



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ZAMBIA AND COMESA

April – June 2016

EDITORIAL

BY AMBASSADOR ALESSANDRO MARIANI

The general elections are approaching and we have witnessed the launch of the official political campaign period with intensified activities by many political parties. But also for the European Union in Zambia this has been an intense and interesting quarter with many activities.

In addition to our regular activities as part of the political, development, trade and economic partnership with Zambia, the EU and Zambia organised their official political dialogue which took place in a very fruitful and constructive atmosphere covering a wide agenda including foreign policy issues, development cooperation, EU internal affairs, Zambia internal affairs, trade and investments. The political dialogue contributed to the decision to field an EU Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) to observe the forthcoming general elections on 11 August, following a specific request from the Zambian Authorities for its deployment, unanimously supported by all the other Zambian stakeholders. On 29 June the core team of the EU EOM arrived in the country and has been at work in Zambia since then.



During the second quarter of the year we had the opportunity to achieve a number of important deliverables

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in our economic and development partnership. After years of hard work by many safety experts in Zambia and in Europe the European Commission was able to clear all Zambian air carriers from the EU Air Safety List. We officially launched the first ever EU-Zambia Business Club where more than 200 European companies have already registered. We hosted several missions from Brussels including highly specialised ones in the field of energy and agriculture to present innovative development instruments such as ElectriFI and AgriFI aimed at promoting private sector investments in renewable energies and agriculture/agribusiness respectively.

Thanks to the joint work of the EU Delegation, EU Member States and Zambian stakeholders, we organised the first Europe Week in Zambia leading to the celebrations of Europe Day on May 9. The programme of Europe Week included a range of events such as (i) one day seminar with civil society organisations to underscore their essential contribution to the country's development both in terms of policy advocacy and implementation of development programs; (ii) a photo exhibition at the National Museum in Lusaka highlighting the areas of the EU-Zambia development co-operation and its tangible results; (iii) a seminar on the role of EU Development Banks in the Zambian context with the participation of AFD, EIB and KfW; (iv) a visit to projects with the inauguration of the maternity wing of the Chingala Health Centre.

of Gender and Child Development; Margaret Mwanakatwe, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry; Joseph Katema, Minister of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs; Maxas Ng'onga, Deputy Minister of Agriculture), four permanent secretaries (Foreign Affairs; Energy; Water; Information), the Political Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as several senior government officials. The European Union was represented by eight EU Heads of Missions (EU; Germany; Finland; Ireland; Italy; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom). The meeting covered a wide agenda including foreign policy issues, development cooperation, EU internal affairs, Zambia internal affairs, trade and investments. All participants found the dialogue extremely useful and the discussions were characterised as cordial, fruitful and results oriented. Ambassador Alessandro Mariani stated "Today's political dialogue was a very good day of consultations, further reinforcing the partnership between the European Union and Zambia". [Further reading](#)



EU –ZAMBIA PARTNERSHIP

EU – ZAMBIA POLITICAL DIALOGUE

On 5 May, the regular EU-Zambia Political Dialogue meeting took place. This is based on Article 8 of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of States and forms an integral part of the relations between the European Union and the Republic of Zambia. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Harry Kalaba, led the Government team composed of various ministers (Ngosa Simbyakula, Minister of Justice; Prof. Nkandu Luo, Minister

EU ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION

The EU Delegation and the Heads of Missions of EU Member States in Zambia wish to inform that, in response to an invitation from the Zambian Authorities, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign and Security Policy has decided to deploy an Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) to Zambia to observe the forthcoming general elections on 11 August, including a possible second round for the Presidential elections in case it is needed as prescribed by the relevant law. The EU Delegation signed on 20 June 2016 on behalf of the



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European Union two Memorandums of Understanding - with the Government of Zambia and with the Electoral Commission of Zambia – setting out the rights and obligations of the EU observers.

As the European Union previously observed also the 2011 and 2006 elections, this decision underlines the EU's continued commitment to supporting the Zambian democracy.

