

Newsletter

of the Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels



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Participants dancing during Ethiopia Day in Schilde, near Antwerp, on the 16th of October 2014

Dear Reader,

You have probably noticed in last week's edition that we have revised and modernized the layout of our newsletter. In fact, our main concern is to fulfil as much as possible the interests of our readers. In order to accomplish this, we are aware that the format has to be updated and modernized.

Moreover, we are constantly reassessing the content we share with you. We came to the conclusion that, in addition to providing you major news about Ethiopia, our key task is to inform you about the diplomatic activities of the Embassy, as well as analytical articles on Ethiopia and European Union (EU). This is due to our strong focus and expertise on relations between our country and the EU, the Benelux and the Baltic countries. In this week's newsletter, you will find news about Ethiopia, articles on the diplomatic activities of the Embassy, as well as an analysis of Ethiopia's efforts for achieving a climate-resilient economic development in cooperation with its European and international partners.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

The Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels

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EU supports Ethiopia with 5m Euros to tackle refugee crisis

Addis Ababa, 24 October 2014 (WIC) - The European Union (EU) on Thursday announced the approval of five million Euros for Ethiopia, to enable the country to effectively deal with the influx of refugees from South Sudan.

Kristalina Georgieva, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, who made the disclosure in Addis Ababa, said that the fund would enable the African nation to respond to the needs of the increasing number of refugees. Georgieva disclosed that Ethiopia had received 31 million euros this year, for the tackling of refugee crisis.

She said that the aid was channeled to the government of the country through humanitarian partners, including UN agencies and non-governmental organizations. She said the new financing followed the influx of 190,000 additional South Sudanese refugees into Ethiopia, bringing the total refugees' number in the country to 643,000.

"The catastrophe happening in South Sudan has a huge impact throughout the region. Since the crisis erupted last December, Ethiopia has given refuge to many South Sudanese," she said.

Georgieva added that the funds would help to meet the basic needs of the refugees, which included shelter, food, water and health. She said that the high influx of refugees was adding to vulnerabilities in Ethiopia, which was prone to drought and flood. (EU)

ECA becomes 3rd largest UN duty station

Addis Ababa, 29 October 2014 (WIC) - A new office facility, that makes ECA the third largest UN duty station after New York and Geneva in terms of building portfolio, inaugurated yesterday at the ECA compound in Addis Ababa.

The facility will house UNOAU, UNAMID, UNICEF, UNOPS, WHO and UNHCR representation to the African Union Commission and ECA.

Speaking on the occasion Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn noted that the continent was struggling against colonialism and apartheid during the establishment of ECA in 1958, Africa is now witnessing development. Today, Africa has liberated itself from colonialism and embarked upon an era of development, stability and good governance, he noted. "It is for this reason that I am hopeful that this building would herald the consolidation and realization' of this new chapter- an era of African Renaissance," he said. "Africa is now in a new beginning, as is witnessed in the good performance of many African economies" he added. Despite the progress, Africa still faces major challenges related to its 'institutional weakness', he added, the Ebola crisis is an example. He expressed view that an 'effective' support from the international community would help Africa attain development: "I am of the view that with a more effective international partnership for development, Africa has a great possibility in attaining its renaissance."

In his keynote speech, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on his part said the opening of the new

facility would help to bring the UN staff together thereby harmonize UN operations, saying "Most of all, it means the United Nations is better placed to deliver better results." "With the completion of the new facility, we take an important step towards a future of dignity, prosperity and peace." Ban said.

Noting the ECA compound has a rich history, the Secretary-General said Africa Hall, a gift from Ethiopia upon establishment of the ECA in 1958, has seen memorable events, including the founding of the Organization of African Unity more than half a century ago. "Thanks to this new facility, we have been able to cater for growing demand for office space and increase the number of staff working in the compound to more than 1,000." said Executive Secretary of ECA, Carlos Lopes.

Although, the facility wouldn't allow bringing all UN staff into the compound, it will house UNOAU, UNAMID, UNICEF, UNOPS, WHO and UNHCR representation to the African Union Commission and ECA, he added.

Ethiopia has donated the building at the current ECA compound, known as Africa Hall for the ECA upon its establishment in 1958. Established as one of the UN's five regional commissions, ECA's mandate is to promote the economic and social development of its member States, foster intra-regional integration, and promote international cooperation for Africa's development. (ENA)

Press Release from the African Union: Ethiopia Contributes to African Union Ebola Response Efforts

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia–24 October 2014:The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has answered to the appeal made by the African Union Commission Chairperson, H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma last week to Member States to urgently contribute human resources to the fight against Ebola in West Africa.

In their response, the Ethiopian Government has pledged to deploy 200 volunteer health professionals to West Africa and also donated 500,000 USD to Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. The health professionals comprises medical doctors, nurses, field epidemiologists, environmental health personnel and public health specialists. These medics will engage in Ebola case management/treatment, surveillance, contact tracing, social mobilization, and community engagement, and will also assist national health systems in the affected countries to continue their essential and basic health, food, water and sanitation services.

Making the announcement, the Ethiopia Minister of Health Dr. Kesetebirhan Admasu said “This new commitment of deploying medical staff can be considered as a continuation and commitment of Ethiopia’s firm stand for African solidarity. Ethiopia shall and will continue to support all efforts until this dreadful crisis is over”

Welcoming the Ethiopia offer, the Commissioner for Social Affairs, Dr. Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Ethiopia for the exemplary contribution and hopes that the positive decision of Ethiopia will encourage other Member States to favourably respond to the AU Chairperson’s call for contributions from Member States in the fight against Ebola.

