



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



EUROPEAN UNION TANZANIA

## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

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### EU Support to Rural Electrification in Tanzania

**The European Union and the Government of Tanzania, today the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017, have signed a 50 million Euro Financing Agreement to support the Rural Electrification Programme in Tanzania.**

This support aims to provide Tanzanian citizens with access to affordable and sustainable energy through extending energy grids as well as expanding distribution networks.

During the signing ceremony, the EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Mr. Neven **Mimica** said: *"Our important programme worth €50 million will, together with the contributions of key development partners such as Sweden, UK, Norway and the World Bank, provide more than 207 M€ for the implementation of the government national electrification programme in the rural areas. This joint effort between partners and government will help accelerate the Tanzanian people's access to modern energy. It will provide electricity to over 3600 villages in rural regions of Tanzania, essentially benefitting more than 1 million people. And this access to energy is vital: it will increase the quality of life in rural areas, improve health and educational services and bring clear benefits, particularly to women and children."*

*On his part the National Authorising Officer for the European Development Fund in Tanzania who is also the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Planning Mr. Doto James expressed the Government's appreciation to the EU and its Member States for the support. "EU has been our reliable strategic partner both in terms of magnitude of financial support and commitment to our development agenda. The EU support has been oriented towards needs and challenges identified in the National Development Agenda and the current EU support to the Energy Sector comes at the right time when the Government is creating good environment for industrialization in order to foster economic growth."*

*Further, Mr. Doto James expressed the Government commitment to provide the necessary support to ensure the project is implemented efficiently to achieve the intended objectives.*

During his visit to Tanzania, Commissioner **Mimica** will meet Government representatives, International and National Development Partners, Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations.

In his exchanges with the Tanzanian authorities and other local stakeholders, he will discuss progress and challenges regarding the country's [National Development Plan](#), as well as the cooperation between the EU and Tanzania in the fields of job creation, socio-economic development, sustainable agriculture and energy, rural roads, governance and human rights.

During his visit and his various meetings, Commissioner **Mimica** will furthermore pay special attention to the important role of youth. Notably, he will discuss this important topic when meeting civil society actors working to support children and youth. The visit of the Commissioner comes ahead of the upcoming [African Union – European Union Summit](#) on 28 and 29 November, 2017 which will be held under the overarching theme of "Investment in youth for accelerated inclusive growth and sustainable development".

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## **Background**

EU support to the Republic of Tanzania focuses mainly on three sectors: good governance and development, energy and sustainable agriculture. The indicative allocation of funds for the period 2014-2020 (11th European Development Fund - EDF) amounts to €626 million.

### **For more information please contact:**

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