



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO ZAMBIA AND COMESA

January – March 2016

EDITORIAL

BY AMBASSADOR ALESSANDRO MARIANI

I am pleased to launch the Newsletter of the Delegation of the European Union to Zambia and COMESA. The Delegation is responsible for managing relations between the European Union (EU) and Zambia and with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

Before entering into the presentation of this issue, I wish to provide a brief background on the Delegation.

The Delegation was opened in 1975 following Zambia's signing of the first Lomé Convention. Since then, Zambia and the EU have established a solid, dynamic and widening partnership. Our partnership is excellent and covers political, economic, trade, development and sectoral subjects. Over the years our partnership has become very comprehensive and is what we describe as a 360 degree partnership.



The Delegation plays an essential role in providing information on the policies and institutions of the European Union. In doing so, the Delegation works closely with the EU Member States' Embassies permanently resident in Zambia, namely Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Sweden and the UK, and all the other EU Member States.

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As one of the most important development partners of Zambia, the European Union has a significant development cooperation programme with the country (484 Million Euro under the 11th European Development Fund to be implemented until 2020). Zambia has enjoyed a long period of political stability and economic growth, and continues to show much potential. Despite this, the proportion of people living in poverty remains substantial and income inequality remains today one of the highest in the world.

In its relationship with Zambia, the EU's overall goal is to help Zambia chart a course of equitable and sustainable



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growth, anchored in principles of good governance, through three mutually reinforcing objectives:

- To help Zambia further refine, advance and consolidate its democracy;
- To help set Zambia on a growth pathway that is economically sustained and environmentally sustainable;
- To help Zambia translate its economic growth into development gains for all its citizens;

In addition the Delegation of the European Union in Lusaka has a pivotal role in the relations with COMESA, one of the most successful experiences in terms of economic integration in the African continent. We enjoy excellent relations with COMESA with whom we are working closely sharing the experiences that the European Union has gained over more than 50 years since its establishment.

In the present issue of the Newsletter we have taken the opportunity to inform about EU local statements issued during the reporting period and to inform you about the views of some beneficiaries of our development efforts. The purpose is to show some of the activities in the field of development, but also to demonstrate their impact at the level of the individuals.

In addition, you will find useful information of consular character as well as an update on the activities planned for the upcoming 1st Europe Week in Zambia.

I hope you will enjoy the reading. Should you have ideas, or contributions for future issues, you are most welcome to contact our Press and Information Section.

Thank you.

LOCAL EU STATEMENTS

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The Delegation of the European Union issued the following statement in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission in Zambia.

"The year 2016 is an important year for Zambia, characterized by a number of challenges, and opportunities as well.

This is the year where, after having passed into Law the Constitutional Amendment Bill, Zambia has the opportunity to complete the Constitutional review process, and where Zambia can further consolidate its tradition and reputation for democratic elections. The year 2016 can also be the year where Zambia capitalises on its status as a regional role model for peace and stability and engages further on the regional and international scene.

The European Union and its Member States very much value the close and friendly relationship with Zambia, and we confirm our commitment to support Zambia in its endeavours to address its current challenges, such as the economic situation and the energy crisis which have hit the country.



We confirm our confidence in the Electoral Commission and its capacity to successfully organise the upcoming elections on 11 August which we hope, in accordance with Zambia's tradition, will be free from violence and fully respecting fundamental democratic rights such as freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.



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These are fundamental principles we share and which are amongst the priorities of the European Union's foreign policy in the world. We are always interested in a level playing-field and never support any partisan position.

The European Union looks forward to continuing its strong partnership with Zambia, and to further enrich it in the fields of development cooperation, trade & investment, as well to pursue our fruitful political dialogue with all stakeholders – among them Government, opposition parties, civil society organizations in the mutual interest of Zambia and the European Union."

LOCAL EU STATEMENT ON POLITICAL VIOLENCE

The Delegation of the European Union issued the following statement in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission in Zambia.

"The EU Delegation and the Heads of Mission of EU Member States are deeply concerned by the recent incidents of politically motivated violence in Zambia. The absence of violence is required to guarantee the Zambian people their democratic rights to free, fair and peaceful elections. Moreover, preventing such incidents will strengthen Zambia's international reputation as a peaceful, stable and tolerant country and its stance as a destination of choice for foreign investments and tourism.

The EU Delegation and the Heads of Mission of EU Member States appeal to the leaders of all political parties to come together to make a firm and public commitment to reject violence, thus fulfilling the expectations of the peace-loving Zambian people who reject violence in all its forms.

The EU Delegation and the Heads of Mission of EU Member States call upon the Authorities to adopt a policy of zero tolerance towards all attempts by so-called party cadres to solve political differences by resorting to violence, to thoroughly investigate each case of political

violence, and to bring to justice all perpetrators, regardless of their political affiliation."

