

# Newsletter

Embassy of Ethiopia, Brussels



16 October 2015  
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Tigray Landscape, Ethiopia. Picture © Rod Waddington

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# POLITICAL ISSUES

## Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros meets Italian delegation to discuss migration



**Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros and Italian delegation led by Ambassador Marco del Panta**

On 14 October 2015, Foreign Minister Dr. Tedros met an Italian delegation led by Ambassador Marco del Panta, Director for Migration at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The visit follows a meeting between the two Foreign Ministers met in Milan last month and agreed to cooperate on the problems posed by migration.

Ambassador del Panta, who congratulated Dr. Tedros on his re-appointment as Foreign Minister, said the Italian Government was very keen to work on migration issues with Ethiopia which, he described as a key transit country

in East Africa. Recalling the Trust Fund announced by the EU to tackle migration and related issues, the Ambassador said, "We would like to be instrumental to channel the fund effectively to the region and especially to Ethiopia." He said that the areas of cooperation could include support for Micro and Small Enterprises, access to credit for vulnerable groups; as well as job creation and training for women and youth. He said his Government expected Ethiopia to produce

proposals to utilize the special financial scheme of the EU trust fund. A technical committee would shortly be formed to follow-up suggestions.

Dr. Tedros, who congratulated Italy for the success of the Milan Exposition, said Ethiopia was aware of the magnitude of the problem of migration for Europe. Ethiopia, as a transit center, and as a destination for migration in the Horn of Africa, welcomed any efforts to alleviate the problems of migration through assistance to migrants or in job creation. The Minister

noted that Ethiopia had created 2.6 million jobs last year, of which nearly 75% had been permanent. He said Italy could assist in giving training to the youth and helping to provide entrepreneurial skills. He also noted that Ethiopia was preparing legislation to minimize

and prevent the activities of human traffickers and smugglers. The Italian delegation is due to visit the camps set up in northern Ethiopia for Eritrean refugees who have fled from Eritrea in recent years.

## Government held discussions on GTP II with political parties

On 9 October 2015, the Government held discussions with representatives of political parties on the performance of the First Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP I) and considered the Second GTP. The Deputy Commissioner of National Plan Commission, Getachew Adem, presented an account of the GTP I, and noted that, on the basis of the achievements of GTP I, special attention would be given to industrial parks in the Second GTP period in order to ensure a more substantial role for manufacturing industry. The Deputy Commissioner detailed the encouraging results registered in agriculture, education, manufacturing and other sectors. He stressed that a culture of saving in the country had been significantly increased by the process of 'awareness creation', the national support for the Grand Ethiopia Renaissance Dam and the expansion of bank branches across the country. The Chairperson of the Ethiopian Democratic Party, Dr. Chane Kebede, who welcomed the opportunity for opposition political parties to have discussions with Prime Minister

Hailemariam Desalegn and the ruling party, underlined the importance of giving priority to the quality of education, even allowing for the progress achieved in GTP I. Tigistu Awelou, President of the Unity for Justice and Democracy Party said the oppositions' participation in the evaluation of GTP I would help to contribute to the attainment of the goals set for GTP II. Meetings such as this are essential to create an environment that would enable all political parties to collectively stand for the implementation of an overall common national agenda and protection of national interests.

The Prime Minister emphasized that the Government was fully prepared to work together with other political parties on planning implementation and performance evaluation during GTP II. He added that the Government would create a platform to engage all political parties in regular dialogue at any time. There was, he said, no need to wait for election campaigns.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

## Government's efforts to counter drought

On 16 October 2015, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn made a visit in the drought-affected region of Afar Regional State of Amibara Woreda. During this visit, he said his government will further consolidate its

assistance for victims of the recent drought. The Premier pointed out that the government has made the necessary preparations to protect the community from being exposed to severe effects of the drought caused by shortage of

rainfall.

On the occasion, the pastoralists, said the visit of the Premier demonstrates the care the Government has for the people and its readiness to fulfill its public duty. They further called upon the government to extend additional support as their cattle have died and their livelihood is shattered as a result. Attention should particularly be given to children and mothers, they underlined. Prime Minister Hailemariam added that the government is exerting maximum effort to solve the various problems related to the drought and also raised by the inhabitants.

