Today, 9 May 2012, is the 62nd anniversary of the Schuman Declaration. Every year we celebrate Europe Day by looking back at the history of European integration and the things we have accomplished together. But it should also be an opportunity to look forward.

We read a lot in the press about the financial crisis and the economic problems we are facing. But the basis of the European economy remains strong. And the common values that bring us together are more important than ever.

The coming year will be crucial for Europe’s recovery – and for Europe’s future. Not only the steps we take internally in the European Union on the economy and with Croatia joining in July. But also how we engage globally.

Europe has always been outward looking and open. We have consistently influenced the way the world thinks – about trade, the environment, climate change, the death penalty, the International Criminal Court, and many other important issues.

I am convinced that Europe must remain actively engaged around the world. And equally that our international work can help to underpin our economic recovery.

There has been a lot of progress since we marked Schuman Day last year.

- We are building up the European External Action Service, including a fully joined up crisis management system so that we can deliver comprehensive solutions on the ground, be it in Libya or Somalia or Afghanistan.

  I have travelled to many countries and regions – visiting every continent including a striking trip to the Arctic. Everywhere I go, I take a message on behalf of Europe, about 27 countries working together to help solve problems. Everywhere I go, I hear that others from outside Europe want to work with a Europe that is active and committed.

  So that is what I intend to do next.

- We will continue to focus on helping the countries in our neighbourhood – be it in the East or South – to become stable and well-governed, with a strong economy and democratic institutions.

- We will re-energise our partnership with Asia by stepping up our collaboration with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); by supporting the amazing changes taking place in Burma, by deepening our work with India especially on security issues and by strengthening our strategic dialogue with China.

- With Latin America including Brazil there is important joint work to do and much unrealised potential, with the Latin American Caribbean Summit coming up and with a relationship that is founded on shared values.

HRVP Message cont’d on pg 2...
Dear Reader,

Trinidad and Tobago and the European Union have enjoyed a longstanding partnership. As the new European Union Chargé d’Affaires a.i. in Trinidad and Tobago, supported by a motivated team of colleagues in the EU Delegation in Port of Spain and by the non resident Ambassador Mr Robert Kopecký, I have the privilege to continue the work begun back in the 1970’s to contribute to the consolidation of Trinidad and Tobago – European Union relations in the political, economic and social areas.

The European Union is a committed partner of Trinidad and Tobago and recognises the pivotal role this country plays in all facets of development of the Caribbean region. We see Trinidad and Tobago as a key player in the Caribbean regional integration process and as a leading force in pursuing citizen’s security and in the fight against organised crime in the country, as well as in the region. Thanks to its thriving private sector, Trinidad and Tobago has already started to seize the opportunities and benefits deriving from the Cariforum-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). But much more still needs to be done to make this partnership blossom to its full potential.

Since my arrival in Trinidad and Tobago in January 2012, I have already had many opportunities to appreciate the amazing human richness and potential of Trinbagonians in all aspects of economic, political and social life. There could not be a better ground for the development of a fully fledged relationship between the European Union and Trinidad and Tobago in the mutual respect and interest, as it should be among like minded peers and partners.

The European Union continues to work with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in the achievement of its national development goals and we are happy to report that substantial progress has been made in the efforts to help bridge the gap between wealth and development.

Shortly after my arrival in Trinidad, I had the honour of handing over the first tranche of the EU support to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the continued restructuring of the formerly state-owned sugar sector (€16.6 million, about TT$ 134.2 million). This disbursement is part of a total €75 million (approx. TT$700M) grant from the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, the European Union is supporting the implementation of this Government’s Enabling Competitive Business Strategy with a grant of €16.34 million (approximately TT$ 145M). In March this year we disbursed the first tranche of € 3.6 million to this programme.

We also support this country’s development through numerous regional projects in areas such as crime and security, natural disasters and food security as the European Union remains the biggest donor of development assistance around the world and in the Caribbean region, as well as in Trinidad and Tobago.

You can read more about the European Union’s efforts to assist the people of Trinidad and Tobago in this Europe Day commemorative supplement. This supplement also provides insight on the Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Cariforum (CARICOM plus Dominican Republic), protection of Human Rights and travel information for those planning a visit to Europe.

If you wish to learn more about the EU and the work of the Delegation in Trinidad and Tobago, we invite you to visit our website: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/trinidad/index_en.htm or feel free to contact the Delegation for additional information.

