



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO GHANA

Accra, 30 January 2018

Press Release

European Partners launch the European Partners' Joint Co-operation Strategy 2017-2020 and the European Union provides Ghana €175 million for the implementation of four programmes over the next seven years.

European Union partners and the Minister of Finance in Ghana, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta formally endorsed and launched the European Partners' Joint Co-operation Strategy 2017-2020. Ambassadors and representatives from the EU, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of Denmark, France, the Kingdom of Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Switzerland were present. The European Union Ambassador to Ghana, William Hanna and Minister of Finance in Ghana, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta, also signed four financing agreements in favour of the Republic of Ghana.

European Ambassadors and representatives, and Minister for Finance, Mr. Ofori-Atta, formally endorsed and launched the European Union's Joint Co-operation Strategy 2017-2020. The strategy, titled "European Partners Working Together in Ghana", is a result of strengthened coordination by the European Union with Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom as well as Switzerland and the Government of Ghana.

These European development partners have come together and jointly committed to supporting the priorities and objectives identified by the Government of Ghana in the Long-Term National Development Plan (LTNDP), focusing on the LTNDP's goal 1 and 4. The Strategy covers the first Medium-Term period 2018–2021 with a total financial envelope of €1.25 billion, which includes indicative funding from the European Investment Bank.

The purpose of the European Partners' Joint Co-operation Strategy is to improve donor coordination, reinforce policy dialogue with government structures, reduce transaction costs for the Government, and deepen synergies leading to enhanced development effectiveness. It aims to accompany Ghana's transformation process and consolidation of its middle-income status, economic growth and democratic governance, and reinforces a 'European Partners - Ghana partnership' based on shared values, increased commercial cooperation and strengthened political dialogue on our common future. European partners' cooperation will evolve from traditional aid to a more comprehensive approach including trade, competitiveness, migration and climate change.

Ambassador Hanna together with the Minister for Finance, Mr. Ofori-Atta, also signed four financing agreements under the Annual Action Programme 2017, supported by the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) which is funded by all 28 members of the European Union.



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The 11th EDF adopted on 12/06/2014 prioritizes three main sectors in Ghana: public sector management and accountability; productive investment for agriculture in the Savannah Ecological Zone; and employment and social protection. The Financing Agreements which have been signed are in line with the new European Consensus for Development and with the development strategy of Ghana's Government. They intend to contribute to Ghana's achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and support its vision to move beyond aid.

The four projects from the Annual Action Programme 2017 are the following:

- (1) **'Productive Investments for Sustainable Agricultural Development in the Northern Savannah Ecological Zone of Ghana'** - total amount €102 million. The main objective is to provide access to productive infrastructure to increase household incomes and improve trade of produce in a sustainable environment in the Upper West region;
- (2) **'Support to Decentralisation in Ghana Phase II'** - total amount €45 million. The main objective is to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions for sustainable development through the implementation of the Ghanaian National Decentralisation Policy Framework;
- (3) **'REsilience Against climate CHange' (REACH):** a programme on adaptation and mitigation to Climate Change for Rural Livelihoods in the savannah ecosystem of Ghana' – total amount €20 million. The main objective is to increase agricultural income and promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth in targeted rural communities;
- (4) **'Support Programme to Public Finance Management in Ghana and to the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)'** - total amount €8 million. The main objective is to improve the use of public resources through a better public finance management and unleash Ghana's economic potential through a successful implementation of the stepping stone EPA.

Issued by the Delegation of the European Union to Ghana