On 12 October, the Government of Ethiopia announced that the number of people in need of relief assistance in Ethiopia due to El Niño phenomenon had increased to 8.2 million. This number includes those who are already supported by the safety net program. An inter-agency assessment conducted last month and led by the government identified an additional 3.6 million people in need of food assistance (from 4.55 million in August) as well as 300,000 children in need of specialized nutritious food and a projected 48,000 more children under five suffering from severe malnutrition.

His Excellency Mr Mitiku Kassa, NDPPC Secretary, also explained that the Government committed ETB 4 billion (USD 192 million), to address emergency food and non-food needs as a result of failed spring and summer rains caused by the climatic phenomenon known as El Niño. “The El Niño conditions have brought Ethiopia a great challenge, but the Government and Regional States are ready to meet the needs of the people alongside partners in the international community,” said Mr Kassa. He further stated that the Government would continue to allocate resources as necessary to meet the needs of the Ethiopian people.

Moreover, the Government of Ethiopia will continue to use funds from the Federal reserve and Regional states will also contribute with their regional funds reserves to address the risks caused by the El Niño effect. Up to now, the Government has pledged 450,000 metric tons of wheat and has the plan to secure a total of one million metric tons.

The Government of Ethiopia is working in close collaboration with the international community and international organizations to address this challenge.

Sources: Fanabc, UNICEF

## National Flag Day celebration enables more public participation

The Office of Government Communication Affairs said celebration of the national Flag Day shall enable the country galvanize public participation in the effort to attain further growth and ensure Ethiopia’s renaissance. State Minister Ewnetu Bilata said the goal of celebrating national Flag Day is promoting public participation, ensuring Ethiopian renaissance and concerted effort in fighting

poverty.

“The main reason we have been celebrating the national Flag Day is to strengthen the fight against abject poverty, ignite the national feeling of citizens and to ensure Ethiopian renaissance with the sense of love, patriotism and strong spirit... We cannot celebrate sacrifices made by our fore fathers and mothers to make Ethiopia a sovereign state and free

from the agony of colonialism. Poverty had been pushing our head down despite the heroic deeds of our ancestors. We are seeing light to the renaissance of Ethiopia. Ensuring continuity of the renaissance will eventually restore Ethiopia's glorious past. That is why the fight against poverty is of paramount

generation in particular.

On 24 October 2015, the Embassy of Ethiopia in Brussels will host the celebration of the 8th National Flag Day and the first celebration of the Diaspora Day in the Benelux countries. The members of the Ethiopian national diaspora



importance," he added.

He noted that doing that will really ensure Ethiopia is a land of nations, nationalities and people's with diverse culture and religious make up.

The annual national Flag Day celebration will be held at Addis Ababa Stadium for the 8th time in a row on 19 October 2015. The day which is to be celebrated under the theme 'Ethiopia; a country that is striving to ensure its renaissance through public participation and determined to raise its flag high,' is aimed at creating public consensus on the constitution, exchanging ideas on democratic values with the coming generation and dispatching the ideals behind the celebration of national flag day to the public in general and the new

and Benelux citizens of Ethiopian origin have been invited to take part in this colorful event. During the celebration, the National Flag of Ethiopia will be raised. In addition, the current socio-economic situation of the country will be discussed as well as the participation of the Ethiopian diaspora in the national economic development. Traditional Ethiopian food and drinks will be served to the participants, who will have the opportunity to dance with traditional Ethiopian music.

Source: MFA & Embassy of Ethiopia in Brussels

# ECONOMY

## Ethiopia confident joining Middle Income Country status by 2025

The per capita income of Ethiopia rises from USD 640 to USD 691 at the end of the first Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP I), the ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation



**MoFED State Minister Dr. Abraham Tekeste**

(MOFEC) disclosed. The country's achievement in raising its citizen's income is an indication that the country is in the right track to achieve the country's vision to join middle income countries by 2025. Average GDP growth during the stated period was 10.8 percent.

The average share of export to the total GDP was 9.8 percent and average import during

the stated period was 27.3 percent. The State Minister for Finance and Economic Cooperation Dr. Abraham urged the public at large and those on the leadership ladder to work with ultimate possible zeal and determination to strengthen success attained during the first GTP period and sustain it in the second GTP period.

Cautious and effective utilization of budget is mandatory as huge developmental projects are inculcated in GTP-II, he underlined. The government shall encourage the private sector to further engage in investment and utilize better strategies to fill the gap in financial demand.

