

**REPLY SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY THE LEADER OF THE GHANA GOVERNMENT  
DELEGATION AT THE RECEPTION TO BE HELD ON THE OCCASION OF  
EUROPEAN UNION (EU) DAY; TUESDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2017**

Your Excellency, Mr. William Hanna, Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to Ghana

Members of the Council of State,

Colleague Ministers of State,

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Nii Mei, Na Mei, Nananom,

Religious Leaders,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is an honour for me to lead the Ghana Government delegation and to join you today in celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the European Union. I wish to take this opportunity to extend on behalf of the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the Government and People of the Republic of Ghana, warmest felicitations to all member countries of the European Union.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

As we join our friends from the European Union in commemorating this occasion, permit me to acknowledge with thanks the kind words of commendation on Ghana's democratic credentials and your commitment to work with the Government of Ghana in its development efforts including tackling the menace of deforestation and environmental degradation, human rights issues, promotion of peace and security, human trafficking as well as pollution of our water bodies through the activities of illegal mining, an issue which has

become topical and requires the resolve of both the private and the public sector as well as the usual collaboration of our development partners to combat.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Since the establishment of the European Commission Office in Ghana about forty (40) years ago, our cooperation has intensified and its impact has been felt by both the state and the ordinary Ghanaian. As it stands, about half of all Official Development Assistance (ODA) received by Ghana from our development partners is derived from the European Union. The interventions come in various forms, including grants and technical support.

Ghana has indeed found in the EU an invaluable partner, and in taking a cue from the speech of the Head of Delegation, I wish to underscore the fact that Ghana will continue to count on the European Union and members of the wider region in meeting its development aspirations. My attention has been drawn to emerging global challenges including the negative side of Migration, Climate Change, Maritime Security, Cyber Crime, Human Rights abuses and Money Laundering among others; Here, I wish to underscore the need for closer collaboration and engagement with our European Partners.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Before concluding my speech, I need to place on record that, Ghana has ratified the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement (IEPA), since July 2016 and the European Parliament has already consented to this and granted its approval. The IEPA has thus been initiated to protect the future of Ghana's exports to the EU Market. An appreciation of this move is drawn from the fact that more than half of Ghana's trade activities is with the EU. Ghana will continue to count on the EU and gladly welcome investors from the region in the

promotion of the "One District One Factory Policy" towards poverty alleviation and transformation of the Ghanaian economy.

On this note, I have the pleasure to invite you all to join me in proposing a toast to the continued strengthening of the bonds of cooperation between the Republic of Ghana and the European Union.

Long live Ghana

Long the EU

Thank You.