

# Newsletter



Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels

27 February 2015  
Weekly Issue N° 25



Dear Reader,

As you know, Ethiopia is on a fast development track in many different sectors. In this newsletter, we are proud to share analysis about flagship aspects of this development:

- How the European Union is intensifying its cooperation with Ethiopia
- Why Ethiopia is becoming a leading African country in the railway sector
- How the Ethiopian traditional cereal teff is conquering the world markets
- Why Ethiopia is climbing to the top touristic countries' list
- Which new record and victories Ethiopian athletes are setting

We hope you will enjoy reading these articles, and would be happy to receive your feedback and questions at [newsletter@ethiopianembassy.be](mailto:newsletter@ethiopianembassy.be)

**Please kindly note that the Embassy will be closed this Monday, 2 February 2015.**

Sincerely,

**The Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels**

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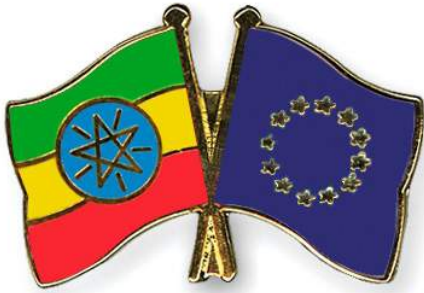
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## POLITICAL AFFAIRS

### European Union development cooperation with Ethiopia got stronger



Considering the proper utilization of the funds extended to support projects by the Ethiopian government through the 10th European Development Fund, the European Union (EU) has decided to increase the amount of financial assistance to Ethiopia, passing from 689 million for the period 2008-2013 to 745 million for the period 2014-2020. The agreement was signed in Nairobi in June 2014 by the Development Commissioner Piebalgs and Ato Ahmed, the State minister of Finance and Economic Development of Ethiopia.

The EU-Ethiopia development partnership formally started when Ethiopia signed the Lomé Convention in 1975, and the European Commission opened its Delegation's office in Addis Ababa the same year. Since then the Commission has played a significant role in supporting Ethiopia's economic development both financially and technically. According to H. E. Teshome Toga, Ethiopian Ambassador to the EU, Benelux and Baltic states, the Ethio-EU relationship is based on mutual benefits and on strategic principles. Besides its aid, the EU is also the destination for 30 percent of Ethiopia's coffee, leather, horticultural and floricultural exports, while more than 300 European investors are doing business in Ethiopia, totaling more than 60 billion of dollars of foreign investments. Moreover, the European Investment Bank also offers significant lines of credit to Ethiopia for telecommunications, aviation and energy projects. Among this, the Gilgel Gibe III dam is notable (1,870MW capacity), and is scheduled to begin generating power this year.

The prime objective of Ethiopia's development policies is to eradicate of poverty in the context of sustainable development and to reach the status of middle-income country by 2025. This includes the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, as adopted in 2000 in New York by the United Nations. These aims are shared by the EU through the European Consensus on Development, signed in 2005, under which EU member states and the EU Commission agreed upon a common vision of development. Thanks to the effective utilization of the EU development assistance and its pro-poor policies, Ethiopia is on a very good path to realize most of the MDGs in health and education. The target on hunger reduction has already been met, universal primary education is to be attained soon, while child mortality has been reduced by two thirds between 1990 and 2012. The target of reducing HIV/AIDS prevalence to less than 2.5% has also been achieved, as it lays now about 1.2%. Malaria and tuberculosis prevention also sharply improved.

According to Ato Sufian Ahmed, Minister of Finance & Economic Development of Ethiopia, the government approached a 100% performance level on the use of the 10th European Development Fund. This explains why the EU not only renews, but also increases its development assistance to Ethiopia for the next five years.

In an interview with the Ethiopian News Agency, Chantal Hebberecht, Head of the EU delegation to Ethiopia, said that Ethiopia has been undertaking successful activities regarding poverty alleviation, reducing child and maternal deaths, realize universal access to primary education, and control malaria, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. In addition to the proper utilization of funds, the nation's effort to alleviate poverty is another reason for EU to increase its support to Ethiopia.

## German Ambassador: Ethio-German relation strengthened by people-to-people ties



Germany is the fifth largest destination for Ethiopian export, the ambassador said, adding that the annual trade volume of the two countries has jumped over 200 million Euros. Schmidt further indicated that of the stated amount 84 million is Ethiopia's share and the remaining balance that of Germany. Ethiopia exports agricultural products, including coffee and textiles to German markets, while it imports pharmaceuticals, medicines and machinery, among others, it was learned. Some 35 German companies are reportedly engaged in Ethiopia's floricultural, logistics, transport and pharmaceutical sectors. Ambassador Schmidt explained that the over 50-years Ethio-German development cooperation focuses on the provision of primary education, technical and vocational training, agriculture and biodiversity. Starting from 2009, Germany has closely supported Ethiopia's green economy policy and supported the revival of 180,000 hectares of land that benefits over 194,000 farmers, he said. It was stated that the countries have strong cooperation in preventing drought, fighting climate change and terrorism.