I hope you enjoy this supplement and wish you once more a happy Europe Day!

DANIELA TRAMACERE
Minister Counsellor & Chargé d’Affaires
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Happy Europe Day!
After the devastating conflicts of the early 20th century, it was imperative for European nations to lay down solid foundations for enduring peace and cooperation among European countries and to leave the devastating effects of war and human misery behind.

The European integration process is based on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and of course of the rule of law. The European Union sees human rights as universal and indivisible and actively promotes and defends them both within and outside its borders. Embedded in its founding treaty, the defence of human rights was reinforced when the EU adopted the Charter of Fundamental Rights in 2000, which became legally binding with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009.

Countries seeking to join the EU must respect human rights. And all trade and cooperation agreements with third countries contain a clause stipulating that human rights are an essential element in relations between the parties.

The EU makes use of a wide-range of tools to promote human rights and democracy in its external relations. Some of these tools are instruments of traditional diplomacy and foreign policy (such as declarations, démarches, as well as resolutions and interventions within the United Nations framework) as well as through political dialogue with third countries; others are cooperation tools implemented through assistance programmes, via the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

The EU's political commitment to democracy and human rights also translates into financial support in the range of €160 million on an annual basis, it provides under the EIDHR to help civil society in third countries to become an effective force for political reform and defence of human rights. What is more, the EIDHR allows action without the consent of governments or of other public authorities. This enables the EU to grant aid where no established EU development cooperation exists, and in particular in those countries where human rights and fundamental freedoms are the most violated. For this purpose, the EIDHR is used by the EU to cooperate directly with local civil society organisations that need to preserve independence from public authorities, including those that are not legally recognized.

The Union’s human rights policy encompasses civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. It also seeks to promote the rights of women, of children, of those persons belonging to minorities, and of displaced persons. Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union prohibits discrimination on any grounds, including gender, race, colour, ethnic or social group, nationality, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or other convictions, membership of a minority group, disability, age and sexual orientation.

Protecting the rights of women, children and vulnerable members of society

The EU is protecting and promoting women’s and children’s rights and combating any form of discrimination against them. Discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation is prohibited under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, as well as the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

The EU prioritises women’s rights within the EU human rights policy towards third countries and sets out a strategy for dealing with individual cases of human rights violations. As some of the most vulnerable members of society, children require particular protection: EU programmes and activities address such threats as violence against children, armed conflict and child labour. A combination of policy dialogue, development cooperation and trade incentives are used by the EU as it plays its part in working towards the internationally agreed goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016.

The victims of human trafficking are often the most vulnerable in society. The EU approach to tackling the trafficking of human beings encompasses law enforcement, prevention and victim support.

The right of indigenous peoples are also a priority under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. The goals are to increase indigenous peoples’ rights and capacity to control their own social, economic and cultural development, while enhancing territorial rights and capacity for sustainable management of biological resources.

Death penalty

The European Union holds a strong and principled position against the death penalty; its abolition is a key objective for the Union’s human rights policy.

Indeed, the EU is the leading institutional actor and largest donor to the fight against the death penalty. The death penalty is cruel and inhuman, and has not been shown in any way to act as a deterrent to crime. The European Union regards abolition as essential for the protection of human dignity, as well as for the progressive development of human rights.

STABILITY.
ENERGY.
CLARITY.

At Sagicor, we have always believed that you build your own future. Because of our trademark of stable investments and prudent financial decision-making, we are uniquely positioned to be there for you when you need us most. This adds up to a clear vision of where the future can take you. It’s this vision that will ensure a secure and vibrant future for you and your family. So here’s to many happy tomorrows.

For more information, visit a Sagicor office or Sagicor.com
Strengthening Human Rights cont’d from pg 3...

If necessary, the EU advocates a moratorium as a first step towards abolition. The adoption of a resolution on this issue by the UN General Assembly in 2007 was a major breakthrough, while growing support for subsequent resolutions adopted in 2008 and 2010 has served to illustrate the worldwide trend in this direction.

Where the capital punishment is still used, the EU calls for it to be progressively restricted and insists that it be carried out according to international minimum standards. The EU intervenes both on individual cases and at a general policy level when a country’s policy on the death penalty is in flux. In 2009 alone, the EU issued statements on over 30 individual cases and carried out more than 30 other actions in favour of individuals at risk of execution.

EU funding also allows non-governmental organisations to campaign for the abolition of the death penalty. Projects may range from the monitoring of the use of the death penalty to assistance to prisoners, support for constitutional reform, training, advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns.