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

A FIRMER FUTURE FOR FAMILY PLANNING IN ZAMBIA'S REMOTEST COMMUNITIES

Marie Stopes Zambia's innovative family planning project based in Muchinga Province, started in early 2013 and came to an end in December 2015; it is one of the EU's most successful small projects in recent years.



Safer Motherhood Action Group Volunteers, Mwika, Chinsali District.

These community health volunteers are at the heart of the project's efforts to raise awareness in underserved communities. Why do they volunteer? One female member (pictured above) said: *"We help provide guidance and help others to get access to good quality services. We educate mothers about the complications which can happen after birth, especially those having a lot of children."*

A male member of the group said: *"It is about the community; often the ones we are giving advice to are our own relatives and friends"*

Dr Erwin Nyirenda, Acting Provincial Medical Officer, Muchinga Province



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Dr Erwin said this about the project: *"There is a change of attitude for married women to be accepted to search out family planning services. What the EU is doing with Marie Stopes is really giving us a hand with reducing maternal morbidities."*



Chief Kopa said: *"We are trying to learn a new culture here. When I patrol the villages and fishing camps in my chiefdom, I meet the headmen, the teachers, the clinic workers and the court and I talk to them all. We sensitise the people to family planning, and we talk to the men in a polite way to explain the benefits. I tell the men: a mother having another child while breastfeeding is bad for health. We believe in quality, not quantity!"* [Further reading](#)

Julia Ross, Senior Programme Manager, Marie Stopes(MSZ) Zambia

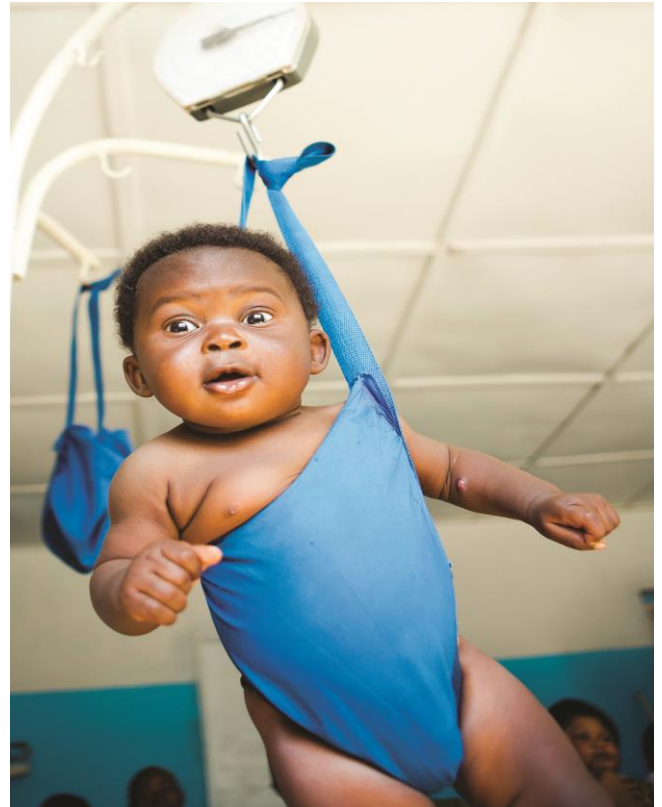
"The EU support has assisted MSZ to create an enabling environment for family planning in Muchinga Province, and MSZ plans to continue delivering life-saving contraceptive services within the province even after 2015. The support of the local actors and the huge interest of the population in accessing these services ensures lasting impact beyond the life of the project."

For more information about this project and [other EU health projects](#), contact [Njira Bweupe](#) or [Esther Bouma](#).

MOTHER AND CHILD MDGI PROGRAMME

"We have saved lives of babies, because of the oxygen we can now provide" says Mrs. Cecilia Choiwila, responsible

for the maternity ward of the Nangongwe Health Centre in Kafue District during the visit by the EU Programme Manager for Health and Social Sector, Mrs. [Esther Bouma](#). Mrs Choiwila was referring to the new Oxygen Concentrator, which is used to resuscitate babies who have problems breathing. The Oxygen Concentrator was received by the Ministry of Health along with other medical equipment, medical and nutritional commodities, ambulances and other vehicles, through the EU Reproductive, Mother and Child Health MDGi Programme involving a total of nearly 50 million Euros (600 million Zambian Kwacha) and implemented through UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITY SCHOOL IN-SERVICE TEACHERS THROUGH EDUCATION

Empowering Community School In-Service Teachers through Education (ECSITE) is a project funded by the European Union with the aim to improve the quality of teachers and learning in Community Schools for the



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benefit of Zambian children. The project has been implemented by the Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB Zambia) in partnership with the Zambia Open Community Schools (ZOCS).



The [documentary](#) here accessible, briefly showcases the success achieved during project implementation and raises awareness on the need for concerted efforts in order to achieve better quality education in community schools in Zambia.