The Ethio-Germany relationship is being consolidated by people-to-people ties beyond the diplomatic relations, according to German Ambassador to Ethiopia. Ambassador Joachim Schmidt told ENA that the political, diplomatic, economic and social cooperation of the two countries has reached high level. Schmidt indicated that the relation is strengthened by people-to-people ties and is being built on solid foundation. The relationship of the peoples of the two countries is deep and multifaceted when compared to other countries, he added. He said high-level official visits of the two governments, the relationship of sister cities and development cooperations have played a significant role in bringing the peoples of the two nations closer.

Ambassador Schmidt said Germany has a great admiration for the role Ethiopia has been playing in ensuring peace and stability in Somalia and South Sudan, and particularly in Darfur and Abiye. He also appreciated Ethiopia's efforts in hosting and protecting displaced citizens of neighboring countries. According to ENA, Ethiopia and Germany began diplomatic relations in 1905.

Source : ENA

## 35 million voters registered for Ethiopia poll

Nearly 35 million Ethiopians have registered to vote nationwide in parliamentary polls slated for 24 May 2015, Ethiopia's official electoral commission said this Tuesday. According to Wondimu Golla, deputy head of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE), the number of registered voters in Ethiopia currently stands at 34.9 million. The NEBE had planned on registering 35.8 million voters – out of 43 million Ethiopians of voting age, Golla told The

Anadolu Agency.

"The number of people that have registered to vote constitutes 97 percent of the plan," he said. Golla noted that 48 percent of registered voters were female. "Voter registration was held across the country, from 9 January to 21 February" he said. "Two days were added to allow registration of those who could not make it during the regular

registration days.” Golla said the registration process had been conducted at 45,500 stations across the country, in addition to makeshift booths for nomadic populations. A total of 6,000 parliamentary candidates have been fielded by 58 political parties across the country, according to NEBE figures. The next electoral milestone – canvassing by candidates – began this week. Political parties will be allowed to use state-owned media channels, in line with a set timetable for providing air time and newspaper space.

The upcoming parliamentary election will be Ethiopia’s fifth since the overthrow in 1991 of the Marxist Derg regime. Elections are generally held every five years, according to Ethiopia’s constitution.

Source: The Journal of Turkish Weekly

## Ambassador Berhane is expected to visit the Benelux countries

H.E. the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, Ambassador Berhane-Gebre Christos, will have a working visit next week in Belgium and in the Netherlands. He will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During his stay, the State Minister will pay a courtesy visit to officials in the Netherlands and to EU officials in Brussels, as well as to European Parliamentarians. He is also expected to give a press conference about political, economic and social developments

in Ethiopia, and also about the role of the country in the region. Moreover, he will meet investors and business groups on Friday 6 March at 14:30 at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague and on Monday 9 March at 15:00 at CBL-ACP in Brussels, to promote investment opportunities in Ethiopia. The Benelux business community that has interest to invest in Ethiopia is kindly invited to participate to these events (contact: Mr Tesfaye Tadesse, +32 489 74 18 13).

## ECONOMY

### Ethiopia poised for continued growth

Addis Ababa, 24 February 2015 (WIC) - Ethiopia seems well positioned to continue to grow and garner foreign investment, according to Seeking Alpha.com. Ethiopia averaged 10.7 % economic growth rate over the last 10 years, more than double the annual average of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa which was 5.2%. Tangentially, Ethiopia’s growth has not been tied to the development of mineral resources like oil and gas but it depends on infrastructure developments. The Ethiopian government has put a great emphasis on infrastructure investing in road and dam projects in order to provide reliable transport of goods, and also to provide cheap power to its inhabitants. Its single focus (infrastructure) has led the nation to be one of the fastest growing in Africa and a future hot spot for investment, Seeking Alpha.com noted.

Over the last several years, Ethiopia has seen the arrival of Hennes and Mauritz, and the consumer goods maker Unilever is in the process of building

a factory. Moreover, both Diageo and Heineken have bought breweries. The recently purchased Heineken brewery in the outskirts of Addis Ababa is part of a 310 million euro investment in the country since 2011. Heineken’s brewery complements the already existing breweries in Ethiopia. Other more speculative investment opportunities involve capitalizing on recent increase in exports of mineral resources.