Fight against torture

The absolute ban on torture and ill-treatment enshrined at international level in core UN human rights conventions is reflected at EU level in the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The EU is firmly committed to the absolute prohibition of all forms of ill-treatment and supports civil society groups working to end torture or rehabilitate torture victims. In the EU measures are in place to prevent the use, production and trade of equipment designed to inflict torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Fight for impunity

Committed to preventing crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide, as well as impunity for the perpetrators of such crimes, the EU provides unwavering support to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other international criminal tribunals. Support is political, financial and technical. EU member countries are the biggest financial contributors to the ICC budget, and the EU itself funds projects supporting the ICC and international criminal justice through its EIDHR.

DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS

The EU’s stance on all human rights issues are reflected in the activities it undertakes:

1. The EU demonstrates its commitment to the abolition of the death penalty worldwide by:
   - Calling states to respect international standards that provide safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the right of those facing the death penalty;
   - Aiming to progressively restrict the use of death penalty and reduce the number of offences for which it may be imposed;
   - Establishing a moratorium on executions with a view to completely abolish the death penalty and calling upon States which have abolished the death penalty not to reintroduce it.

2. The EU promotes and protects the Rights of the Child through:
   - Providing funding for projects to promote and protect children’s rights;
   - Monitoring progress in advancing the rights of the child;
   - Calling upon states to sign, ratify and implement the convention and protocols on the Rights of the Child;
   - Supporting the work of relevant international and regional actors in the area of the rights of the child.

3. The EU also attaches great importance to women’s rights and gender equality and calls upon states to:
   - Identify forms of violence against women and girls and identify the existence of laws and practices which are discriminatory;
   - Ratify the United Nation’s Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
   - Maintain a dialogue and regular consultations with women’s rights defenders and women’s organisations;
   - Make specific commitments to combat violence and discrimination against women.

4. The EU attaches great importance and supports the work of human rights defenders and civil society organisations, whose work contributes to the effective protection of human rights by:
   - Involving human rights defenders and their organisations in the drafting and monitoring of local human rights strategies;
   - Organising meetings with human rights defenders to discuss topics relevant to the local human rights situation;
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The Cariforum-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA):
Why It’s Good News For Businesses Across Trinidad & Tobago

Many analysts agree that businesses in Trinidad and Tobago need to get more out of globalization - to attract more foreign investments as well as develop non-energy exports. The CARIFORUM-EU EPA aims to achieve just that.

The EPA is a trade and development partnership, signed in 2008 by CARIFORUM and EU states. The goals are simple: to make it easier for people and businesses from the two regions to invest in and trade with each other, and to boost growth in Trinidad and Tobago and across the Caribbean.

The EPA covers trade in a much wider sense than the rules that came before it while supporting the region’s integration process. This should in turn help Caribbean businesses win a larger share of global commerce.

Respecting our regions’ differences

When the Caribbean and the EU open their markets to each other they both reap the benefits. The EPA recognises that the Caribbean and the EU are at different stages of development, therefore, it requires the EU to go much further and faster. It also makes much lighter demands on Caribbean states than standard free trade agreements. In other words, the EPA is still ‘asymmetrical’.

For their part, Trinidad and Tobago and other Caribbean States do not have to open their markets to the EU completely. Instead, they liberalise in a way that respects their level of development, enabling them to integrate more fully into the global economy, at their own pace and on their own terms. They can do so because the EPA gives them three important benefits:

• transition periods of up to 15 years, sometimes even up to 25 years, for removing tariffs on EU imports;
• exclusions from tariff cuts for around 17% of goods and services which they deem to be sensitive;
• safeguards so they can respond if EU imports suddenly surge and threaten local production.

For its part, the EU gives Trinidad and Tobago and other Caribbean states 100% duty- and quota-free access for goods, and free access for over 90% of services.

Some governments in the Caribbean have expressed concerns that the EPA might lead to a cut in their revenues. But over time a growing economy should generate revenues which more than outweigh any loss of income from import tariffs, which limit trade and hamper growth and competitiveness.

In the meantime, the EPA comes with EU assistance to help governments reform their tax systems and develop other revenue sources.

For this reason, the EU would expect the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to join the likes of Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and St Kitts and Nevis in making its first round of tariff cuts.