The EU EOM will be deployed in several phases with a core team who is expected to arrive as early as the end of June and remain in the country throughout the elections with a view to follow closely all phases of the electoral process. The EU EOM is going to work in an impartial and transparent manner with the Electoral Commission of Zambia and all other Zambian stakeholders who have unanimously supported its deployment. The EU EOM is independent in its findings and conclusions and adheres to the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation signed at the United Nations in October 2005.

The European Union EOM will liaise with other international observation missions who will be present in Zambia for the upcoming elections.



EU LOCAL STATEMENT ON THE CLOSURE OF THE POST

The Delegation of the European Union issued the following statement in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission in Zambia

"The closure of The Post by the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) on 21 June, reportedly because of an outstanding tax dispute, is of the utmost concern - in particular as it occurred during the campaign period leading to the general elections on 11 August.

The EU Delegation and the Heads of Mission of the EU Member States strongly support the principles of freedom of expression and freedom of the press as cornerstones of any democratic society. Independence of the media facilitates the free exchange of information and ideas. This principle is even more important as Zambia prepares for the upcoming general elections which all stakeholders expect to be credible, transparent and inclusive, in accordance with Zambia's democratic record.

While tax compliance is important there must be ample room for an agreement between ZRA and The Post, also in accordance with the equality in treatment that has to be granted to all media houses."

UPDATE OF THE EU AIR SAFETY LIST

The European Commission updated the [EU Air Safety List](#), the list of airlines which cannot fly in the EU sky because subject to an operating ban or operational restrictions. **The European Commission has cleared all airlines certified in Zambia from the list.** This decision was made possible after the responsible authorities and the airlines concerned were able to show the Commission and the EU Air Safety Committee that they implement international aviation safety standards.

Commissioner for Transport Violeta Bulc said: *"Aviation safety is my top priority. Today's decision illustrates the European Commission's continuous efforts to offer the highest level of safety. Not only to European travellers, but to travellers worldwide, because aviation safety does not know nationalities. I am happy that the European Commission was able today to clear all Zambian air carriers from the EU Air Safety List. It took seven years of hard work by many safety experts, in Zambia as well as in Europe, but our common efforts did pay off. Today's decision is proof*



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that hard work at the service of aviation safety does pay off, and that the skies in Zambia, but also in the rest of Africa, are getting safer and safer again."

The Air Safety List is one of the key tools employed by the European Union to guarantee the highest level of air safety to European citizens, whether they fly within the Union or outside of Europe. This is a priority for the Commission, as clearly stated in the Aviation Strategy it adopted in December 2015.

In recent years, the EU has stepped up efforts to not only put unsafe air carriers on the Air Safety List, but to also help affected countries to improve their levels of safety, in order for them to eventually be taken off the Safety List. In addition, the Air Safety List has become a major preventive tool, as it motivates countries with safety problems to act upon them before a ban under the Air Safety List would become necessary.

Ambassador Alessandro Mariani said: *"I am extremely pleased to see that the Zambian air carriers are now cleared from the EU Air Safety List and I look forward to seeing further continued improvements in safety and security in the coming years as these will provide tangible benefits not just to air travellers but to the Zambian economy as a whole."*

The EU has been engaging with the Zambian Authorities in recent years and has provided technical assistance to work closely with the Ministry of Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority amongst other partners (contracts totalling more than € 2.6M). The EU is currently preparing a new programme of support to continue to enhance air safety and security in Zambia and this will be financed from the 11th European Development Fund allocation for Zambia in the amount of € 5.6M.

EU – ZAMBIA BUSINESS CLUB

On 8 June the European Union (EU and its Member States) officially launched the EU-Zambia Business Club. The Club aims at increasing business opportunities between the

European and Zambian economies and at becoming a reference point for EU companies wanting to invest in Zambia.



The Ambassador of the European Union to Zambia, H.E. Alessandro Mariani, explained that 'together, we can do more and better to: (i) contribute towards further improving the business environment in Zambia; (ii) promote our business values, ethics and common interests; (iii) promote Zambia as an investment destination with a view to increase Foreign Direct Investment in the country; and ultimately (iv) do more business, which is in everybody's interest.' He underscored that 'we are at the beginning of one, new, chapter in the relations between Zambia and the European investors, which we hope and trust will deliver to the best of your expectations.'

