

PAGE 2
EU, ECOWAS & UEMOA
STRATEGIC
ORIENTATION MEETING

PAGE 3
GMD 29 MILLION
FARM INPUTS HANDED BY
EU & FAO TO FARMERS

PAGE 4
DECLARATION OF THE ACP-EU
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Secretary General & Head of Civil Service with Minister of Finance & Economic Affairs at EDD 2017 in Brussels

THE GAMBIA PARTICIPATES AT THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS IN BRUSSELS

The European Development Days (EDDs) is organized by the European Commission, and bring the development community together each year to share ideas and experiences in ways that inspire new partnerships and innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

This year's European Development Days took place from 7-8 June 2017, focusing on the theme **'Investing in People and Planet, Investing in Prosperity and Investing in Peace and Partnerships'**.

The 2017 EDD brought together about 7,000 participants from all over the world to interact and discuss issues and concerns regarding investing in development. These include selected Heads of State and Government from Africa, Caribbean, South America and the EU Authorities. The Gambia, for the first time participated at the EDD. The Gambia was strongly represented at the EDD 2017 by the Hon. Minister of Finance & Economic Affairs, Mr Amadou Sanneh, the Secretary General and Head of Civil Service, Mr Dawda Fadera, The Gambia Ambassador to the European Union, Mrs Teneng Ba Jaiteh, EU Ambassador to The Gambia, H.E Attila Lajos, First Secretary at the Gambia Embassy in Brussels, Mr Kawsu Darry and two senior staff of the European Development Fund/ NAO Support Unit, Mr Mutarr Jammeh and Mr Andrew Sylva.

The EDD 2017 event explored many topics of critical importance to the theme 'investing in development' in the form of high-level panel discussions and plenary sessions. The agenda was structured around three main areas emerging as key priorities in today's current context i.e. investing in people, investing in prosperity and investing in peace and partnerships.

The EDD 2017 agenda included auditoria and side debates, brainstorming sessions, project and report presentations. The forum also featured a Global Village highlighting successful practices and best experiences.



World Economist Jeffrey Sachs & Mutarr Jammeh - Program Analyst (NAOSU) at EDD 2017



Mrs Teneng Ba Jaiteh - Gambia Ambassador to EU, Mr Andrew Sylva - Liaison & Operations Officer (NAOSU), Attila LAJOS - EU Ambassador to The Gambia at the Strategic Orientation Meeting

EU, ECOWAS & UEMOA STRATEGIC ORIENTATION MEETING

The European Union together with the ECOWAS and UEMOA held its Strategic Orientation Meeting in Brussels from 14-15 June 2017.

This meeting's deliberations were centred mainly on the implementation of the 10th EDF and 11th EDF RIP, particularly the focal sectors i.e. peace, security and regional stability; regional economic integration and trade, including infrastructure; resilience, food security and nutrition as well as institutional reforms.

During the opening ceremony, the EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development pointed out the importance of the meeting as a prelude to the Africa – EU Summit scheduled for November 2017. In this regard, he underscored critical issues for discussion to include stability, growth, job creation and migration.

The President of UEMOA Commission highlighted that the meeting provided an opportunity to assess the results achieved so far from the regional RIP implementation, especially in tackling poverty as a common objective. He said that progress was made on trade liberalization, and an additional cost incurred on security in the region, which has a negative impact on the regional budget.

Deliberating on migration, The President of the ECOWAS Commission indicated that 85% of the migrants stay in Africa and despite widespread concern; it is only 15% that stays in Europe. On the 10th RIP, 85% of the funds were committed, and the financial envelop for the RIP has been increased from 600MEURO to 1.2billion Euros for the 11th EDF.

On Peace and Security, ECOWAS and EU saw The Gambia as a success story regarding transfer of political power through the use of diplomacy and military action. He also urged the meeting to reflect on post Cotonou and focus on addressing the barriers to poverty alleviation.

GMD 29 MILLION FARM INPUTS HANDLED BY EU & FAO TO FARMERS

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on July 3, 2017 officially handed over a consignment of farm inputs to The Gambian Government. The intervention will enable over six thousand smallholder farmers in food insecure households in four administrative regions to access high quality agricultural inputs to enable them boost production and productivity for improved food security and income.