Covering trade in its widest sense

Before the EPA, the rules governing Caribbean-EU trade had been mostly limited to goods. Now, those rules also cover trade in services, which the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is committed to developing so the economy relies less on oil and gas.

The EPA covers other areas where rules and regulations can hinder trade: competition, innovation and intellectual property, public procurement, and environmental and labour standards.

Supporting regional integration

In the accord, Caribbean states have committed to start offering each other the same preferences they give the EU. Between 2012 and 2015 the EU is providing over €140 million to several region-wide bodies. These will help Trinidad and Tobago and the rest of the region put the EPA into practice, export more and secure more foreign investment.

Opportunities worth seizing

Unprecedented access to the world’s biggest market; regulations and support to help businesses grow and become globally competitive; and more integrated marketing in the Caribbean - the EPA has a lot in it for the T&T business community to grow. Now is the time to make it work.
Growing Into Diversification
EU Aid Helps TT Better Compete In World Markets

In the World Bank’s 2011 Ease of Doing Business report, Trinidad and Tobago placed 97 out of 183 economies and lags behind its Caribbean peers.

Furthermore, the oil and gas resources which constitute the current engine of the economy are finite, forcing the nation to look for alternative sources of income.

With preferential trading arrangements coming to an end globally, the Caribbean will need to open up its market to foreign competition and sources of future productivity, competitiveness and growth are needed.

The €16.34 million (approximately TT$145 million) grant from the European Union to support Enabling Competitive Business assists Trinidad and Tobago in its transition to a modern and sustainable economy, less dependent on the energy sector.

Why higher growth matters?
To reduce poverty...

Research shows sustained growth is the single most important factor in reducing poverty. Indeed, according to one estimate, one only needs a 10% increase in per capita income to reduce the proportion of people living below the poverty line by 20-30%!

While official data indicates poverty levels in Trinidad and Tobago fell from 21% in 1992 to 16.7% in 2005, preliminary estimates based on a 2009 Household Budgetary Survey suggest there has been a marginal increase in the poverty rate. This is probably due in part to the economic impact of the 2008 global financial crisis, together with other economic challenges.

Better public services facilitate increased private sector development

EU assistance supports the Government’s Enabling Competitive Business Strategy, which focuses on critical areas such as improving the regulatory framework; developing new business sectors and reducing red tape. The ultimate goal is to build stronger and more efficient public service institutions that deliver better and more relevant services, increase the cooperation among different state actors, and improve critical aspects of good governance such as accountability and transparency.

European Union funding is performance based. Targets to determine how the funds are disbursed were proposed by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago drawing from its own strategic planning process, and approved by the European Union. The Enabling Competitive Business Strategy is a starting point, a framework within which results can be measured and monitored.

Everyone benefits

Improving Trinidad and Tobago’s investment climate promotes foreign and domestic investments alike. By improving the conditions that enable the economy to diversify, grow and integrate in world markets, the Government will set Trinidad and Tobago’s economy on an equal footing with its European partners.
Restructuring The Sugar Sector
With EU Support

In an effort to mitigate the social, economic and environmental impact of the restructuring of the sugar industry in Trinidad and Tobago, the European Union has allocated close to €75 million (ca. TT$700 million) to assist the country in its efforts to promote the alternative use of lands previously used for sugar and increase local food production. So far, the EU has disbursed €32.3 million (ca. TT$295 million) directly to the Consolidated Fund of the Government.

This support aims at diversifying the economic base of sugar dependent areas and establishing a wider policy dialogue with the Government on the implementation of the sector policy. The programme also supports the Government’s National Food Production Action Plan 2012-2015 with the objective to increase domestic food production in Trinidad and Tobago.

Positive Impact
Several studies funded by the EU assessed the impact of the restructuring measures. One study looked at it from an environmental point of view, giving special consideration to the linkages between social and economic factors. The study found that the restructuring measures based on the attempt to diversify Caroni (1975) Ltd. lands have wide ranging social, economic and environmental potential benefits. The most notable environmental benefit has been the return of wildlife, including beneficial insects like butterflies, birds, fish, and other animals, to areas formerly under sugar cultivation. Water management was one of the policy areas studied. The findings of the study were submitted to the Government as an input in its efforts to improve management of water resources in Trinidad.

Moreover, the findings of a socio-economic baseline study of the areas in Central and South Trinidad that had been dependent on sugar production conducted in 2010 points to options for policy makers to further improve the socio-economic policy measures implemented in the areas involved.

