

EU TANZANIA NEWS FLASH

A News Flash of the Delegation of the European Union to Tanzania and the EAC

EUROPE MAY 2017

Dear reader,

Europe Month 2017 was commemorated nation-wide with main events in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Mwanza; and a programme that included sports, culture, the environment, energy, development cooperation and trade relations. The programme brought people from many walks of life together to celebrate the longstanding links between the European Union and the East African Community and between the European Union and Tanzania. During Europe Month, the lessons of the past were not forgotten, while the road ahead was widely discussed. The EU-EAC and the EU-Tanzania partnerships never fail to stimulate an open and frank debate!

Our monthly EU Tanzania News Flash is now well established and widely appreciated.

It is therefore with great pleasure that we present this "special Flash" on Europe Month as a salute to our readers and thanks to all those who celebrated with us a wonderful Europe Month 2017 in Tanzania.

Roeland van de Geer,

Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Tanzania and the East African Community

EU MAY KICK-STARTED IN MWANZA

On 2 and 3 May, the EU Head of Delegation, Ambassador Roeland van de Geer together with Mwanza Regional Commissioner, John Mongella, launched a project funded by the EU to protect older women and men from all forms of violence. The event marked the start of the EU Delegation's celebration of Europe month. In Tanzania, the number of older people who are victims of abuse, especially due to witchcraft allegations, has overall declined. However, there has been an increase in areas where these cases were uncommon before. The project is implemented by HelpAge International, in collaboration with local authorities in the Lake Region and aims to strengthen civil society, state responsiveness and accountability to protect older women and men.

Ambassador van de Geer also held a public lecture at the St Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT). The lecture and subsequent discussions with the approximately 100 students focused on the state of current affairs in Europe and Africa, as well as the EU-Africa partnership.

On [World Press Freedom Day](#), the EU joined the national commemorations, which were presided by the Minister of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Dr Harrison Mwakyembe. The two day event under the theme "Critical minds for critical times: media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies" brought together a high number of media stakeholders, development partners and representatives of the private sector. Key issues raised by media stakeholders included the implementation and application of the Media Services Act as well as increasing intimidation of journalists and the need to improve professional standards among the fraternity.

The EU concluded the two-day visit to Mwanza by a joint visit with UNESCO to Mitindo Primary School in Misungwi district. UNESCO supports the school which cares for more than a hundred vulnerable children, especially children with special needs.

Captions: **Picture 1:** a drama group performs during HelpAge project launch on how the elderly are affected by witchcraft beliefs. **Picture 2:** A SAUT student gives his comment during the public lecture. **Picture 3:** EU Amb Roeland van de Geer and Head of UNESCO, Ms Zulmira Rodriguez visit with the children at Mitindo Primary School.



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EUROPE DAY CELEBRATED IN DAR ES SALAAM, DODOMA AND ARUSHA

DAR ES SALAAM: ENERGY FOR GROWTH & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

On 09 May, the EU and its member states in Tanzania, commemorated Europe Day at the National Museum in Dar es Salaam under the theme "Energy for Growth and Sustainable Development". Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Hon Augustine Mahiga, in his speech praised the EU-Tanzania partnership, underlined the shared values and importance of economic cooperation. He also commended the EU for its support to energy which was paramount to industrialization.



Also present at the event was a delegation of four Members of the European Parliament, led by Hon. David Martin, who in his remarks underlined the European Parliament's commitment to the cooperation activities with the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Head of Delegation, Ambassador Roeland van de Geer, in his remarks stressed the importance of energy in addressing today's global challenges of poverty, climate change and food security. He also called for enhanced partnership through trade and investment, as the EU remains a major trade partner representing 31% of world trade. The event was also an opportunity for the EU Delegation and Member States to showcase their development support to Tanzania, as well as food and drinks from their countries in an exhibition.



DODOMA: PARLIAMENT-TO-PARLIAMENT COOPERATION

On Wednesday 10 May, the EU Delegation for the first time also celebrated Europe Day in Dodoma at a reception at the Parliament grounds. Hon. Dr Tulia Ackson, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, opened the event. Member of European Parliament, Hon. David Martin, who was joined by his colleagues Hon Alojz Peterle, Hon Bernd Lucke and Hon. Soraya Post for the mission, attended the reception as part of the cooperation activities in the framework of the Comprehensive Democracy Support Program between the European and the Tanzanian Parliaments.

The exchanges between the two Parliaments focused on two joint seminars on "Young Parliamentarians and Political Leaders" and on "Legislature-Executive Relations". The reception was also an opportunity to launch and introduce to the Members of Parliament and the invited guests [four new EU-funded programmes](#), supporting political participation especially for women and young people.



