforcement authorities to address the security challenges on a national and regional level and foster stability while ensuring the respect for human rights. This support complements other interventions funded by the European Union in areas of good governance and institutional capacity-building.

Capacity building of police academies and schools

The European Union is supporting a new project designed to build the capacities of training institutions of the Yemeni Ministry of Interior. The project aims at improving the quality of training provided by the Police Academy through modernising the curriculum, improving linkages with other training providers, exchanging and developing best practices and modernizing the Police Academy by integrating multimedia technologies into the training facilities. The project will include other important components such as technical assistance, professional development and empowering female officers to be equally trained and promoted as their male colleagues. The respect for human rights will be mainstreamed in the entire curriculum.

Implemented by a specialized branch under the French Ministry of Interior, CIVIPOL, the Yemeni Ministry of Interior will benefit from the expertise of major European institutions like the French police and gendarmerie experts, the German Federal Criminal Police Office and the German Institute of Applied Sciences in Public Administration.

Yemen-EU naval cooperation

In response to the surge of acts of piracy and armed robbery, the Council of the European Union decided in 2008 to deploy a military operation EUNAVFOR to help deter, prevent and repress acts of piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia (EUNAVFOR Atalanta). In support of UN Security Council Resolutions 1814 (2008),



Headquarters of the Yemeni Maritime Authority where ReMIS will be based

1816 (2008), 1838 (2008), 1846 (2008) and

1897 (2009), Atalanta has the prime mandate of protecting vessels of the World Food Programme (WFP) delivering food aid to displaced persons in Somalia as well as protecting vulnerable vessels cruising off the Somali coast, and the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast. Each merchant vessel wishing to transit through the Gulf of Aden or off the coast of Somalia is advised to register in advance on the website of the Maritime Security Center-Horn of Africa (www.mschoa.eu), which was set up at the beginning of the operation to facilitate the coordination of maritime traffic.

This operation, which is the first EU maritime operation, is conducted within the framework of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

On 14 June 2010, the Council of the European Union decided to extend the Operation's mandate for another two years until 12 December 2012.

Over the course of the operation, ATALANTA has developed cooperation with countries of the region, including Yemen. This includes exchange of visits, sharing information as well as joint training exercise for maritime personnel. In September 2010, a delegation of EUNAVFOR ATALANTA visited Yemen to hold talks with Yemeni officials and explore ways to enhance cooperation. Headed by Deputy Commander EUNAVFOR Atalanta Rear Admiral Thomas Ernest, the delegation met several Yemeni security officials, including the Minister of Interior, Minister of Transport and the Commander of the Yemeni Navy. Back in June 2010, the EU NAVFOR Force Headquarters Chief of Staff, Commander Benedetto Esposito, paid an official visit to Yemen to discuss with Yemeni officials possible areas of cooperation.



The EU NAVFOR Force Headquarters Chief of Staff, Commander Benedetto Esposito, presents an EU NAVFOR Crest to the chief of the Yemeni Coast Guard, Brigadier General Mohamed Ali Rasa.

Enhancing information exchange at Ministry of Interior

After several high-level missions from European Union personnel to Yemen throughout 2009, the EU Delegation agreed with the Ministry of Interior to support information exchange among related Yemeni law-enforcement agencies. The very ambitious euro-10-million project will seek to enhance inter-agency cooperation through the establishment of common databases. The project will be implemented by the French agency CiviPol, in partnership with other agencies of EU Member States.

EU support to Sana'a Regional Maritime Information Centre

As part of its continued support for Yemen to enhance its capacities to respond to piracy in the Gulf of Aden, the European Union will contribute several million Euros to set up a Regional Information Centre in Sana'a. Co-funded by the EU and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the project was launched at the end of September and should contribute to the reduction of acts of piracy and armed robbery against merchant ships at sea. The project is implemented within the framework of the Djibouti Code of Conduct, a regional agreement devised to promote cooperation to repress piracy and armed robbery in Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. The document provides for the creation of three information centres in Mombasa, Dar es Salaam and Sana'a, and a training centre for anti-piracy units and maritime law enforcement officers in Djibouti. ReMISC will be headquartered in the new premises of the Maritime Affairs Authority (MAA). The purpose of the Centre is to receive, collate, analyse and disseminate information related to the maritime security throughout its 24/7 operation Centre. Once the information is received, it will be quickly evaluated by an analysis department and then rebroadcast through a specific network to designated Focal Points at other maritime information sharing centres in Tanzania and Kenya. The EU is providing expertise and additional equipments to complement those being provided by IMO for the quick setting-up of the Centre. ReMISC will be equipped with brand new equipments. Moreover, the EU will provide technical assistance for three years to support the first independent steps of the Centre. The EU's support to this Centre is part of a wider strategy to help the country boost its capacity to address piracy and mixed migration as well as building the capacities of the Yemeni maritime agencies.

Chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs A. al-Arhabi for the Government of Yemen and Mr Dupladel Moral from the EU, the two sides discussed a range of issues relating to the EU-Yemen political and development cooperation and ways to enhance them. The Yemeni side briefed the EU on progress in preparing the country's Development Plan for Poverty Reduction (DPPR), the implementation of the economic reform programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the implementation of the ceasefire process in Saada. Furthermore, the EU engaged with the Government of Yemen on the preparation of New York Friends of Yemen meeting and overall country situation with regards to human rights in Yemen. In addition, the JCC provided an opportunity to discuss the state of play of EU-funded development programmes in areas of food security, good governance, fisheries, health and EU's support to Yemen accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the consultations will be followed by a high-level mission to Sana'a by EuropeAid cooperation office. The EU also stressed the need to enhance the overall effectiveness of donor aid to Yemen and the intention to develop a Joint EU country strategy for Yemen in support of the future DPPR. The EU and Yemen agreed to enhance the level of engagement and broaden their partnership. In particular, the EU would increase its multiannual assistance to Yemen by nearly 43 percent for the period from 2011 to 2013, increasing aid by a further EUR 71 million. The EU will also channel additional funds to Yemen through other financing instruments under various thematic programmes.



Mr Dupla De Moral during a routable meeting with journalist

During the visit, T. Dupla del Moral also held talks with senior Yemeni government officials, including Vice-President Abdu Rabo Mansur Hadi, Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Mujawar, Foreign Minister Al Qirbi as well as the opposition parties to discuss bilateral relations and exchange views on developments in Yemen. A particular focus of the discussions was the state of play of the national dialogue and Yemen's views on the Friends of Yemen process. The Government of Yemen praised the ever-growing EU-Yemeni relations and the EU's continued support for Yemen's development. On his part, T. Dupla del Moral underscored the EU commitment for closer cooperation with Yemen and continued support for Yemen to address the multiple challenges it is going through. This has been translated by a fully fledged EU Delegation and a new country development programme.

The visit programme of T. Dupla del Moral also included a meeting with the Yemeni opposition, human rights activists and a lunch with journalists. It marked increasing and deeper engagement of the EU with the Government and people of Yemen.