Minister of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs, Senator the Honourable Vasant Bharath stated at the latest disbursement ceremony in February 2012: “This receipt of €16.585.000 is a direct result of the Trinidad and Tobago Government having successfully satisfied all performance indicators of the 2009 Financing Agreement with the EU. This is a major achievement as it signals the hard work and success in strengthening the economic environment.”

Speaking about the grant, newly installed Chargé d’Affaires of the Delegation of the European Union, Ms. Daniela Tramacere, stated: “As the largest donor of development aid in the world and in Trinidad and Tobago, the EU remains committed to the development of a sustainable agricultural sector. The EU is therefore committed to assist the Government of Trinidad and Tobago with both financial aid and technical support.”

Addressing The Challenges Of Small Size Through Regional Cooperation

The European Union firmly believes that regional cooperation can help address the challenges of globalisation and mitigate limitations of small and insular states. To this end, the European Union supports CARICOM states in enhancing human and social development, sustainable economic diversification, poverty eradication and regional integration. In addition to the bilateral country assistance for each one of the Caribbean countries, the EU has committed over €262 million during the period 2007-2013, to finance regional programmes.

In the area of regional integration, the EU supports the implementation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) work plan, the enhancing of the technical capacity of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECs) and has supported the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) as an effective dispute settlement mechanism. The EU also provides institutional support for the implementation of European Partnership Agreement (EPA - see the specific article on EPA in this supplement).

The European Union also partners with Caribbean countries in their transformation to a knowledge economy. By supporting the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN) the EU has contributed to upgrading and diversifying the skills and knowledge of the Caribbean people by improving the technical environment and the ability of Tertiary Education Institutions (TEIs) to deliver Information and Communication Technology-based training.

The Caribbean region faces challenges from climate change, natural disasters, high food prices, small internal markets and dependency on a few export commodities. Cognisant of the strain on consumers of soaring food prices and challenges posed for agricultural exporters by international health standards, the EU is promoting the development of small holder agriculture so as to allow closer integration into local, national, regional and, where appropriate, global markets, diversify production and sustain food security.

The proliferation of international crime threatens the growth, international competitiveness and stability of the countries affected. In view of assisting the Caribbean to
respond to increasingly sophisticated criminal activity, the European Union has supported regional security agencies such as the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) in their efforts to build the capacity of member states to improve knowledge and conduct forensic analyses of precursors and alternative substances. The EU has also supported the development of standardised tools for intelligence gathering and sharing through a number of regional training workshops.

As a disaster prone region, the Caribbean suffers annually from loss of livelihood, homes and also lives due to a number of natural hazards ranging from hurricanes to earthquakes. The EU has provided support to address the key problems involved in integrating Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM), as a natural disaster loss reduction mechanism, into the Caribbean’s sustainable development policies and strategies. These included Institutional Capacity and Cooperation, Disaster Legislation, Awareness, Information Sharing, Training and Research. This strategy is also supported by the existence of the four weather radars which were set up in different corners of the Caribbean as an early warning system for hurricanes.

Democratic development and good governance require an involved and committed citizenry. Tapping into the expertise, contacts and delivery structures of organised civil society more efficiently, constitutes an underexploited resource in the Caribbean. Support has been provided to this sector to develop their expertise as partners in dialogue for sector development; to facilitate bridging social capital by building networks for greater Non-State Actor (NSA) coordination and impact, as well as leveraging efforts through partnering with international development partners.

The European Union is proof of the benefits that regional integration in the economic area, and also in sectors such as law enforcement and education, can bring to member states. Sharing the legacy of the experiences gained over almost 60 years of such cooperation is one of the cornerstone of EU development cooperation.

Travelling to Europe this Summer?

Citizens of Trinidad and Tobago need a visa when travelling to the 25 European countries that implement the Schengen Visa Policy. The Schengen states are Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland.

In Trinidad and Tobago, travellers may apply for a Schengen visa for short-stay (tourist or business) at the following foreign missions located in Port of Spain:

- If the main destination, which is determined by the longest length of stay, is Germany, Estonia, Portugal or Italy: the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany;
- If the main destination is France, Greece, Austria, Latvia or Lithuania: Embassy of the French Republic;
- If the main destination is the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Hungary, Norway or Sweden: Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- If the main destination is Spain: Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain.

For all other countries not represented in Trinidad and Tobago, please contact their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs to obtain information on how to apply.

NOTE: If you wish to visit Ireland or the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, you do not need a visa for short stay visits.