THE COOPERATING PARTNER'S GROUP

The Cooperating Partner's Group (CPG) - the coordinating and dialogue forum for the bilateral and multilateral Cooperating Partners in Zambia – convened on 04 February for the first time in 2016 and under European Union chairmanship.

The European Union has taken the Chair of the CPG for six months. In his introductory remarks, European Union Ambassador to the Republic of Zambia and COMESA Alessandro Mariani presented the EU Chair as service oriented aiming to respond to the expectations of the CPG members. [Further reading](#)

On the same day, two external speakers informed the CPG members on topics of interest.

Mr. Oscar Kalumiana, Director of the Energy Department at the Ministry of Energy and Water Development addressed the CPG on the GRZ priorities and policy direction for the Energy sector in Zambia.



The development of an efficient energy policy tackling energy distribution and transmission issues, opportunities for the sector including solar production, the importance of cost-reflective tariffs as well as energy efficiency were some of the subjects discussed.

Mr. David Kaluba, COP21 National Coordinator to the Interim Climate Change Secretariat presented the outcomes of the 21st session of the Conference to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Paris November, 2015 (COP 21).



Cooperating Partners reiterated their commitment to support the GRZ in implementing adaptation and mitigation measures to the negative effect of climate change.



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A Cooperating Partners Group meeting took place on the 03 March. Two important governance related issues were discussed being the upcoming elections and the prisoner's conditions in Zambia.

The Director of the Electoral Commission (ECCZ) explained the impact and consequences of the recently amended Constitutional Bill on the upcoming general Elections which will be held on 11 August 2016. Issues such as the grade 12 requirement, the legislative amendments to be made as well as a Referendum on the Bill of Rights were discussed.

The second speaker, Kevin Musonda, project manager at the Prisons Care and Counselling Association (PRISCCA), elaborated on the human rights conditions of prisoners in Zambia. Congestion in prisons, poor living standards and the slow pace of justice; also the issue of non-custodial sentences should be further looked into.

was put on the importance of wildlife related tourism and prioritising the wildlife conservation.



EUROPEAN UNION HEADS OF MISSION MEET THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND ART

On 05 February, the European Union Heads of Mission met the Minister of Tourism and Arts, Honourable Jean Kapata to discuss investment opportunities in the tourism sector in Zambia. Honourable Minister Jean Kapata was accompanied by a team from her Ministry and the Zambia Development Agency.

During the meeting it was decided that:

- A list of possible investment projects would be circulated through the EU Member States' business network.
- Zambia would be promoted as a tourist destination on the websites and Facebook pages of all EU Member States Embassies and the EU Delegation

There was a consensus about the usefulness to promote Zambia as a tourist destination during the opening ceremonies of the increasing number of international events organised in Zambia. Furthermore strong emphasis

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

- **Call for Proposal Scaling Up Nutrition Interventions at Community and District Levels in Zambia** - The **global objective** of the Call for Proposals is to contribute to the reduction of maternal and child under-nutrition in Zambia. The full Guidelines for Applicants are available for consultation on this website; <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/zambia> and on the following internet site: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>.
- EuropeAid (DEVCO) recently launched **two calls for proposals under the Pan-African Programme (PanAf)** which were adopted under the Development Cooperation Instrument (EUR 845 million) for the period 2014-2020. The first call "Engaging Civil Society in Pan-African Issues" (total EUR 20 million) aims to improve the contribution of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to continental decision and policy making processes in Africa; and is divided in four thematic lots which include Good Governance & Democracy, Human Rights, Peace and Security and Women's Rights. [Further reading](#)



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CONSULAR FACT BOX

The EU in Zambia cooperates on consular affairs on a regular basis. Next to the EU Delegation and seven Member States' Embassies (Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom), there are 12 Honorary Consuls from EU Member States represented in Zambia: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain.

EU Member States also regularly exchange on local Schengen cooperation issues. Currently, three Member States' Embassies issue visas in Zambia for a total of 22 Schengen countries:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Embassy of Germany | Austria, Germany, Hungary, Slovenia. |
| Embassy of Italy | Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovakia. |
| Embassy of Sweden | Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland. |

Concerning non-Schengen EU countries, visas for Ireland are issued directly at the Irish Embassy in Lusaka, while the Consulate General of Cyprus accepts visa applications for scrutiny before they are passed on for issuance to the High Commission in South Africa.

EUROPE WEEK IN ZAMBIA 3RD MAY TO 9TH MAY 2016

- 3 May:** Seminar on Partnership with Civil Society
- 4 May:** Inauguration of Photo Exhibition of European Union funded projects in Zambia
- 5 May:** Seminar on the role of European Development Banks in Zambia's development
- 6 May:** Joint EU Heads of Mission visits to EU funded projects with Zambian Government and media
- 9 May:** Europe day and TV interviews