As of today more than 200 companies from 14 Member States of the European Union have already registered as members of the newly established EU-Zambia Business Club.

The EU-Zambia Business Club will work closely with the Government departments and the existing Zambian and European business organisations such as ZACCI, the British Chamber of Commerce and the Southern African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The event was honoured by the participation of the Honourable Minister for Commerce, Trade and Industry, Margaret Mwanakatwe, and attended by over 100 businesspersons from different sectors. For more



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development of renewable energies and this specific financial instrument.

LAUNCHING OF AGRIFI AND ELECTRIFI

On 20 April the EU and Zambia, represented by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture Given Lubinda, organised a national stakeholders consultation on agriculture to review identified priorities for the EU-Zambia cooperation in this key sector of the Zambian economy. Agriculture is a fundamental pillar for a sustainable growth of the country and primary source for diversification of the Zambian economy. Within the framework of the national stakeholders' consultation the European Union launched [AgriFI](#), a new EU financing instrument allowing for direct support to the private sector in order to encourage increased private sector investment in agriculture and agribusiness.



VOICES FROM THE FIELD

REALISING THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS IN CHIPANGALI CONSTITUENCY

Realising the Right to Education through the support of Community Schools in Chipangali Constituency, implemented by the ACCRA-CCS and People Action Forums (PAF) is an EU funded project which runs from November 2014 to November 2017.



On 26 April the European Union organised a workshop in Zambia focused on [ElectriFI](#), a new EU financing instrument designed to support investments in renewable energies. This was the first awareness raising event just less than two weeks after the launching of the first call for proposals of ElectriFI. As a result the EU Headquarters received more than 20 project proposals originating from Zambia, thus confirming the great interest of project promoters in the



The main objectives of this project, implemented by ACCRA-CCS and People Action Forums is to improve the provision of quality education in 26 Community schools as well as doing some refurbishments and WASH (Water and Sanitation) related activities. A number of boreholes will be built as well as toilet facilities aimed at keeping young girls



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in school. The project also strives to enhance the collaboration amongst Zambian civil society organisations that work with and for the Community Schools in the area.



During his field trip to Chipata from 16-18 March 2016, the Ambassador of the European Union, Alessandro Mariani, inaugurated the Kasenga Teachers Resource Centre and a newly sunk borehole for the Zilewo Community School. During these events a presentation on the progress of the project was made as well as the activities to be implemented in the next 12 months. The representatives of the European Union Delegation were impressed with the activities undertaken and the progress made during the first 15 months.



A year 5 pupil testified on how this project had taught her about HIV & AIDS, early marriages and drug abuse. One of the teachers benefitting from this project explained that the newly built resource centre would be a place to meet, to discuss and to build capacity amongst the teachers.

For more information about this project contact [Fabienne Van-Den-Eede](#) or [Njira Bweupe](#).

STRENGTHENING CASH TRANSFERS TO ACCESS TO FINANCE, LIVELIHOODS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Strengthening Cash Transfers to Access to Finance, Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship (SCALE) is an EU funded project implemented by CARE Deutschland-Luxemburg and CARE Zambia in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development and a number of Zambian partner organisations. The project is in its last year of implementation (until January 2017). The main objective of the project is to strengthen civil society in Zambia working on social protection as a pre-condition for a more equitable, inclusive and democratic society.

The main target group of this project are 10.000 households in Zambia which benefit from the Social cash transfers paid by the Government of Zambia to the most vulnerable people of the society. In different communities of the four targeted districts - Kazungula, Kalomo, Katete and Kaputa - Village Savings and Loan Groups are set up to teach community members how to save funds and prioritize needs. Through these savings loans are then allocated the community members most in need, they are also taught business skills.

