



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE STATE OF ERITREA

EU statement on Eritrea's relations with the African Union

The European Union Delegation¹ issues the following statement on behalf of the EU Heads of Mission in Asmara:

"The European Union has taken note of the exchange of letters in the context of the 13th Ordinary Session of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, between the Government of the State of Eritrea and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, with regard to the Representation of Eritrea to the AU and its participation to AU meetings organised in Addis Ababa.

This exchange of letters is a clear indication of Eritrea's and the African Union's joint interests in a strengthened relationship of both parties. The EU supports Eritrea's desire to fully engage with the African Union and to participate to its meetings and debates, including those organised in Addis Ababa. The Government of Ethiopia and the African Union Commission have both given assurances that the Eritrean Delegation to the African Union will be able to operate without hindrance and in full conformity with the AU Headquarters Agreement. The EU is confident that all parties will uphold these assurances.

The AU and EU have signed up to an ambitious partnership agenda, including in the area of Peace and Security. Eritrea's engagement with the African Union can contribute significantly to the success of this agenda."

Asmara, February 18, 2010

¹ In its capacity as local EU Presidency.