



**Samoa – EUROPEAN UNION  
Enhanced Political Dialogue  
Apia, Samoa, 4 October 2016**

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**Joint Conclusions**

1. The Government of the Independent State of Samoa (hereinafter Samoa), represented by the Hon Mr Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa, in his capacity as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and the European Union (EU) represented by the HE Mr Andrew Jacobs, Ambassador, Head of Delegation of the European Union to the Pacific, on behalf of High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, met in Apia on 4 October 2016, pursuant to Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement. This was the first Enhanced Political Dialogue between the Independent State of Samoa and the European Union. Civil society and private sector representatives attended the meeting.
2. The Parties exchanged views on recent political and economic developments in Samoa and the EU, reviewed bilateral political relations and strategic priorities, discussed issues of democracy and human rights, in particular in relation to the recent Universal Periodic Review of Samoa. Parties conducted an in depth exchange of views on sustainable and inclusive development in Samoa, on recent developments of regional and sub-regional integration, and mutual priorities for the strategic co-operation between Samoa and the EU.
3. The EU gave an account of the recent migration crisis in Europe, noting that migration had become a global and urgent challenge, requiring a common response from the international community. In 2015 the EU had been unable to effectively protect its external borders, but the time of uncontrolled migration was coming to an end. The EU had a clear objective to restore order on its external borders and was committed to finding pragmatic long-term solutions and establishing global systems of more orderly movement.

4. The EU pointed out that the challenges to the security situation in Europe needed a response that combined aspects of internal and external policies. To this end, the High Representative Federica Mogherini had presented the new EU Global Strategy on foreign and security policy in June 2016. The strategy, entitled *Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe*, set out the EU's core interests and principles for engaging in the world. The Global Strategy was of special significance to Samoa and the Pacific given that it put all the tools available to the EU at the service of peace and regionalism. The EU would invest in cooperation among and within regions. Emphasis was on development, empowering women and human rights defenders, and investment in the world's youth.
5. The EU also gave an account of recent economic developments, noting that the Eurozone was continuing its economic recovery.
6. Parties acknowledged excellent cooperation in the area of climate change and agreed to work together on COP22 deliverables. Parties committed to maintaining high levels of ambition in the ICAO and IMO frameworks.
7. Parties welcomed the results of the second Universal Periodic Review of Samoa conducted in May 2016, underlining the importance of the exercise. Samoa committed to continue its active engagement in the discussions of Human Rights issues with Civil Society Organisations, which were represented at the political dialogue, and development partners.
8. The Parties acknowledged the achievement of an important milestone in the protection of Human Rights with the Office of the Ombudsman of Samoa being accredited as an "A status" national human rights institution by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions earlier this year. This was a clear recognition of Samoa's efforts in the Human Rights area and certification of the Office of the Ombudsman compliance with the Paris Principles both in law and in practice.
9. The EU welcomed the passage of the Family Safe Act and the criminalisation of marital rape, as well as the constitutional amendment passed in 2013 which introduced a 10% quota for women in Parliament. The EU invited Samoa to accede to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1976). Following the recent decriminalisation of homosexuality in Palau and Nauru, the EU invited Samoa to examine the possibility of decriminalising male homosexuality.
10. The Parties discussed EU-Samoa trade matters. It was noted that when exporting to the EU, Samoa benefitted from the "Everything but arms" arrangement that granted to Samoa full duty free and quota-free access to the EU for all its exports with the exception of arms and armaments. Parties noted

that this arrangement would expire in 2019 as Samoa was no longer identified as an LDC by the UN. Samoa would become standard GSP beneficiary.

11. The Parties welcomed that Samoa was the first and so far the only Pacific Island State to ratify the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (in April 2016). The EU recognised that Samoa had been the first Pacific Island State to accept the 2005 Protocol amending the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) in April 2016 and invited it to further strengthen co-operation in the WTO framework.
12. The EU welcomed the recent P-ACP Leaders' decision to defer the negotiations for a comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) for three years, as proposed last year by Commissioner Malmström. Samoa indicated that it would consider its possible accession to the existing EPA between the EU, Fiji and PNG.
13. The Parties noted that EU-Samoa visa waiver Agreement was signed and is being successfully applied since 28 May 2015. The EU invited Samoa to take further steps in raising awareness about the Agreement and to ensure that EU nationals are authorised to stay in Samoa for the duration foreseen in the Agreement.