During his field trip to Chipata from 16-18 March 2016, the Ambassador of the European Union, Alessandro Mariani, visited the “Dalitso” Savings Group located in the Katete District. Twenty two members of the VSL Group explained their experiences with the SCALE project and the benefits that they had derived. Through the savings and loans they were able to secure food for the whole year, seek for medical assistance, pay school fees for children and grandchildren, and set up small businesses. The members also explained how the funds were managed and showed proudly the saving kit used.



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The interventions through the SCALE project have a positive impact on the poverty levels of the communities concerned and decrease the vulnerability of a number of households.

For more information about this project contact [Fabienne Van-Den-Eede](#)

FIELD VISIT TO HEALTH WARDS IN THE COPPERBELT PROVINCE

EU Ambassador Alessandro Mariani visited maternal and child health wards in the Copperbelt Province which have been upgraded in the framework of the Millennium Development Goal Initiative (MDGI) supported by the European Union with 48,6 Million Euro. Ambassador Mariani handed over the refurbished and equipped Mpatamatu Health Clinic in Luanshya, and Rural Health Center in Kashitu together with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Peter Mwaba



EUROPE WEEK IN ZAMBIA FROM 3RD MAY TO 9TH MAY 2016

3 May: Seminar on Partnership with Civil Society



The 1st Europe Week in Zambia was officially launched with a seminar dedicated to the role of civil society in development. More than 80 civil society organisations from European countries and Zambia participated in the event inaugurated by Hon. Emerine Kabanshi, Minister for Community Development and Social Services. [Further reading](#)

4 MAY: PHOTO EXHIBITION OF EU-FUNDED PROJECTS IN ZAMBIA

On Day 2 of Europe Week, the European Union Delegation inaugurated a Photo Exhibition of EU-funded projects which are part of the vibrant development partnership between Zambia and the European Union.

It was the occasion for the European Union to showcase in very tangible terms what the EU has been doing in the field of development country-wide in support of Sustainable Development Goals SDGs. All the photographs displayed in the exhibition were taken by colleagues at EU Delegation and by colleagues from partner organisations in charge of the implementation of the projects.



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The event was inaugurated by Hon. Alexander Chikwanda, Minister of Finance. [Further reading](#)

5 MAY: SEMINAR ON THE ROLE OF EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT BANKS IN ZAMBIA'S DEVELOPMENT

On Day 3 of Europe Week, the European Union Delegation and the Ministry of Finance, organised a seminar on the "Role of European Development Banks in Zambia's Development". The event was co-hosted by the Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. Fredson Yamba, who emphasized the very important role played by the development partners and banks in financing projects which yield substantial economic, social and environmental benefits. Mr Carmelo Cocuzza, Head of the Regional Representation of The European Investment Bank, Ms Martha Stein Sochas, Regional Director of the French Development Agency (AFD), and Mr Stephan Neu, Director of the German Development Bank (KfW) in Zambia, presented their experiences with financing projects in Zambia and elsewhere. [Further reading](#)



06 MAY: BAREFEET PERFORMANCE



On Day 4 of Europe Week, the European Union Delegation invited its partner [Barefeet](#) Theatre to show a performance entitled "Celebrating EU in Zambia". The staff of the Delegation, Ambassadors from EU Member States as well as representatives from the EDF National Authorising Office attended this event. The performance highlighted the EU-Zambia Cooperation using dance, song and recital. The EU-funded project entitled "[Quest](#)" aims at giving young people a voice so they can interact with communities and policy makers on social policy issues that affects them most. This interaction is done through theatre, performing art and social media.

INAUGURATION OF THE MATERNITY WING OF THE CHILANGA HEALTH CENTRE





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H.E Alessandro Mariani, Ambassador to the European Union, officially inaugurated the refurbished maternity wing of the Chilanga Health Centre and handed over medical equipment to Dr. Peter Mwaba, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health. The ceremony was also attended by Timo Olkkonen, Ambassador to [Suomen suurlähetystö Lusaka - Embassy of Finland Lusaka](#), and Mr Hamid El-Bashir, Country Representative of [Unicef Zambia](#).

09 MAY: EUROPE DAY SPEECH BY H.E. ALESSANDRO MARIANI, AMBASSADOR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO ZAMBIA & COMESA



[Further reading](#)