Caption: Picture 1: Deputy Speaker Hon Tulia Ackson gives welcoming remarks during the reception. Picture 2: Members of the European Parliament in a group picture with the URT Speaker Hon. Job Ndugai and URT parliament officials. (Pictures courtesy of URT Parliament)



ARUSHA: SUPPORT TO REGIONAL INTERGRATION

The European Union (EU) and the East African Community (EAC) hosted a colourful reception on 15 May, to mark Europe Day celebrations in Arusha. H.E. Ambassador Libérat Mfumukeko, the EAC Secretary General and H.E. Ambassador Roeland van de Geer, EU Head of Delegation presided over the occasion held at the EAC Conference Centre.

More than 80 people from the EAC Secretariat, the diplomatic community, international and local organizations, the academia and from the private sector attended the celebrations. In their remarks, the two diplomats stressed the importance of the [EU-EAC partnership](#) to both regions. They also reminded the common agenda on peace, security and development on the two continents; calling for joint action and strong commitment from both sides.



EUROPEAN SCHOLARSHIP FAIR



On 6 May the EU Delegation together with missions of the EU Member States (Belgium, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Hungary, Italy, Sweden and the UK) organized a European Scholarship Fair at the Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre (JNICC). The fair presented information on different funding opportunities available in Europe for Tanzanian students, researchers and institutions of higher learning. The event also marked 30 years of the [Erasmus programme](#), an EU programme for education, research and training.

The fair was opened by the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Vocation Training, Dr Ave Maria Semakafu and Ambassador Roeland van de Geer, Head of the EU Delegation. Also in attendance were the Heads of Missions of Belgium, Ambassador Paul Cartier, and of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Ambassador Jaap Fredericks. Booths of the different opportunities in Europe -as well as a stand of the Tanzania Higher Education Students Loan Board (HESLB) - were open from 10.30am to 04.00pm.

In separate presentations many Tanzanian alumni of the respective programmes presented the opportunities and answered questions from the students, who had travelled even from as far as Mwanza to attend the event. With around 1,500 students attending the fair, the event was a huge success and demonstrates the high interest in opportunities of studying in Europe. The EU Delegation and Member States aim at organising the event regularly and providing as much information as possible online.



EU MEETS WITH THE MEDIA

On 05 May, EU Ambassador Roeland van de Geer held discussions with key members of the media fraternity at Umoja House. About 15 media managers, editors, senior journalists and officials from media organizations joined the Ambassador for a round table discussion on a number of issues ranging from global current affairs, EU-Africa relations, to EU-EAC and EU-Tanzania partnerships. Discussions were also held on developments of press freedom in the country.

A press conference followed the discussions, where the EU presented its activities in Europe month May. The Ambassador also answered questions from the media, which were mostly on EU's local and global interventions in political, economic and security issues.



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EU CHILDREN'S FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT 2017

On Saturday 13 May the EU organized a football tournament for children at Karume Stadium, in Dar es Salaam. More than 80 boys and girls aged between 9 and 15 participated in the games. The children played in eight teams representing the European countries Belgium, Germany, Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands, as well as Tanzania and the European Union. Over 100 spectators, mostly children, watched their peers competing in the games.

The Italian Ambassador H.E. Roberto Mengoni, the French Deputy Head of Mission Mr Claude Blevin joined the EU Ambassador H.E. Roeland van de Geer at the football stadium.



In the finals, the Italian team scored two whooping goals against the European Union' team who scored one goal. It was a happy day for the Karume team who represented Italy, when they took the cup home and won prizes for the best goal keeper and the best player.



Italian Amb. Roberto Mengoni, EU Amb Roeland van de Geer and French Deputy Head of Mission Claude Blevin pose in a picture with the Karume Team (Italy) that won the Cup.

EU, WWF PARTICIPATE IN KIGAMBONI BEACH CLEANING

On Sunday 14 May the European Union HQ in Brussels as well as EU Delegations around the world participated in beach clean-up events to prevent marine litter from entering the ocean and raise awareness on marine security, including blast fishing. In Tanzania, colleagues of the EU Delegation and WWF staff joined communities in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam in cleaning the beach along Gezaulole and nearby beach management units.



The EU Delegation is supporting the local communities through WWF in various interventions with a total grant of EUR 2.4 million. Marine litter is a growing threat and will be one of the issues tackled by global leaders at the next [‘#OurOcean’](#) conference, hosted for the first time by the European Union (Malta, 5-6 October) this year.