The rapid economic growth that Ethiopia has been registering over the past five years indicates that the nation could attain the goal of joining middle income countries by 2025, according to Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED).

Moreover, Dr. Abraham Tekeste said the economy has been growing at an average of 10.1 percent annually over during the last five years. The growth has also improved the living standard of citizens by contributing to poverty reduction

In terms of source of growth, on the supply side the main source of growth is agriculture, the state minister said, adding that the agriculture sector grew by 6.4, while the service sector grew by 10.2 percent during the 2007

Ethiopian fiscal year. The industrial sector grew faster than the other two sectors registering a growth rate of 21.7 percent.

Similarly, the economy has registered strong growth during the First Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-I) period.

According to Dr. Abraham, the structure of the economy shows some shifts away from agriculture to industrial and service sectors.

The share of agriculture in the GDP declined from 44.7 percent in 2001 to 39 percent in 2007 Ethiopian fiscal year, it was indicated.

The size of the economy has increased significantly as it has nearly doubled over the past five years. The value of the GDP was estimated at 32 billion USD in 2010 and jumped to 62 billion USD in 2014/15 at current market price, the state minister said.

The per capita income also increased from 396 USD in 2010 to 691 USD in 2014/15 which sets Ethiopia on a good position to achieve its vision to becoming a middle income country.

Source: Walta Information Centre & Ethiopian News Agency

## Ambassador Teshome Toga talked about Fair Trade at the University of Hasselt



**H.E. Ambassador Teshome Toga and Hasselt University Vice-rector Paul Janssen**

On 8 October 2015, an Ethiopian evening was held at the Hasselt University at the occasion of the Fair Trade Week. H.E. Teshome Toga, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Benelux countries and the European Union, was invited as a guest of honor by Vice-rector Paul Janssen. In his speech, H.E.

Ambassador Teshome Toga mentioned various topics including the latest development issues in Ethiopia, SDGs, the origin and current trade practices of coffee.

Talking about the growth of Ethiopia during the last decades, Ambassador Teshome noted that “Ethiopia is one of the few non-oil producing countries that is registering high

and fast economic growth not only in Africa but also in the world.” To further fight poverty and develop the economy, the government has a voluntary and diversified strategy, especially in the agriculture to achieve food security and in SME and light manufacturing industries such as the textile, leather and agro-processing to create opportunities for the young and growing population. Investments are also considerable on infrastructure, in education and in the

health sector. Fair Trade is an important topic, as it coffee is labor intensive and frequently yields very little financial return. Therefore, “the principle of abiding by a fair trade becomes ever crucial for many countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Small Island States”. The 17th Sustainable Development Goal agreed in New York end of September 2015 will be important regarding Fair Trade, as it provides the promotion of “a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system”. H.E. Ambassador Teshome Toga concluded with this remark: “It is my belief that the implementation of SDGs will be based on a continuous but time bound negotiation and indeed give and take between the developing and developed countries, which should ultimately be based on fulfilling universal and common principles of welfare, sustainability, responsibility and solidarity. After all, we are talking about people, our planet and our future.”



**H.E. Teshome Toga addressing the guests**

A short documentary on coffee production in Ethiopia was also shown to the audiences and afterwards Ambassador made a concluding brief speech before the traditional coffee ceremony was served by the Ethiopian student at the University.

## Areas of investment reserved exclusively for domestic investors

Any investor who has incurred loss during the income tax exemption period may not be allowed to carry forward such loss for more than five income tax period.

### Areas of Investment Exclusively Reserved for Domestic Investors

1. Export of raw coffee, chat, oil seeds, pulses, precious minerals, natural forestry products, hides and skins bought from the market, and live sheep, goats, camel, equines and cattle not raised by the investor
2. Wholesale trade (excluding supply of petroleum and its by-products as well as wholesale trade by foreign investors of their locally produced products)
3. Hotels other than those star designated, motels, pensions, tea rooms, coffee shops, bars night clubs and restaurants excluding international and specialized restaurants
4. Tour operation below grade 1
5. Travel agency, trade auxiliary and inland water transport services
6. Tanning of hides and skins below finished level
7. Finishing of fabrics, yarn, warp and weft, apparel and other textile products by bleaching, dyeing, shrinking, sanforizing, mercerizing or dressing
8. Construction, water well drilling and mining exploration companies below Grade 1
9. Manufacturing of ice crème and cakes
10. Manufacture of cement
11. Manufacture of clay and cement products
12. Kindergarten, elementary and junior secondary education
13. Diagnostic center services
14. Clinical services
15. Capital goods leasing; and
16. Printing industries.