The input support worth over twenty-nine million Dalasi (GMD 29,320,809) is part of a larger European Union (EU) funded 30-month project entitled "Post-Crisis Response to Food Insecurity in The Gambia". Launched on 8 June 2017, the intervention seeks to contribute to the reduction of stunting among children 0-24 months in at least 11,000 food insecure households in the four regions. It is being jointly implemented by three UN Agencies, namely FAO, WFP and UNICEF in close partnership with the Department of Agriculture (and its specialized units), the National Nutrition Agency, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and other civil society organizations committed to ending hunger, malnutrition and poverty reduction. The items include 40 metric tons of maize, 20 metric tons of cowpeas, 50 metric tons of rice, 196 metric tons of UREA, 472 metric tons of NPK (15:15:15) and 226 metric tons of NPK (6:20:10). An additional 40 metric tons of Groundnut seed has also been procured.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony, the EU Ambassador to the Gambia reiterated the readiness and willingness of the EU in fighting malnutrition and food insecurity in The Gambia.

"The project is a follow-up to recent EU funded food security interventions in response to crop failure in The Gambia. The EU is strongly committed to assisting The Gambia in the fight against food and nutrition insecurity and poverty."

Mrs Katepa-Kalala, FAO Representative to The Gambia spoke on the partnership between the EU and the other UN agencies such as FAO, WFP and UNICEF especially on fighting Food Insecurity and Malnutrition. She commended the Government for prioritizing food security and the agricultural sector in general in the quest for sustainable socio-economic growth and development.

The ceremony was attended by senior government officials, staff of the UN agencies in The Gambia, NGOs, beneficiaries, members of the local communities as well as the media fraternity.



L-R (front): FAOR Dr. Katepa-Kalala handing over inputs to the DG, Dept. of Agriculture Falalo Touray (back): LRR Governor Mrs Samateh-Manneh, EU Amb. Attila Lajos and LRR Agric Director, Marong. Photo credit: ©FAO/Amadou Bah



DECLARATION OF THE ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly underlines that climate change is a global phenomenon, which will no doubt continue to have dramatic effects on our environment, affecting all countries. The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly reaffirms its total commitment to full implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change and calls on the global community to maintain the momentum for ambitious action.

The Assembly reaffirms its unequivocal support for the Agreement reached at COP 21 in Paris in 2015. The Assembly therefore profoundly regrets the decision of the current US Administration to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. This decision has been met with astonishment, disappointment and outcry from the international community, which has expressed continued solidarity and commitment to implement the Paris Agreement in all its elements. Noting with satisfaction that the business community and certain States in the USA have on the whole reaffirmed their commitment to address the effects of climate change, the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly calls upon the Government of the United States to review its position and re-commit itself to the Paris Agreement. The Assembly henceforth

invites the EU and the ACP states to start collaborating with American actors who wish to do so on the implementation of the COP 21 objectives.

The Assembly emphasises that concerted global action is necessary to combat greenhouse gas emissions and prevent negative impacts of climate change. Delivering on the long term goals of the Paris Agreement is paramount.

The Assembly stresses that a key objective of the next UN climate conference in November this year (COP23) should be to maintain momentum and cohesiveness towards the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement and, in particular, to address the challenges faced by the most vulnerable countries, including Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries, land-locked countries and coastal countries.

The Assembly therefore urges all parties and stakeholders to move forward with the economy-wide low-carbon transition measures needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure all nations are provided with the support they need for implementation, so that no one is left behind.

The Assembly commends Fiji, the incoming president for the 23rd Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), for the preparations it has so far made and the leadership it is providing to ensure the success of the conference.

The Assembly stresses the need to finalise the Paris Agreement work programme by 2018, which is an indicator of how countries would implement the Paris Agreement and accelerate climate actions at the national level, contributing to the global goal. The Assembly calls for accelerated work on adaptation and access to finance, which are particularly essential for countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and with special needs and low capacities.