Ethiopia’s tremendous growth has not been the result of a great discovery of natural resources, but is due to an emphasis on infrastructure and government expenditure that is transforming Ethiopia’s economy from agriculture based to manufacturing intensive. Another step in diversifying the Ethiopian economy and further increasing growth prospects is the growing exports of mineral resources.

Source : Walta Info

## Ethiopia becoming one of Africa's leading countries in railway transport network

Addis Ababa, 25 February 2015 (WIC) – The 1,500 km railway line being built in Ethiopia puts the country as one of the leading countries in Africa in railway transport network, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn said. PM Hailemariam made the remark while laying the cornerstone for the construction of the 375 km Awash-Kombolcha-Woldia-Hara Gebeya Railway Project on Tuesday in Kobilcha town. In addition to reducing environmental pollution and fuel expenditure as it uses of renewable energy, the route is significant for mobility of goods and people, he said.

Transport Minister, Workineh Gebeyehu, on his part said that the government of Ethiopia will invest 1.7 billion US dollars obtained from Turkish Exim Bank and EU member countries for the project. The railway project to be built by Yapi Merkezi, a company based in Turkey, will be finalized within three and half years, he said.

ERC Board Chairperson and Adviser to the Prime Minister with the Rank of Minister, Dr. Arkebe Equbay, said the new railway line will connect northern Ethiopia with central region. With a



running speed limit of 120 kilometers per hour, the railway line would help transport 750,000 passengers and 8.5 million tons of goods per year, Dr Arkebe said. A cornerstone for the construction of Mekelle–Woldia-Hara Gebeya railway line at a cost of 1.5 billion US dollars was laid last week, it was noted.

## Cooperation empowers small cooperative from Mekelle to export to Europe

A cooperative of women in Ethiopia is set to reach the international market with the support of a partnership between Italian gourmet food store Eataly and FAO. The two joined forces in 2013 to support family farmers around the globe in boosting their production and finding ways to reach new overseas customers. FAO and Eataly offered a small cooperative of Mekelle to support their local production of cactus pear marmalade, which would be then bought and shipped to European tables. Thanks to this new partnership, they considerably expanded their production, which is now meeting European food safety standards and sold to Italian customers.

On January 31 a delegation from the cooperative travelled to Addis Ababa to meet FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva, who was in the Ethiopian capital to attend the African Union

Summit. "Our lives have changed since we started in this endeavor," Tsega Gebrekidan Aregawi, founder of the cooperative, told him. "These are the kind of results we expect from agriculture," Graziano da Silva said, congratulating them on their success. "Family farming and small scale producers have a lot to offer — to their local communities, and on international markets. Their potential is large; they just need the right kind of support to unlock it," he added.

Read the FAO press release:

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/277385/>

## Teff - Ethiopia's tiny secret going global



Teff growing (left), teff cereal (center), and injera (Ethiopian pancake made out of teff - right)

In an article published this week, Deutsche Welle analyzes the skyrocketing demand for teff, the Ethiopian traditional grain. The German online media is analyzing the global interest for this cereal as the quest for an alternative to the traditional cereals: teff is not only gluten-free and high in rich elements (calcium, iron), but can also be used to make any flour-based food such as bread, pasta, tortillas and cookies.

“Predominately it’s Europeans buying teff bread; those who cannot eat wheat or who are health conscious,” said Sophie Kebede, owner of Tobia Teff, a UK-based business firm specializing in the grain. “When we started in 2007 nobody knew when we

said teff whether it was a Christmas pudding or a banana split, but I’m very happy to say we’ve come a long way from that now,” Kebede said.”

In order to protect Ethiopia’s food security, the Ministry of Trade strategically restricted exports of teff for the time being: a high demand for exports could have the consequence to increase the local price of the cereal, which is a basic nutrition element of the Ethiopia population. For the moment, exports are thus mainly coming from countries of the southern mediterranean.

Read the article: <http://dw.de/p/1EgPX>

## Tourism

### Amhara region tourism revenues are increasing

Addis Ababa, 16 February 2015 (WIC) – The United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in Ethiopia on Saturday announced that Ethiopia has now officially become world record holder for most people being tested for HIV. Rahel Gettu, UNAIDS country community mobilization and networking advisor in Ethiopia, told Sudan Tribune that Guinness World Records has on Friday officially confirmed the horn of Africa’s nation has beaten the world record which previously had been held by Argentina. While marking the World AIDS Day, Ethiopia last December conducted a free mass HIV testing campaign held at a Stadium in Gambella regional state. Accordingly, a total of 3,383 people voluntarily tested for HIV status in single venue in an eight-hour period. Of those, 82 people (2.4%) of them tested positive and had since been linked to health facilities for support and

further follow up. Ethiopia set the new record after facing strong competition from South Africa and Botswana. Gambella, which borders neighboring South Sudan, has the highest HIV prevalence in Ethiopia (6.5% – the national figure stands at 1.3%), according to the Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey 2011. The region, located in the country’s south-west, also hosts over 180,000 South Sudanese who crossed borders to Ethiopia following conflict that breakout in the young East African nation in December 2013. UNAIDS officials say such voluntary AIDS testing in regions like Gambella where there is high HIV prevalence is crucial to prevent new HIV infections. Voluntary AIDS testing will be continued across the country to enhance the ongoing efforts of achieving zero new infections in Ethiopia, the officials added. (Sudan Tribune)

