

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



Director

MD.II. Africa

**II.A. Horn of Africa, East and Southern Africa, Indian Ocean
Senior Coordinator for the Great Lakes region**

**Brussels, 15 MAI 2013
EEAS/II.A/KV**

Reply to the petition on Somalia's Quest for International Recognition

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your letter of 11 April concerning your call for international recognition of the self-proclaimed independence of Somaliland. On behalf of the High Representative/Vice-President, I have the pleasure to reply to you.

The European Union, like the United Nations, considers Somaliland part of Somalia, in respect of the country's territorial integrity. This is also the position taken by the African Union. Please also note that the European Union has no competency to recognise states, only individual EU Member States have.

The European Union - together with its international partners - is very much engaged in supporting peace and democracy throughout Somalia. In Somaliland there has been notable progress in building peace and democracy. It is indeed because of this relative stability that the European Union took a pragmatic approach to cooperation, without prejudice to Somalia's sovereignty, integrity and unity. Consequently, a large part of the EU-financed development assistance to Somalia is dedicated to Somaliland, especially in the fields of governance, education, and economic development.

The European Union considers that the peace process in Somalia has to be as inclusive as possible, as it has implications for the whole region of the Horn of Africa. Please be assured that the European Union will continue to engage with all parts of Somalia, including Somaliland, to support the return of lasting peace and stability in the region.



Koen VERVAEKE