The Parties welcomed the fact that the Pacific Leaders in Pohnpei had called for the finalisation by the Pacific SDGs Task Force, of a Road Map for regional reporting and implementation of the SDGs, and noted that the EU was actively engaged in the Task Force as a development partner as well as Samoa as a member country that has already developed a country roadmap.

14. On bilateral EU-Samoa development cooperation, the Parties highlighted particular progress in the water and sanitation sector. EU sector budget support in this area had brought very good results with marked improvements in water quality for large parts of the population. Future cooperation would therefore further consolidate these achievements. The Parties agreed to continue to focus on supporting civil society in Samoa, to build its capacity, empower communities and address gender related issues. Samoa also confirmed its awareness of other EU support delivered through regional organisations and partnerships such as the NZ-EU energy partnership and support for Disaster risk reduction activities through SPC.
15. On EU-Pacific regional cooperation, the parties agreed on the need to accelerate programming so to ensure implementation of EDF 11-supported initiatives as from 2017. Programme design should outline clear results on the ground. It was agreed that the EU Pacific regional steering committee in November would be an important platform to ensure that a demand-driven

approach to regional cooperation was in place. Samoa also encouraged the active engagement of all PACPs at every stage of the project cycle through the regional steering committee.

16. Samoa welcomed that the EU was cooperating with the Pacific countries in the area of tourism. Parties further noted that in September 2016 Samoa had hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pacific Agribusiness Forum and welcomed the fact that Samoa was strengthening linkages between agriculture and tourism under its Tourism Sector Plan 2014-2019 and aimed to become the leading Pacific destination for sustainable tourism by 2019. The EU noted that Samoa showed promising progress with regard to capacity building and the establishment of linkages between farmers and the tourism industry.
17. The EU recalled that EU Member States had significant experience in promoting agri-tourism as this was a vital element of the EU's rural development policy and an important source of job creation.

The Parties recalled that relations between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries were longstanding, dating back to before 1975 and the first Lomé convention. Successive partnership agreements had shaped the ongoing fruitful relationship, which had evolved from one based predominantly on development and trade to one more reflecting common interests. It was also recalled that the Cotonou Agreement would expire on 29 February 2020 and that negotiations on a framework for future relations were set to start in August 2018 at the latest.

18. On matters of Regional and Sub-regional integration the EU reiterated its commitment to the Pacific Region and its countries, pointing out that the relationship had moved on from a donor-recipient relationship towards a more political partnership: a partnership that goes far beyond development issues, broadening cooperation to, for instance, collaboration in international fora in matters of common concern such as climate change.
19. The Parties recognised the importance of the 47<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. The EU expressed appreciation that French Polynesia and New Caledonia had been admitted as full members of the Pacific Islands Forum.
20. The Parties agreed to work together on maximising the mutual benefits of the EU presence at the 48<sup>th</sup> PIF Leaders Meeting in Apia, Samoa next year.
21. The Parties agreed to enhance cooperation in the multilateral fora including cooperation on priority UN resolutions addressing human rights issues.

The EU informed Samoa about its response to the global challenge of migration and refugees on the basis of the new Partnership Framework with third countries. The Parties agreed to cooperate on EU's policies and initiatives in this area.

22. The EU invited Samoa to accede to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention in order to assist global efforts in reducing the threat of terrorism.

23. The Parties agreed that the next enhanced political dialogue would be held in 2017 with the venue to be decided at a later stage.

Done in Apia, 4 October 2016

For the European Union



H.E. Ambassador Andrew Jacobs  
Head of EU Delegation for  
the Pacific

For the Independent State of Samoa



Hon. Mr. Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele  
Malielegaoi,  
Prime Minister and Minister for  
Foreign Affairs and Trade