In response the Ebola epidemic, the AU has deployed medical volunteers to Liberia and Sierra Leone under its African Union Support to Ebola Outbreak (Operation ASEOWA). The Commission is deploying another batch of health experts Guinea next week.

Meanwhile, as a mark of AU’s increasing concern about the Ebola epidemic, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission HE Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma is currently visiting the West African sub-region to assess the situation firsthand and show solidarity with the affected countries. Whilst there, Madam Zuma will also engage individual Member States as part of its ongoing efforts to remove air, maritime and border closures that are affecting humanitarian access, and have far reaching implications for the affected countries’ economies, that are still grappling with post conflict reconstruction.



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Embassy diplomatic activities

Ambassador Teshome Toga held discussion with several officials in Luxembourg



On the 29th of October 2014, Ambassador Teshome Toga met Honourable Marc ANGEL Chairman of the Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Foreign Aid and Immigration of the parliament of Luxembourg. During the meeting Ambassador Teshome Toga expressed the good relationships existed between the two counties in all bilateral and multilateral forums. He appreciated the developmental financial assistances Luxembourg extended to Ethiopia under the EU frameworks and call for further deepening bilateral relationships in several sectors, among other at parliamentary level.

Ambassador Teshome Toga also met with the director of the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce and the Vice Rector of the University of Luxembourg.



Ambassador Teshome Toga meeting the director of



Ambassador Teshome Toga meeting the Vice-rector of the Luxembourg University

Ambassador Teshome Toga held a discussion with Ethiopian Students studying in Belgium



On the 25th of October 2014, Ambassador Teshome Toga held discussions with Ethiopian students enrolled in PHD and Masters Degree programs in different Belgian universities. The meeting was organised to welcome the students who just arrived in Belgium and to have

an exchange of ideas about the current situation of our country.

Ambassador Teshome congratulated the students for their successful results and underlined the role students can play to further deepen education and research partnerships between Ethiopia and Belgium. During his briefing, the Ambassador underlined that education is playing a crucial role in development and that the government was therefore striving to address the issue by giving priority to Sciences and Engineering.

The students on their part appreciated the recent economic developments of the country. They agreed to play their part in further strengthening the university to university partnership between Belgian and Ethiopian Universities.

Ethiopia's achievements towards sustainable development in cooperation with European partners

In his statement at the 69th General Assembly of the United Nations on the 25th of September 2014, Prime Minister Hailemariam underlined the Ethiopian concern for sustainable economic development. Among others, he supported the integration of Sustainable Development in the Post-2015 Development Goals, the framework which will replace the Millennium Development Goals after 2015 within the UN. PM Hailemariam importantly underlined that progresses towards carbon neutral economies are only possible through international cooperation.

It is with this conviction and determination that Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn travelled to Denmark on the 21st and 22nd of October in order to participate to the international Global Green Growth Forum (3GF) in Copenhagen. He was invited there by the Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt, and was one of the guest speakers for the introductory address, along with the Danish Prime Minister and other representatives. Moreover, he was a speaker on different occasions during the Forum, including during sessions on "Innovation to Transform Food Production", "Financial Flows for Land Restoration" and during a panel discussion on the theme "Enabling the Producer - Transforming our Production Patterns". This forum is one of the highlight in the international fight against climate change, with 300 world leaders in sustainable development meeting and elaborating new ways to deal with the challenges related to environmental questions. Governments, businesses, institutional investors and international organizations come there to promote concrete solutions for a sustainable global economy.

This meeting comes as Ethiopia is on its way for achieving sustainable development goals set in 2011 by the Ethiopian government: in addition to becoming a middle-income economy by 2025, the government plans to implement the necessary measures in order to become a Climate-Resilient Green Economy. Four pillars have been defined to achieve this, among others though investment and scientific research in key sectors:

- Improving crop and livestock production practices for higher food security and farmer income while reducing emissions;
- Protecting and re-establishing forests for their economic and ecosystem services including as carbon stocks;
- Expanding electricity generation from renewable energy for domestic and regional markets;
- Leapfrogging to modern and energy efficient technologies.

(Read the full strategy on the United Nations Development Programme's website: <https://undp.unteamworks.org/es/file/414172/download/450368>)

The Ethiopian strategy and its willingness to initiate partnerships in this sector is bearing fruits. Ethiopia is for example working closely with the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the German Agency for International Cooperation. Together, they launched a Sustainable Land Management Programme in 2008. Interviewed by IPS News Agency, the representative of bilateral development cooperation at the Addis Ababa German Embassy showed much confidence regarding this commitment: "It is very well known by the international community that Ethiopia is one of the front-runners of international climate policy, if not the leading African country."



Photovoltaic installation in Ethiopia (Image: BPVA.org)

Ethiopia in the News

Ebola vaccines tested in Africa (Des vaccins contre Ebola testés en Afrique) 25th of October 7sur7

Read here: <http://ethio.be/103lzUt>

Mechanic bridges in Africa (Meccanobruggen in Afrika) Grensverleggers, 17th of October

Read here: <http://ethio.be/1tlAHXC>

Agenda

Third International Conference on Ethiopian Coffee

06-07 November 2014, Addis Ababa - <http://www.ecea.org.et>

Contact us to know more: info@ethiopianembassy.be

Second Banking and ICT summit in Addis Ababa

21st of November 2014 Read more: <http://t.co/CAqaBcgGCJ>

Ethiopian Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Day

December 8th, 2014

About the Embassy

Working Hours

Consular Section: Monday-Friday 9am-1pm

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