## Ethiopia among top 2015 tourism destinations

This month, Ethiopia was described as one of the top 10 destination for the year 2015 by Kuoni, one of Europe’s biggest long-haul tour operators. This week, the Derby Telegraph further described that Ethiopia has so much potential, that a Scottish teacher, Susan Aitchison, opened a restaurant in Lalibela. The restaurant is now a very popular place for tourists from the whole world who are coming to visit the famous medieval monolithic cave churches of the 13th century, located in a mountainous region in the heart of Ethiopia. The churches have the peculiarity not

to be constructed in a traditional way but rather hewn from the living rock of monolithic blocks. Considering that “all the eleven churches represent a unique artistic achievement, in their execution, size and the variety and boldness of their form”, the monument is protected by UNESCO since 1978. Still today, Lalibela is an important place of Ethiopian Christianity and place of pilgrimage and devotion.

Read the article: <http://po.st/dKYfOu>



## SPORTS

### New record and victories for Ethiopian athletes

Genzebe Dibaba set a new world record in indoor 5000-meters. Ethiopia’s Genzebe Dibaba, younger sister of three-time Olympic gold medalist Tirunesh Dibaba, set this world record for the indoor 5,000-meters on Thursday at the XL Galan meet in Stockholm, Sweden, Outside Online reports. Her time of 14:18.86 beat the former record by almost six seconds, and is a mere eight seconds off her sister’s outdoor world record of 14:11.15, set in 2008. Genzebe’s 5000m record is just the latest in a record-breaking career indoors. During the 2014 season, the 24-year-old broke records in the 1500m

(3:55.17), 3000m (8:16.60), and two-mile (9:00.48), all in a span of 15 days. She was also the double gold medalist in the 1500m and 3000m distances at the 2014 World Indoor Championships.

Meanwhile, another remarkable performance by an Ethiopian runner was realized, as Ethiopia’s Endeshaw Negesse held off world and Olympic champion Stephen Kiprotich of Uganda to win Sunday’s Tokyo Marathon, writes the Japan Times. The 26-year-old finished in 2:06:00, ahead of Kiprotich (2:06:33) and defending champion and

race record-holder Dickson Chumba of Kenya, who came in third (2:06:34). Negesse's compatriot Birhane Dibaba won the women's competition in 2:23:15, capping the first men-women sweep by any nation in history.

"I think it was a good race but a bit windy," Negesse was quoted saying by the Japan Times. "I had hoped for a faster time but wasn't possible given the conditions. "There were many good runners in the field with fast times from big meets like the Olympics and the world championships. But I didn't lose any sleep over it. "I knew if I put in the work and ran the race I'm capable of running, I was good enough to win it." Negesse failed to match Chumba's record from last year by 18 seconds, but his time was still his second best after a 2:04:52 at the Dubai Marathon in January 2013. But after Dubai, Negesse, who dropped out of school in

2012 to run professionally, injured his left leg and didn't enter another marathon until Dusseldorf in April last year.

Now that he's won his second marathon, Negesse's goal is to challenge the world record of 2:02:57 held by Kenya's Dennis Kimetto. "That is a dream of mine," Negesse said, referring to the only sub-2:03 time in history. "I'm not saying I will do it in my next race, but it is a big goal of mine to eventually do it. "I spent almost four months getting ready for this race. I won today because I trained hard and worked to overcome an injury that kept me out a while. "I'm very happy to have won this race because to win a majors race, you need a combination of talent, strength and the will to work hard."

Sources: Outside Online & Japan Times



From left to right: Genzebe Dibaba , Endeshaw Negesse and Birhane Dibaba

## Other

### Vacancy Notice

The Embassy is looking for a research officer. More information here:

<http://www.ethiopianembassy.be/wp-content/uploads/Vacancy-Notice-Resarch-Officer.pdf>

**Please kindly note that the Embassy will be closed on Monday 2 March 2015**

### ABOUT THE EMBASSY

**Working Hours:** 9:00 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 17:00

**Consular Service:** Monday – Friday 09:00 – 13:00

**Legalization and Power of Attorney:** Monday – Thursday 9:00 – 13:00

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