### Areas of Investment Exclusively Reserved for Ethiopian Nationals

1. Banking, insurance and micro credit and saving services
2. Packaging, forwarding and shipping agency services

3. Broadcasting services;
4. Air transport services using aircraft with a seating capacity of up to 50 passengers
5. Advertisement, promotion and translation works;
6. Attorney and legal consultancy services;
7. Preparation of indigenous traditional medicines;
8. Mass media services.

### Areas of Investment Exclusively Reserved for the Government

1. Transmission and supply of electrical energy through the Integrated National Grid System
2. Postal services with exception of courier services; and
3. Air transport services with a seating capacity of more than 50 passengers.

### Areas of Investment Exclusively Reserved for Joint Investment with the Government

1. Manufacturing of weapons and ammunition; and
2. Telecommunication services

# TOURISM

## Belgium-based association promotes tourism in Ethiopia



**Mrs Françoise Pastor (Heber Solidarité Éthiopie ASBL) and the Embassy's representative**

On 2 October 2015, the Belgian-based association Heber Solidarité Éthiopie ASBL organized a film projection and photo exhibition in Liège (Belgium). Addressing the participants, a representative from the Embassy recalled the largely untapped tourism potential of the country, which offers long traditions, a rich cultural and

architectural patrimony as well as unrivaled natural landscapes to tourists. Moreover, the Government of Ethiopia is committed to guarantee the tourists' safety, security and comfort. "My country gives priority for the safety and security as well as the wellbeing of tourists and also further provide incentives for investments in this sector" the representative

said. At the end of his statement, he reassured that “the Embassy remains committed to work together and encourage Heber Ethiopia Solidarité to do more towards to change the image the country. Let you all come and visit the beautiful Ethiopia!”

As an organizer of the event and Ethiopia enthusiast, Mrs Françoise Pastor said on her side that “Ethiopia is rich, beautiful and worth to be seen”. She also underlined that

the country was to be regarded as a model in terms of peaceful coexistence between people, religions and cultures. “We have much to learn from Ethiopia”, she assured. Through photo and live explanations, Mrs Françoise Pastor proposed a fascinating visit through many touristic and natural sites.

To watch our video account of the event as well as interviews of the participants, click here:

<https://youtu.be/1TqNuiWOySQ>

## REGIONAL AFFAIRS

### IGAD calls on President Salva Kiir to suspend his creation of new states in South Sudan

IGAD issued a strongly worded statement calling on President Salva Kiir to suspend his order creating 28 states in South Sudan, and to follow the mechanisms provided in the peace agreement signed with the SPLM-in-Opposition leader, Riek Machar, in August. President Kiir issued the order on October increasing the number of states in South Sudan from 10 to 28. IGAD, in its first response to the presidential comment, said “In violation of the Agreement, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan issued Establishment Order 36/2015 on October 2, 2015 redrawing the State boundaries of the Republic that expanded the number of states from 10 to 28.” IGAD described the presidential order as a surprise because the Government had earlier, during the negotiations, refused SPLM-in-Opposition’s suggestions for the creation of more federal. In a seven page statement, IGAD said it had been

the SPLM-in-O that had wanted to increase the number of states to 21 as a condition for the establishment of the Transitional Government of National Unity. IGAD said the Government should now wait until the constitution-making process takes place, under the supervision of the to-be formed Government of National Unity. The presidential order to create 28 states has been widely criticized by the EU, the Troika, and South Sudanese opposition parties, former detainees and civil society organizations. The IGAD statement also called on the SPLM-in-O to sign the minutes of the security arrangements concluded at the Security Workshop held in Addis Ababa earlier this month. It pointed out that the agreed document was also a process in the implementation of the deal on security.

