



EUROPEAN UNION  
Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines

Mr Luc Véron, Ambassador *designate*

*Speech – Presentation of letters of Credence on Wednesday 10 February 2020*

Mr. President,

I am honored to present to you my letters of credence as Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of the Philippines.

The Philippines and the European Union have enjoyed diplomatic relations over six decades. Our shared interests and values are a strong basis for a partnership based on respect and mutual benefit.

The EU is eager to pursue the effective implementation of its Partnership and Cooperation agreement with the Philippines in all areas. By developing closer political relations, we together will strengthen multilateralism and cooperation on bilateral, regional and global issues and be true to our shared pledge to a rules-based international order.

The EU has a strategic interest in a stable, prosperous and secure Philippines, notably by furthering trade and investment, promoting maritime security and maintaining open and safe shipping routes.

The EU and the Philippines have developed a strong economic and trade partnership, characterized by a balanced trade flow, exceeding 880 billion PHP worth of trade in goods. Since 2014, the EU has provided the Philippines with preferential trade access to the EU market, based on sustainable development principles, good governance and human rights. The EU with its business community is also the first foreign investor in the Philippines.

The EU has recently established a strategic partnership with ASEAN and is looking forward to engaging closely with the Philippines during its role as ASEAN coordinator for Dialogue Relations with the EU starting in August of this year.

The EU is at the forefront of international efforts to fight climate change and shares a strategic interest with the Philippines on the environment. The EU has decided to cut further its emissions by 55% by 2030. The EU at all times through its humanitarian aid and civil protection stands prepared to support the Philippines in cases of natural emergencies, most lately following Typhoons Goni and Vamco but is also ready also to work with the Philippine government on disaster preparedness.

For all these reasons, the EU is willing to have a productive political relationship with the Philippine government, notably to support the Philippines in its efforts to overcome the COVID-19 crisis and its efforts to restart its economy. The EU and its member states will continue their efforts to contribute to the international response to the pandemic, including by guaranteeing affordable and fair access to vaccines for all.

The EU continues its participation in supporting of peace and development in Mindanao, through a comprehensive and inclusive approach. The recent signing of several Financing Agreements worth 4.7 billion PHP will enable us to continue our unwavering support to the peace process that has been a cornerstone of your Presidency.

In the European Union, the Philippines and the Filipinos have a strong and reliable partner. In the coming years, building on these strong foundations, together we can take the EU-Philippines relations forward./.

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