Source: MFA Ethiopia

# AGENDA & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Ethio-Netherlands Business Event: “A Growing Investment Opportunity”

Together with the Ethiopian Embassy in Brussels and the Netherlands Embassy in Addis Ababa, NABC will be organizing the first Ethio-Netherlands business event in the Netherlands on 5 and 6 November 2015. Are you interested in investing in Ethiopia and looking for the right information and people to discuss the opportunities? This is the right place to get informed on investing in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia, as a country with a population of approximately 95 million, double-digit growth, availability of land and an attractive and diverse climate, has become a main destination for investments. The Dutch private sector is already involved extensively in Ethiopia (via horticulture, agriculture). Despite the increasing number of investments by Dutch companies, opportunities available in Ethiopia are not fully optimized. In view of this, both countries have agreed to stimulate the Dutch private sector investment in Ethiopia and trade opportunities between Ethiopia and the Netherlands.

During the Ethio-Netherlands business event, officials from Ethiopia and experts from the field will advise on the business opportunities and steps to take when investing. Specific focus will be on the investment potential in seven sectors, following from the Dutch development cooperation program and being in line with Ethiopian priorities: seeds (tomatoes, potatoes), oilseeds, poultry, dairy, spices, textiles and logistics/construction. Based on

business opportunity reports and business cases for each sector, we will provide you with the right know-how and the introduction to a network to get started.

The event consists of two days, of which the first day will compose of the following elements:

Day 1:

- A) General plenary session on investing in Ethiopia with testimonies from the Dutch private sector in Ethiopia;
- B) Seven separate workshops on the specific sectors based on the business opportunities reports and business cases;
- C) Matchmaking session between Dutch companies and Ethiopian and Dutch authorities (B2G); between Ethiopian and Dutch potential business partners (B2B) and between Dutch companies to establish cooperation (B2B).
- D) A working dinner.

Day 2

The second day will consist of company visits by separate groups within the seven sectors. Another registration page will be opened to register for the company visits.

Contact

Email [info@ethiopianembassy.be](mailto:info@ethiopianembassy.be)

Registration and practical information:

[http://ethio.be/NL\\_Ethio\\_Business](http://ethio.be/NL_Ethio_Business)

# Invitation: 8th National Flag Day & First Diaspora Festival in Brussels



የኢትዮጵያ ፌዴራላዊ ዲሞክራሲያዊ ሪፑብሊክ ኤምባሲ ብራሰልስ  
Embassy of The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia – Brussels

ቀን: 20/10/2015  
Date: 20/10/2015  
ቁጥር: BE/Com/12/35108  
Ref. No. BE/Com/12/35108



## የጥሪ ደብዳቤ

### በቤኔሉክስ ሀገራት ለምትገኙ ኢትዮጵያውያንና ትውልደ

### ኢትዮጵያውያን በሙሉ፤

በብራሰልስ የሚገኘው የኢ.ፌ.ዲ.ሪ ኤምባሲ እ.ኤ.አ አክቶበር 24/2015 ቅዳሜ እለት ከቀን 14:00 ሰአት ጀምሮ የሰንደቅ ዓላማ ቀን እንዲሁም በቤኔሉክስ ሀገራት ከሚገኙ ኢትዮጵያውያን ጋር በመሆን ለመጀመሪያ ጊዜ የዳያስፖራ ቀን በዓልን ያከብራል።

በመሆኑም እርስዎ በበዓሉ ላይ በመገኘት በሀገራችን ወቅታዊ ሁኔታዎች ላይ እንዲሁም በዳያስፖራ ተሳትፎ ጉዳዮች ላይ ውይይት ስለሚደረግ በበዓሉ ላይ በመገኘት ተሳታፊ እንዲሆኑ ኤምባሲው ግብዣውን ያቀርባል።

ኢ.ፌ.ዲ.ሪ ኤምባሲ  
ብራሰልስ



\* በበለሉ ወቅት ባህላዊ ምግብና መጠጥ እንዲሁም የመዝናኛ ፕሮግራም ይኖራል።

አድራሻ፦

Venue- Avenue Charles Thielemans 93, 1150 Woluwe-Saint-Pierre, Brussels

Date: Saturday 24 October 2015

Time: 14:00-20:00hrs.

Please confirm your participation via: 0032 2 771 32 94;or

By e-mail: [info@ethiopianembassy.be](mailto:info@ethiopianembassy.be) or <https://twitter.com/EthiopiaEU> or

[www.facebook.com/EthiopiaEmbassyEU](http://www.facebook.com/EthiopiaEmbassyEU)

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## 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